



Vol. 11 No. 2

April 5, 2011

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**Reminder:** APPLE FARMERS' ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA SPRING GROWER WORKSHOP  
All Growers are invited to the following AFANS workshop being organized to update you on some key issues heading into the coming growing season. One pesticide point is available for those attending

**DATE: WEDNESDAY APRIL 6TH, 2011**

**TIME: 7 P.M.**

**LOCATION: WOODVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER**

It may be just my imagination but winter felt like forever. Now that spring has appeared to have arrived bud development can progress quite rapidly. Growers should be prepared by mid-April to start a fungicide program for apple scab. Hope this will not happen until late April. Those growers that have stone fruit will need to address the following to diseases as soon as possible.

### **Peach Leaf Curl**

Fungicide application to control peach leaf curl this year should be applied in early April to mid-April. Fungicide treatment should be applied prior to bud swell and scale separation. Temperatures will dictate how fast this will occur. If left untreated peach leaf curl can cause severe early defoliation and crop loss of peaches. The disease overwinters as blastospores in protected crevices in the bark and around the buds. Primary infections are the most damaging and occur during the early spring from bud swell, when bud scales loosen, until the first young leaves are fully emerged from the bud. Infected leaves are severely deformed and often display a variety of colours ranging from light green and yellow to shades of red and purple. The leaves become wrinkled, puckered and curled. Infected fruit may drop early and go unnoticed while others may become crooked at the stem end like a small yellow squash, and some may develop reddish to purple wart-like deformities on the fruit surface. Control of this disease can be obtained by one well-timed spray, either in the fall after 90% leaf fall, or in the spring before bud swell. For commercial orchard plantings Bravo or Ferbam are recommended. Bravo has proven to be quite effective for peach leaf curl when applied at the correct time. The recommended rate of Bravo 500 is 7.0 litres per hectare while that of Ferbam is 6.75 kg per hectare.

## **Plum Pockets**

Plum pockets, not to be confused with the virus plum pox, is a fungal disease that infects plums. Like peach leaf curl plum pockets infections take place early in the spring when the buds swell and the bud scales separate. In most years a fungicide spray applications in early to mid-April would control this disease. In NS plum pockets is more commonly observed on the Japanese-type plums. Infected fruit buds will produce abnormally large misshapen, bladder-like fruit with thick, spongy flesh. The center of infected fruit is hollow due to the failure of the young seed to develop. The best way to describe the fruit is that it looks like a large pea pod. For commercial plum plantings the fungicide Thiram 75 WP applied at a rate of 6.73 kg per hectare should control this disease. If only a couple of trees need to be treated lime sulphur may be a more economical solution than having to buy a bag of Thiram.

## **2011/2012 Orchard Management Schedule for Apple and Pears**

The revisions to the guide are just about completed and it should be going out for printing this week.

*Editor: Bill Craig  
AgraPoint*