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Orchard Outlook News Letter

This will be the last weekly newsletter for the 2011 growing season. The Orchard Outlook will be published on periodic bases until the beginning of the 2012 growing season. I hope that you have found this newsletter of assistance during the difficult growing season.

Diseases

Apple Scab

Although there was shower activity this past Saturday the wetting periods were not long enough to establish a secondary infection.

We are rapidly approaching that period in the growing season when the risk of infection is greatly reduced. The buildup of fungicides and less susceptible tissue to infection reduce the risk. This is not to say the infection periods will still take place which could lead to pin point scab on the fruit. There are a couple of things growers should do before putting their final scab spray on. Do thorough checks of your orchard block for the presence of fruit or leaf scab as this will be the source of spores for additional infection. These checks should involve more than a drive through the block and remember to check the tops of the trees. When putting on a final spray remember to increase the rate of fungicide to the pre-cover rate. If August turns out to be wetter than normal than you may wish to put a late August or early September fungicide application on which will help to prevent storage scab and rots.

Fire Blight

Continue to monitor orchard blocks for fire blight strikes. Pay particular attention to new and young orchard planting as two or three strikes in a tree could mean the loss of the tree. Older trees can handle a number of strikes without dying. This past week I was in a couple of apple and pear orchards where the strikes were quite numerous and many of the strikes have developed within the past two weeks. It is advisable to remove these infections as they are a source for additional infections.

Brown Rot

If the birds or raccoons do not get your sweet cherries there is a good chance they will be infected with brown rot if fungicide is not applied to control this fungus. Brown rot infections take place during periods of wet weather where spray intervals should be based upon the amount and frequency of rain.

Insect Activity

Apple Maggot

Apple maggot is the major pest that growers will have to contend with over the next month or so. Treatments should be based upon trap captures and the capture of one fly warrants a treatment. The capture of additional flies 10 to 14 days after a treatment indicates a second treatment is required. Growers have the option of using an OP such as Guthion/Sniper and Imidan or one of two chloronicotines, Assail, or Calypso.

Please read the attached fact sheet on the use of Imidan. At this time I have not been made aware of the phase out time for the use of Imidan but I believe it is in the works. The end use period for Guthion is December 2012.

Sucking Insects

Green aphid, woolly apple aphid, white apple leaf hopper and pear psylla are sucking insects that can reduce tree growth and affect fruit quality. The honey dew produced by these pests provides a good median for the growth of sooty mould which can down grade fruit. Green aphid feeding on the fruit can result in red hallows blemishes on the fruit surface which in turn results in a down grade. Some of these insects can be the means for fire blight bacteria to enter a shoot. Monitor for these pest into August and treat when populations warrant.

Mites

Controlling mites at this time of year will be more cost effective then having to treat in late August or early September. Base treatment on mite counts and if you are at the border line in terms of mite numbers consider the above line.

Changes to Imidan Label

I have been informed by Troy Troop, Regional Pesticide Officer, PMRA that has been conducting onsite inspections of apple and cranberry farms across Canada. The inspections are related to the use of Imidan and compliance to the new label requirements. I have attached a fact sheet provided by PMRA titled **New Use Precautions for Imidan 50WP and 70WP**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NSFGA Orchard Tour

The NSFGA Annual Orchard Tour is August 2nd, the program is attached to this newsletter.

Seminar

Dr. Arnold Schuman, an Associate Professor at the University of Florida will be speaking on precision agriculture technologies. The seminar will take place in the Cornwallis Room at AAFC Kentville on Thursday July 28th at 1:30 pm (**Please note the change in time**). The talk will look at opportunities for the tree fruit industry and high bush blueberry industry in terms of nutrition and pesticide application.

Contributions and consultations were made in the preparation of this newsletter with the Orchard Outlook Committee

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