

# OrganicA

a resource for organic apple production

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## Orchard Observations

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August 17, 2009

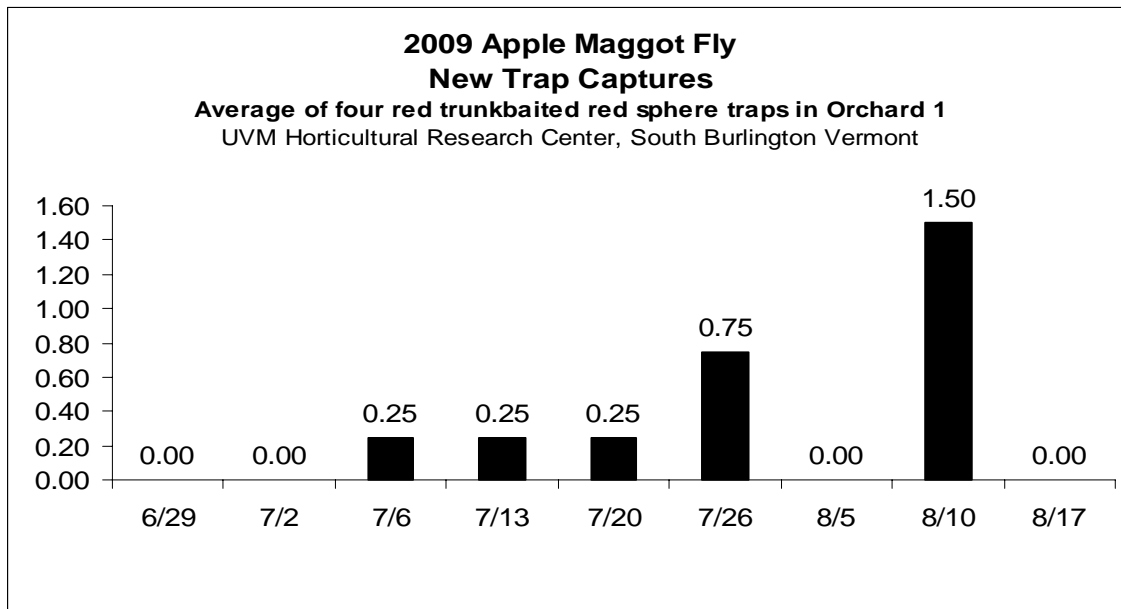
**OrganicA Workshop and Orchard Tour rated highly by participants !** I am happy to report that the evaluations that I saw from participants of the workshop and orchard tour that occurred on August 13 and which was co-sponsored by **NOFA-VT** rated the educational content highly. We thank you for coming to see the organic orchards and providing input into the project !



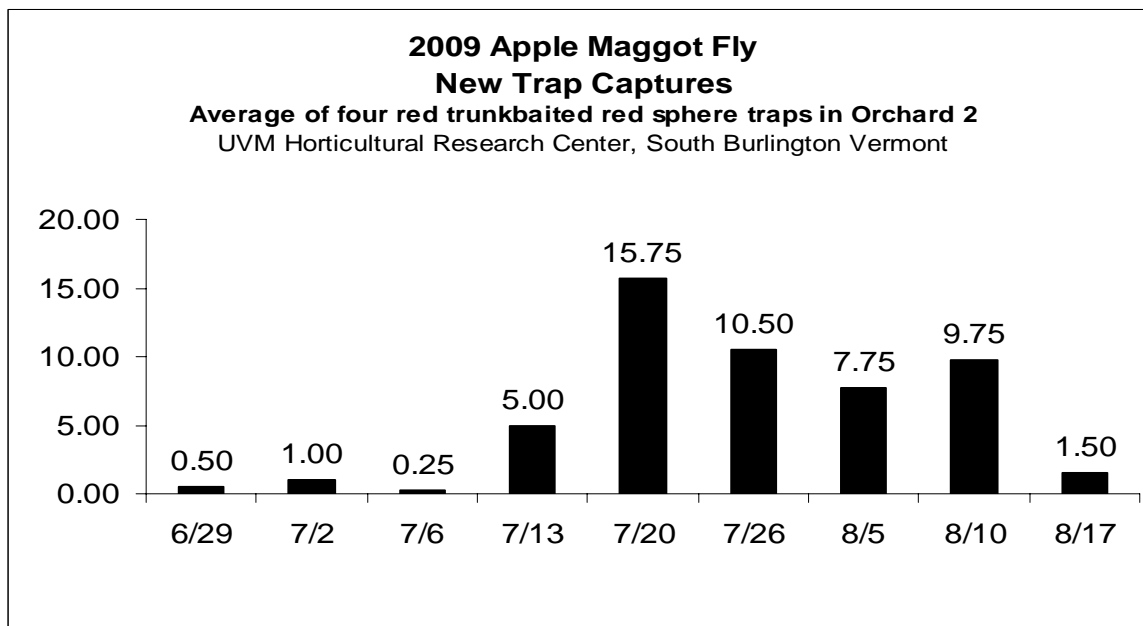
Pictures from the workshop and orchard tour



**Apple Maggot Fly (AMF) Trap Captures Finally Dropping !** Sarah Kingsley-Richards of the OrganicA team scouted the organic apple orchards this morning and reported that captures of apple maggot flies finally seem to be dropping -- which means less risk of egg-laying in the fruit. The following are graphs of trap captures this year. Note that Orchard 1 had far less AMF than Orchard 2. Populations in Orchard 1 never reached threshold levels so it did not receive any insecticide for AMF management whereas Orchard 2 received a total of three applications of spinosad because trap captures were repeatedly above threshold levels. As I might have mentioned in a previous Orchard Observations, we believe this high population of AMF entering Orchard 2 is the population that had built up in the crabapple trees that bordered Orchard 2 which were finally removed before the growing season. However, the insects that developed last year overwintered in the ground, emerged, and migrated into the nearest apple trees, i.e. Orchard 2. We should not have a high population overwintering for next year since we have hopefully prevented egg-laying in the fruit.



Highest average trap capture in Orchard 1 was 1.5 AMF; in Orchard 2, it was 15.75.



**Good News -- We are finding more *Typhlodromus pyri* on foliage.** *T.pyri* are predacious mites that feed on European Red mites (ERM) and Two-Spotted Spider mites (TSSM).

Pictures of this predacious mite can be found at:

[http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/factsheets/treefruit/pests/pm/pm\\_fig2.asp](http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/factsheets/treefruit/pests/pm/pm_fig2.asp)

*T.pyri* can be an effective predator but it is sensitive to certain pesticides. Materials such as kaolin and sulfur products can impact their populations. Perhaps now that we have stopped spraying the orchards, they can build up and reduce the ERM and TSSM populations so that less of these pest mites will overwinter in the orchards.

More information on predacious mites can be found at:

<http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/factsheets/treefruit/pests/pm/pm.asp>

<http://nysipm.cornell.edu/factsheets/treefruit/pests/erm/erm.asp>

**Harvest About To Begin --** Although the cool temps. this growing season have delayed development, we are anticipating that we will start harvesting **Ginger Gold** fruit next week, followed by **Zestar!** We have installed equipment to help stop the terrible damage birds do to the fruit -- particularly Ginger Gold fruit.



Bird 'squawker' equipment



Bird damage to Ginger Gold fruit



Beautiful Ginger Gold and Zestar! fruit ready to be harvested !

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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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