

OrganicA

a resource for organic apple production

Orchard Observations

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July 23, 2008

We have had over 3 inches of rain during the last week. It was raining again when I visited the orchards this morning, plus we had recently put on a spray, so I was not able to get too “up close and personal” with the trees today. The following is a brief summary of where we are:

Both the trees and grass are growing with all this rain. We have started catching a few **Apple Maggot Flies** in traps in the organic orchards but we are not at threshold yet. There is only a little **Japanese Beetle** damage; **Potato Leafhopper** injury is definitely visible throughout orchards but insects seem to be currently absent. Based on degree day calculations from our **Codling Moth** biofix, we are at a good time to manage the second generation and applied Dipel at the beginning of the week. All the rain and high humidity we have had, and are predicted to have during the remainder of this week, provide favorable conditions for secondary **scab** infection and **fly speck** infection. I am not too worried about fly speck because our trees are open, but we did apply sulfur this week for scab because we do have some foliar scab and want to prevent further infection in this very wet weather. Looking ahead, this week we will start to **collect leaf samples** in both orchards to send off for leaf analysis to keep track of the nutrient levels in the trees. And... we are happy to report that we received notification that **both Orchard 1 and Orchard 2 have been organically certified !!**

Lest we forget what would happen to apples if they were left non-managed, the following are pictures taken this morning of apples and foliage from a block that we purposely do not manage at the University of Vermont Hort. Research Center. They are pretty ugly ...



Prima apple with all kinds of insect damage (TPB, PC, AMF, etc.).



McIntosh leaf (above) and fruit (below) with scab.



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**Hope to see you at the Orchard Tour on July 31
at Pietree Orchards in Sweden, Maine. Details are at:**

<http://www.uvm.edu/~organica/OrganicOrchardInformation/OrganicIPM/OrganicTourFlyer.pdf>

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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 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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