

OrganicA

a resource for organic apple production

Orchard Observations

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Apple Scab Ascospore Maturity - We have accumulated 900 Degree Days (base 32F) from green tip which means that the next rain of 0.10 inch during the day when it is at least 50F will release any remaining ascospores. However, since it takes approximately two weeks for lesions to develop from the last primary infection period, we will wait until mid-June to conduct a thorough assessment of both Orchard 1 & 2 to determine how successful we have been in preventing primary scab infections from the ascospores. Up until today, we have had 6 primary infection periods. The pictures below was taken this morning in a non-managed McIntosh block at the UVM Hort. Res. Center and you can see that the cluster leaves have numerous scab lesions already. Now, every time there is a heavy dew or rain the thousands and thousands of spores (conidia) produced from each lesion will wash to other tissue and potentially cause more infections. Hopefully, we have been successful in preventing primary infections in Orchard 1 and 2 !!



Non-managed McIntosh cluster leaves heavily infected with apple scab lesions.

Cedar Apple Rust -- We have yet to see any cedar apple rust lesions on our “check” Prima trees at the UVM Hort. Res. Center. Prima is very susceptible to rust infections and we use them as our “canary in the coal mine” to indicate level of potential infection.

Plum Curculio (PC) and European Apple Sawfly (EAS) are still active. The following pictures were taken during the early morning today on non-managed Liberty trees at the UVM Hort. Res. Center.



EAS damage. The larva has tunneled just under the apple surface producing a hook-shaped scar. Further damage can be caused by the larvae leaving the initial fruit and borrowing into the core of an adjacent fruit.



The picture above has multiple injuries from Plum Curculio ovipositing. The clear ooze indicates that the injury is fresh. Thankfully, this damage was observed on non-managed Liberty trees.

The picture below is an example of what the developing fruit look like on the managed Liberty trees in Orchard 2.



Developing fruit on Liberty trees in Orchard 2 treated with Surround to suppress damage by the PC and EAS.

Codling Moth (CM) and Obliquebanded Leafroller - We continue to monitor these insects with pheromone traps and respective degree-day models.

Requesting your Input and Evaluation --

We sincerely request your input on and evaluation of the OrganicA website and the project in general. What do you suggest that we do differently? What are we not doing that you would like to see? There is a short questionnaire located at:

<http://www.uvm.edu/~organica/evaluation.html>

In the comment box in the on-line survey or in a separate email, please let us know how we are doing, suggestions for improvement, and what we can further do to move forward organic apple production.

A number of people have already sent in their evaluation -- Thank You !!

A big 'Thank You' to everyone else in advance for your time and effort to help us improve. It is greatly appreciated !

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 newsletter if it is in conflict with the label or organic certification.**

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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