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Fruit Bud Development

The 2011 growing season has started off as a typical year with apple buds at the sliver tip stage. Yes, if you look hard enough you will find a few cracked buds and some green tissue showing. I have yet to see green tissue beyond the tip of the bud but that is not to say that somewhere in the Valley there may be a few buds at this stage. At this time last year apple buds were at green tip to early tight cluster. Pear buds are still at bud burst, plum at green cluster, sweet cherry at swollen bud and peaches at half inch green to early pink.

Apple Scab

Unless we get a lot of warm weather over the next few days, fungicide applications to control apple scab will not be required until next week. Dr. Gordon Braun has found mature ascospores in overwintering leaves so when it rains scab spores will be released. All that is required is green tissue and a long enough wetting period for an infection to take place. A weather station has been set out in Morristown and one in Medford. The information from these plus the Kentville weather station will be used to record apple scab infection periods and make fire blight predictions.

Fire Blight

Growers with orchards that had fire blight last year should consider the use of copper fungicide to reduce bacteria being produced from overwintering cankers. Copper sprays for fire blight control should be applied prior to tight cluster to reduce the risk of fruit russetting. The copper options are fixed copper product such as UAP's Copper Spray Fungicide at a rate of 4 kg per hectare at green tip or a

bordeaux mixture(1 kg of Basicop Fungicide or Copper 53W which are 53% copper sulphate per 1000 L of water plus 6 kg of hydrated lime). Apply a sufficient volume of water (minimum 1000L/ha) so that all the wood on the tree is covered with copper. Applying a dormant oil spray with the copper spray will improve the coverage and effectiveness of this product. A copper spray at bud break to tight cluster would also serve as a scab control spray. The copper spray will also serve as a fungicide treatment to control apple scab.

Pear Psylla

Oil sprays for psylla control should have been applied by now. If it has not been applied, an application ASAP would still provide control, however the eggs that have been laid to date will not be controlled by the oil and summer sprays may be required. The other option is to wait until calyx and treat with Agri-Mek.

Orchard Management Schedules

I have updated the apple and pear schedule for 2011/2012 as well as the stone fruit schedule. Hard copies of the apple and pear schedule are available for pick up from the NSFGA. They will also be available at the upcoming workshops and from the pesticide dealers. You can download a copy from our web site. The stone fruit guide is only available as a download at <http://www.agrapoint.ca>

Orchard Outlook Meetings

Orchard Outlook meetings will start next week and the Orchard Outlook will be published each week from now until late July.

NSFGA Spring Workshop April 27, 2011

Afternoon Session - Orchard to be announced

1:30 PM: Demonstration of the Darwin Mechanical Thinner

Evening Session - Waterville Fire Hall

7:00 PM: Welcome and Introduction

7:05 PM: Mechanical Thinning - John Cline, University of Guelph

7:35 PM: New Orchard Management Schedule, New Registrations - Bill Craig, AgraPoint

7:50 PM: Brown Marmorated Stink Bug - Dr. Suzanne Blatt, AFHRC

8:10 PM: Honeycrisp Crop Load Management Update - Doug Nichols, NSFGA

8:30 PM: Response of Ambrosia to ReTain

Use of PGRs on Northern Spy - John Cline, University of Guelph

Sponsored by: NM Bartlett Inc. and AgraPoint

NSFGA Cherry Workshop May 3, 2011

Cornwallis Room

Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research Centre (AFHRC), Kentville

9:00 AM: Welcome and Introduction

9:05 AM: Cherry Nutrition - Dr. Greg Lang, Michigan State University

9:35 AM: Insect Pests of Cherry - Dr. Suzanne Blatt, AFHRC

10:05 AM: New Stone Fruit Management Schedule, New Registrations - Bill Craig, AgraPoint

10:20 AM: Break

10:35 AM: Diseases of Cherry - Dr. Gordon Braun, AFHRC

11:05 AM: Training Systems for Cherry - Dr. Greg Lang, Michigan State

11:35 AM: Soils/Irrigation for Cherry - Keith Fuller, AFHRC

12:00 PM: LUNCH on your own

1:30 - 4:30 PM: Orchard Visits - discussions to include soil fertility, weed management, tree training, pruning.

Orchards TBA

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