Tree Fruit IPM Advisory: April 28th, 2004

**********Disease Advisory**********

FIRE BLIGHT: The weather over the past two days has produced daily averages of 60+ degrees for most growing areas along the Wasatch Front. As mentioned last week, the combination of warmth and open flowers produces the right conditions for the rapid development of the fire blight bacterium. The rains that are predicted for this evening and early tomorrow morning (Thursday, 4/29/04) will probably provide a significant wetting event, which will wash the bacteria into the floral cup and facilitate infection (assuming the bacteria are present). An application of either Mycoshield or streptomycin would be wise at this time.

TART CHERRY POWDERY MILDEW: Powdery mildew lesions have been spotted in Utah County tarts by Scott Ockey and Sherm Thomson. The fungus is identifiable by small powdery lesions on the leaves, often in the interior of the canopy near the lower scaffold crotches. Sprays are recommended as soon as the first lesions are spotted. The sprays should be made on a regular basis thereafter (every 2 weeks for most fungicides). Commonly used materials: Rally, Rubigan, Funginex, Sulfur, Topsin, Elite, and Benlate. For backyard growers, sulfur and Funginex should be available in most retail outlets. Sulfur should be applied every 5-7 days. For more information, visit: http://extension.usu.edu/plantpath/fruit_diseases/fd_pwdymil.htm.

PEACH POWDERY MILDEW: The time for powdery mildew applications on peaches is petal-fall through shuck-split, and all the peach orchards visited in Boxelder, Davis, and Utah Counties are between petal-fall and shuck-fall right now. Sprays should be repeated every 7-14 days until terminal growth ceases. For a list of recommended fungicides, visit the same web address provided above.

**********Insect Advisory**********

PEACH TWIG BORER: Put your traps up soon (perhaps after the storms). We should catch the first few moths later next week, but you should have a string of zeros before you catch the very first one (a string of zeros usually means the first moth really is the first moth). The date you catch the first moth(s) is referred to as the “biofix.”

CODLING MOTH: Biofixes have been determined for most of northern Utah (Boxelder, Weber, Davis, and Utah Counties). Cache County has not yet had a firm biofix. The latest biofix and degree-day accumulations will be posted later today (depending on when

the USU computer tech support can finish restoring the software on my computer after a recent virus attack). The earliest ovicidal sprays for codling moth are likely a week or more away. The first sprays targeting caterpillars are about 2 weeks away, depending on weather.

CAMPYLOMMA: Campy nymphs have been found in Kaysville pears (0.8 nymphs/tree), West Mountain apples (0.05 nymphs/tree), Genola apples (0.1 nymphs/tree), and Lincoln Point apples (0.1 nymphs/tree). Further sampling would provide a better estimate of the populations at these sites. For light-skinned fruit, the general threshold for campy damage is 0.1 nymphs/tree (1 nymph found in 10 beat-samples). For dark-skinned fruit, the threshold is 1 nymph/tree (10 nymphs found in 10 beat-samples). To find pictures and more information on campylomma, look up the USU factsheet online: http://extension.usu.edu/files/gardpubs/9.pdf.

FRUITWORMS/LOOPERS: Young noctuid larvae were found in beat-samples of tart cherries in Santaquin. Five caterpillars were found after sampling 10 trees, and the caterpillars were all very young (2nd-3rd instars). These caterpillars can feed on leaves as well as young fruit. Further sampling would determine how widely distributed they are. Most damage is tolerable, but "hotspots" can cause localized defoliation and yield loss. A treatment of Bt (Dipel, Thuricide, Javelin) or spinosad (Success or Entrust) would likely take care of a hotspot.

GREEN PEACH APHID: Green peach aphids can cause significant damage early in the season, but generally, they're a problem only when their populations become exceedingly high. Beat-samples of peach and nectarine trees throughout an orchard will provide a good assessment of the aphid status. If leaves are curling, young fruit looks distorted, and you're finding dozens of aphids per beat-sample, then there may be a damaging population. Monitor your peach and nectarine blocks in the coming weeks.

GREEN APPLE APHID: A very small number of winged green apple aphids (identified by their green body with black legs, head, and "tail pipes") has been found in Kaysville and Santaquin, which suggests that they have already turned a generation and are dispersing throughout the orchard. Trees can sustain substantial populations, though, as demonstrated last year when populations got fairly high before being suppressed by lady beetles and various other natural enemies.

APPLE GRAIN APHID: Apple grain aphids (identified by a bright green body with a darker green stripe down their back) are being found in beat-samples in Kaysville. This aphid emerges early in apple trees but moves to nearby grasses soon after petal-fall. It is often a good thing to have around early in the spring because it is food for lady beetle adults, which encourages the beetles to lay their eggs in the apple canopy.

THRIPS: High numbers are being found everywhere (immatures and adults). Commercial growers may want to investigate the distribution and densities of thrips in their pear and nectarine blocks. Damage is only cosmetic, but high populations can cause lots of scarring. Now would be a good time to treat if thrips damage has been a problem

in the past. Carzol or Success/Entrust (spinosad) are good, proven materials for thrips control. Backyard growers can find spinosad formulated as "Ferti-lome Borer, Bagworm, Leafminer, and Caterpillar Spray."

LYGUS: Very few adults were found in Payson peaches, Genola peaches, and Lincoln Point nectarines (in the canopy). At this time of year, lygus adults are usually more interested in orchard weeds, hillside vegetation, or nearby alfalfa. As these hosts dry down or are cut, lygus is forced to disperse to greener pastures. If problems with cat-facing were experienced in the past, then a spray might be wise. Sweeps and beat-samples are a good means of monitoring this bug.

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