

Orchard **O**bservations

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Just a quick update....

After the Orchard Observations was sent out last Friday, the first **Plum Curculio (PC)** damage was observed on Liberty fruit in a non-managed orchard on the Hort. Farm. So they are active...



Plum Curculio damage

We will be using the Cornell PC Oviposition Model to determine when 40% of the oviposition cycle is complete (which is predicted by the model to occur at 308 DD (base 50°F) after petal fall of McIntosh) and looking at fruit for fresh injury to determine the end of the period of risk from this insect. As noted in the last Orchard Observations, we are using kaolin to suppress damage.

This morning when I went into the non-managed orchard at the Hort. Farm, I found an example of what early **European Apple Sawfly (EAS)** larval damage looks like (see below). You can see the winding scar that starts by the calyx end and the exit hole with brown frass just above my finger. The larva has migrated to another fruit where it will burrow into the core.



EAS larval damage -- winding scar and exit hole with brown frass

Apple Scab Ascospore Maturity: Conservatively, the final ascospores are released from the overwintered leaves on the orchard floor when 900 degree-days have accumulated from Green Tip and there is a daytime rain of at least 0.10 inch and the temperature is at least 50F during the wetting period. At the Hort. Farm, we have accumulated approximately 850 DD. It looks like the rains we are predicted to get this week may release the remaining ascospores. If the wetting period turns into an infection period then lesions should appear 9-17 days later, depending on the temperature. We will be doing a thorough assessment for apple scab in June in the organic orchards so we can determine the need for scab management during the remainder of the season. Last Friday, May 22, we did see the first scab lesions on mid-cluster leaves on a non-managed McIntosh tree at the Hort. Farm. Let's hope that we have been successful in managing scab in the organic orchards !



Scab lesions (brown areas) on non-managed McIntosh tree

As I write this we are checking the weather monitoring records to see if conditions were met for **Fire Blight** infection at the Hort. Farm last week -- I hope not. Just to be safe, we will continue to use the Maryblyt program to predict when symptoms should occur and scout the trees closely so we can remove any strikes if they appear.

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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