

rchard bservations
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Apple Scab - Since we have some foliar scab in Orchard I and with all the wet weather we are having, including the significant downpours which are washing off residue, we have continued with liquid lime sulfur applications at least through this week. We did go back and examine when we sprayed in Orchard I, when we had infection periods, and where on the terminals lesions were observed (upper third of terminal) and believe we got infection over the May 23-24 primary infection period. We went too long between applications and suspect we did not have any effective residue on the trees. At that point, it was predicted that 90-95% of the ascospores had already been released. This just goes to show that one has to be diligent in protecting the trees to the very end of the primary scab period while ascospores are still being released even though the end is near.

Sooty Blotch and Fly Speck - As was previously mentioned, we have been monitoring the hours of leaf wetness from Petal Fall at the Hort. Res. Center to get an idea when 270 hours of leaf wetness have accumulated, which is when fly speck inoculum is assumed to be available from non-managed alternate host plants around the orchard perimeter. By the middle of yesterday, we had accumulated approximately 178 hours of leaf wetness.

Apple Maggot Flies (AMF) - We started placing Apple Maggot Fly traps that are baited with an apple volatile in both orchards this morning. Since the trees in Orchard I are still relatively small, we had to devise a way to hang them near the trees (see picture). The standard placement of the traps is in the outside row facing the most probable direction of AMF migration, with 3 volatile-baited traps per 10 acre block. These traps are very efficient in attracting and trapping AMF. Cumulative average trap capture of 5 flies/trap is the standard IPM threshold for taking action against this insect. These traps can also be used to “trap-out” AMF in small orchards, in which case it is suggested that one trap is used for every 100-150 apples normally produced by the tree (max. of three to four traps per tree in most cases).



Morgan Cromwell, organic graduate student and intern, hanging AMF trap in Orchard I

Obliquebanded Leafroller (OBLR) - It is predicted that OBLR egg hatch is at 360 DD (base 43F) from the biofix (date of first sustained trap capture). In orchards at high risk of damage, it is suggested that the insect be managed at that time since the larvae are very vulnerable; in lower risk blocks, the optimal time to begin to scout for second generation OBLR is about 600 DD (base 43F) after the biofix. As of June 22, we had accumulated 141 DD from the biofix of June 16, when we started trapping moths in pheromone traps.

Miscellaneous observations from walking through the orchards this morning -- Things in general look good. We have had good growth (except on some trees noted in the last issue). Terry Bradshaw has mastered the weed badger (see picture below) making weeding Orchard I a lot easier than in previous years. We have had some nibbling by deer on a few trees in the outer row of Orchard I but nothing of much consequence (see picture below). This morning, I started to notice a pale green weevil (“snout beetle”) in the orchards (see picture below). Normally, this insect feeds on a wide range of forest trees but can chew apple leaves creating a ragged appearance to the leaf. Generally, trees will compensate for this damage; no foliar damage was observed this morning. And, the lady bug beetles were out and about !



Weed management in Orchard I



Ends of terminals have been nibbled by deer.



Pale green weevil feeding on leaves can give them a ragged appearance.

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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