



Vol. 11 No. 10

June 8th, 2011

This issue contains:

- Fruit Development
- 2011 Degree Day Accumulations
- Diseases
- Insect Activity
- Horticultural Tips
- Upcoming Events

Fruit Bud Development

Most areas of the Valley were post calyx on Tuesday June 7th. The only area that had significant bloom was in the Medford area with Ambrosia having the most bloom. Set fruit has sized significantly during the past week and I measured a Gravenstein that was at 15 mm. The kings on Jonagold were as large as 12 mm and McIntosh were between 8 and 10 mm. Where there was bloom there appears to be a good set on apples. I have also notice good set on pear trees and Clapp's favourite were around 12 mm in size. The set on sweet cherry is variable and for the most part light.

2011 Degree Day Accumulations

(Temperature data provided by Jeff Franklin, AFHRC, Kentville)

Table 1.0 Degree day accumulations as of June 6, 2011. All data taken from the Kentville weather station except for observations from April 11th to 28th inclusive which were taken from the Greenwood Airport. Degree day accumulations are calculated using the single sine method and are based on a start date of January 1, 2011.

Category	2008	2009	2010	2011	5 year average	10 year average
Plant development (Base 5°C)	353.9	375.1	437.5	371.8	386.3	346.6
Insect development (Base 10°C)	136.3	159.1	178.5	146.0	159.0	140.1

DISEASES

Apple Scab

Just one infection period was recorded this past week. This resulted from light shower activity starting around 4:00 pm on Friday June 3rd. The wetting period lasted 16 hours with an average

temperature of 10°C. This was classed as a light infection and scab should now be visible from infection that took place during the first 3 weeks of June. To date I have seen scab on the leaves of apples, however I have seen it on young pears.

The prediction model has spore maturity at 100% thus the primary infection season is over and growers will have to contend with secondary infections from now on. In blocks that are clean of scab, growers could switch to cover rates by next week and the spray interval could be extended to 10 to 14 days depending upon rain fall.

Fire Blight

The risk of blossom infection has greatly diminished as the bloom is completed in most areas of the Valley. The exception to this is the Medford area which still had considerable bloom on Ambrosia and late bloom on Spy, Honeycrisp and Cortland. The risk of infection goes to high for Thursday and Friday however the temperature will have to be higher than that forecasted for today and tomorrow for an infection to take place during the wetting events that are being forecasted for Thursday and Friday.

I found a fire blight strike in a cluster of Gravenstein on Tuesday June 7th. This infection may have resulted on May 20th when the risk was high but no wetting event occurred from rain or from the May 27th infection. I only found the one strike and the orchard has been treated with two streptomycin sprays. This orchard had fire blight last year. Orchards should be checked during the next couple of weeks for blossom infections. Remove any infected spurs to reduce the spread of the disease during the remainder of the summer.

Powdery Mildew

It is a bit easier to see strikes now but have yet to hear of any serious problems. A few strikes in a block are not a big issue. Pruning strikes will remove the source of spores and save the cost of a spray. Sprays from now on will likely only check the spread of mildew and not provide full control.

INSECT ACTIVITY

Codling Moth

I have not received any reports of sustained trap captures thus the prediction model for the timing of treatment has yet to begin. With warmer temperatures forecasted for the next couple of days along with a calm evening should have them flying about. Heat unit accumulation is similar to that of 2009 and the predicting model was begun on June 9th.

Rosy Apple Aphid

No serious problems have been reported but it is still early in the growing season. Keep checking for rosy and treat as soon as the threshold has been reached.

String Bug

Cooler temperatures this past week has likely slowed down the development of brown and mullein bug. Treatment should be based upon tapping counts.

European Red Mite

If you are going to use Agri-Mek and have not already applied it, it should go on as soon as possible. Better leaf absorption of this product occurs while the leaves are young there by providing better control. It is still too early to apply Apollo and should be applied just prior to egg hatch.

Pear Rust Mite

Pear rust mites can russet pears to the point where they are not marketable. It is a mite which tends to be forgotten about until russet pears are observed. Now is the time to control this pest. Growers that applied Agri-Mek for psylla will also have obtained rust mite control. Other options are Envidor, Kanemite, Kelthane and Nexter.

Apple Curculio

One would think that this is a pest of apples, however in Nova Scotia it is primarily found on pears in Nova Scotia. If you have been seeing this type of damage on pears then it is most likely be caused by curculio. Now is the time to treat for this insect if it has been a problem in past years. There are no registered products for this pest however a pyrethroid applied for psylla would have activity against this pest.



HORTICULTURAL TIPS

Fruit Thinning

Orchard visit in the past week indicated that there is a good set on apple trees where there was bloom. Fruit is sizing quite rapidly and with the exception of the Medford area, thinners should be applied as soon as possible. Once fruit gets beyond the 12.5 mm it becomes more difficult to thin and once it hits 15 mm (unless you want to experiment with ethrel) it is time to put the thinners away. It would still pay to apply thinner to trees that had a light bloom as more than one apple has set in the cluster.

Nutrient Sprays

Post bloom is a period when the following nutrients can be applied a foliar sprays, nitrogen, boron and magnesium. The need to apply should be based upon observation or a tissue analysis report which would show a deficiency. Urea can be applied to increase the foliar level of nitrogen, Solubor to supply boron and reduce cork sot around the core of apples and Epsom salts to reduce a magnesium deficiency. Do not use boron or oil with Epsom salts. The dilute rate for these products is Solubor 1.5kg/1000l, Epsom salts 20kg/1000 L and Urea 6 kg/1000L. When applied as a concentrate spray the rates should be cut by a half to reduce the risk of foliar burn.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Orchard Walk

There will be an orchard walk at Charlie Embree's on Wednesday June 15th for organic growers and those interested in organic apple production. The meeting will get under way at 12:00pm. Charlie's orchards are located at 925 Belcher St.

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

Editor: Bill Craig, AgraPoint

