Tree Fruit IPM Advisory: April 8th, 2004

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

CODLING MOTH: Traps for codling moth should already be up, and they should be checked daily, if possible. Degree-day totals (counting from March 1st) are between 180 and 207 for Boxelder and Utah Counties, while Cache County ranges from 150-170. The codling moth BIOFIX (biofix = 2 or more moths caught within an orchard over the course of a week, assuming dusk temperatures are above 55 degrees) is likely to occur around 220-260 DDs. Check traps as often as possible because an accurate biofix lays the foundation for pesticide spray timings for the entire season.

For growers planning to use PHEROMONE MATING DISRUPTION for either codling moth or peach twig borer, purchasing the dispensers now will allow you to deploy them as soon as you reach biofix.

PEACH TWIG BORER: Bloomtime sprays of Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) are very effective and inexpensive against PTB. Most peaches are at full bloom in northern Utah, and some may be approaching petal-fall at this point. Bt, formulated as Dipel, Thuricide (available to backyard growers), Javelin, Crymax, and many others, is harmless to bees and very specific to caterpillars. A spray (or two) during the peach bloom is a proven control tactic that will likely kill a large proportion of the overwintered larvae. It can be tank-mixed with fungicides and foliar nutrients. Traps for PTB moths probably will need to be set up in 1-2 weeks.

PEAR PSYLLA/CAMPYLOMMA: Most growers have recently applied the delayed-dormant treatment, which is a good time to catch hatching psylla and campy nymphs. If you've had trouble with these pests in the past, beat-samples are a good monitoring technique at this time of year.

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

FIRE BLIGHT: If pears or apples are flowering, then there is a risk of infection by the fire blight bacterium. Currently, PEARS in Kaysville and Santaquin are beginning to flower. Based on temperatures since early March, the risk of infection is low, according to the output of the MARYBLYT™ model. The cold temperatures predicted for the next 5-6 days should suppress the development and/or distribution of the bacteria. Dr. Sherm

Thomson and Scott Ockey are currently checking flower stigmas in Utah County for evidence of the bacteria.

APPLE POWDERY MILDEW: Apple varieties that are susceptible to powdery mildew (which is most varieties) may need fungicide treatments in the near future. As stated last week, treatments should begin around first pink and may need to be repeated every two weeks until buds set.

APPLE SCAB: Scab is uncommon in Utah, but if it was a problem last year in your orchard, sprays at this time might be wise. Moisture on leaf surfaces and warm weather allow the fungus to germinate. With average daily temperatures in the low- to mid-50s, the fungus requires approximately 11 hours of constant wetness to germinate. Most sites in northern Utah have had average temperatures in the mid-50s, so if your orchard had a problem with scab last year and you've received enough rain to warrant an application, then a fungicide with curative/kick-back effect should help control it. Procure, Rubigan, Vanguard, and Topsin M should control the fungus if applied within 72 hours of an infection. Tank mixing these with a protectant such as Captan, Mancozeb, EBDC, Flint, or Sovran, might be wise if rain is expected in the near future.

PEACH POWDERY MILDEW: Treatments, if necessary, generally need to be applied around petal fall or shuck-split.

CORYNEUM BLIGHT (Shothole of peach, apricot, nectarine): If it was observed to be a problem last year, a shuck-fall fungicide application will help suppress the development of the pathogen.

For more information: http://extension.usu.edu/plantpath/fruit_diseases/fd_other.htm.

The new IPM Website will be available very soon. The 2004 trapping, spray periods, and Degree-Day updates will be presented, as well as all the past information that the site contained.

For more information, contact:
Shawn Steffan
Extension IPM Project Leader
Dept. of Biology, Utah State University
Logan, UT 84322-5305
steffan@biology.usu.edu
Office: (435) 797-0776
Mobile: (435) 770-9566