

# OrganicA

a resource for organic apple production

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## Orchard Observations

Lorraine P. Berkett  
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**Stage of Development:** Ginger Gold - late TC; Honeycrisp - late GT; Liberty - early TC; Macoun - HIG; Zestar! - late TC

**Tarnished Plant Bugs** in clusters (top row) and three very recent injuries to developing flowers, as indicated by droplets of clear oozing (bottom row)



With the unusually warm weather we have had, we were very concerned about Tarnished Plant Bugs (TPB) causing significant damage to the developing flowers. Feeding injury at this time in the growing season causes the developing flowers to abort. So, yesterday afternoon I walked both Orchard 1 and 2 to see if TPB were active. It was cooler than the past week and more

windy, but TPB were quite prevalent in Ginger Gold and Zestar! trees whose buds were more advanced in development. Clear droplets of oozing was easy to find in buds where TPBs had been feeding in both Orchard 1 and 2. It is predicted that we will have at least three more days of relatively warm temperatures which is favorable for insect activity and which will move the buds on the other cultivars into the vulnerable stage for injury. The question was should we protect the clusters from further damage during this warm spell knowing that last year there were very high populations in both orchards that caused significant bud abortion? After much discussion, we decided to treat both orchards with azadirachtin (Triology) early this morning, applying it with the lime sulfur being used for apple scab protection against ascospore release which is predicted during the wet weather this weekend. As it turns out, today was absolutely perfect weather for insect activity so hopefully, our action will prevent serious damage.

The good news is that lady bug beetles were also observed in the orchard yesterday !

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**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.

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**We Value Your Input and Want to Address Your Needs**

Please send your comments and suggestions to [lorraine.berkett@uvm.edu](mailto:lorraine.berkett@uvm.edu)

**For more information on the OrganicA Project please see:**

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

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