

# OrganicA

a resource for organic apple production

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## Orchard Observations

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This week we conducted a rather thorough scab evaluation of Orchard 1 and 2 to determine how successful we have been in managing primary scab infections.



Morgan Cromwell and Terry Bradshaw in Orchard 1 evaluating cluster leaves for scab lesions

In all of Orchard 1, only two scab lesions were found on all five cultivars. In Orchard 2, we evaluated a selection of the Ginger Gold and Zestar! trees and did not observe any scab lesions. We are thus extending the time interval between fungicide applications.

We did however find some **Fire Blight** strikes on one Macoun tree in Orchard 1. On one limb there were 4 blossoms that had been infected (see pictures below)



Macoun limb with 4 Fire Blight infected blossoms



Close-up of one of the infected blossoms



Fire Blight infected leaves with bacterial ooze (orange droplets).

Needless to say we cut the limb off but could not cut at the recommended 12 inches from visible symptoms because the infected blossoms were located relatively close to the main trunk. We did leave an “ugly stub” and flagged it with colorful tape. In the winter, we will prune the stub off next to the tree trunk. Unfortunately, in looking at the vascular layer at the cut end of the limb, it appears the infection is into the main limb so time will tell whether the tree will survive. At least this was the only tree observed with fire blight.



Infected limb was cut leaving an “ugly stub”



Infected area near cut end of limb

Another situation that was observed was **Rosy Apple Aphid (RAA)** infestations. Ginger Gold trees seemed to be the most affected.



Fruit cluster infested with Rosy Apple Aphids



However, it was nice to see syphid fly larvae -- of various sizes -- also present feeding on the aphids.



Pictures show single and multiple syphid fly larvae on leaves feeding on Rosy Apple Aphids



At this point in time, we plan to determine any differences in infestation levels between the five cultivars (Ginger Gold, Honeycrisp, Liberty, Macoun, Zestar!) and hope that biological control agents will keep the RAA in check.

We will be applying the last kaolin spray for **Plum Curculio** management today. With the cool temperatures that we have been experiencing, their period of activity has been drawn out. The warm temperatures predicted this weekend should provide enough degree day accumulation to get out of their period of activity. We should also be out of the time when **European Apple Sawfly (EAS)** will cause any additional damage. In walking through the orchards yesterday, I saw very few fruit with EAS damage.



EAS damage.

It has been an interesting week in the orchards....

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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.

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](mailto:lorraine.berkett@uvm.edu)

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

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

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