

OrganicA

a resource for organic apple production

Orchard Observations

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Ahh..... It finally feels like Spring this week. Temperatures are in the high 50's and the sun is brilliant. Time to start looking more closely at the trees in the OrganicA orchards at the UVM Horticultural Research Center in South Burlington, Vermont.

Stage of Development: Dormant buds



As you can see from the picture on the left, the 'nurse limbs' that had been left on the trees after they were top-grafted to the new cultivars in Orchard 2 have been cut off and the central leader has been selected from the scions that had been grafted. The prunings that had been piled in the drive-row have been flailed mowed to chop them up. Within the next few days research data will be collected on the size of the trees and IPM traps will be hung for monitoring Tarnished Plant Bug populations (white, sticky visual traps) and Leafminers (red, sticky visual traps).



Here is a closer picture of where the 'nurse limb' had been removed. You can also see the overwintering leaves in the tree-row that will be raked out into the drive-rows and chopped up to remove potential overwintering inoculum of the apple scab fungus and overwintering leafminers. You can also see the mouse guards we had placed on each of the trees to try to protect them from being girdled by voles.



Orchard 1 required minimal pruning. The white plastic, wrap-around mouse guards will be removed over the few weeks. They provide insects with a dark haven and borer problems have been associated with leaving them on the trees during the growing season. Note the snow at the far end of the orchard. Hopefully, it will continue to melt and we will get no new snow !

Both of the following situations have to be addressed quickly -- prunings still in the middle of drive-rows in another research orchard being used by graduate student Morgan Cromwell who is examining organic fungicide alternatives and, on the right, a large pile of prunings that can act as a source of inoculum of wood-decaying fungi. Both must go !!



IMPORTANT: It is the grower's responsibility to ensure that any crop production practice or material used in the orchard is acceptable in their particular state's organic certification program. Some materials deemed organically acceptable on the National List may not be acceptable in some states. Contact your [federally accredited certifying agency](#) to know what is acceptable and to ensure compliance with regulations in your state.

Where trade names or commercial products are used for identification, no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied. Always read the label before using any pesticide. **The label is the legal document for the product use. Disregard any information in this document if it is in conflict with the label.**

We Value Your Input and Want to Address Your Needs

Please send your comments and suggestions to lorraine.berkett@uvm.edu

For more information on the OrganicA Project please see:

<http://www.uvm.edu/organica/>

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