Fruit Update: May 31, 2022

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Codling moth egg hatch begins at roughly 50-degree days, base 50^0F, after petal fall. Between 100- and 200-degree days, insecticide coverage needs to be in place which will be this week at most locations in CT. It is critical to be aggressive against the first generation because this insect is going to be around most of the season, and you'll want to reduce problems early.

Plum curculio insecticides only need to be applied up until 308-degree days, base 50^0F, from petal fall which we won't reach later this week. Make sure you have adequate insecticide coverage through this week and into next week. After that you are home free.

European corn borer: Newly planted and young fruit trees can be seriously damaged by European corn borer at they bore into the leaders. According to Peter Jentsch, retired Cornell entomologist, "Female ECB moths have begun laying egg masses on the underside of apple leaves with larva hatch observed. If ECB is present, larval feeding should become evident in newly developing apple shoots over the next few days. You will see brown frass and ooze where the leaf petiole and stem join. It is likely that fruit trees with ECB injury will have higher damage levels along the perimeter, especially where tall grasses and woody stemmed broad leaf weeds are present."

Photo: P. Jentsch

There are 2 generations/year with the first treatment window at 800-100 degree days, base 50^0F, and the second at 1550-2100 degree days. Delegate and Bt formulations are effective but MUST be applied before egg hatch and the larvae move into the trees. Check out https://newa.cornell.edu for the degree day accumulation for your area.

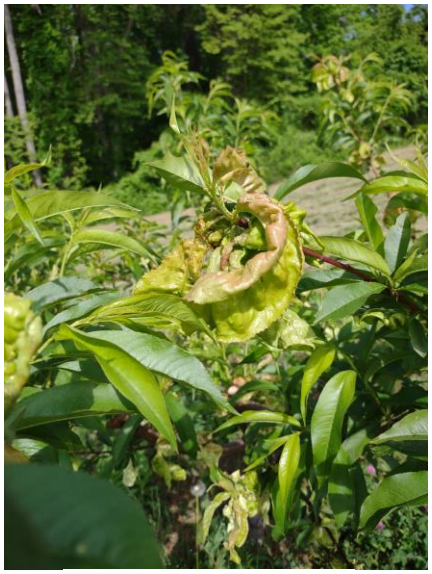

Photo: M. Concklin

Peach leaf curl is showing up but there is nothing you can do about it until later in the fall. Unfortunately, this disease, when it impacts a large portion of the tree, has a negative impact on photosynthesis and ultimately plant growth. The tree can also become defoliated. A few leaves here and there can be removed. Otherwise, just sit back and enjoy the colorful red and purple shades. Then plan to apply copper after leaf drop this fall or next spring before growth begins. In cases where the infestation is severe, both fall and early spring applications are recommended.

Primary scab season is over. If you have any lesions you will need to maintain coverage the rest of the summer.

Summer Diseases: **Powdery mildew** will continue to be a concern until terminal bud set. This is one fungal pathogen that does not need rain or heavy dew to infect plants and fruit. It will infect with high humidity conditions. Many highly effective materials against this disease are listed at https://netreefruit.org/apples/spray-table/9-summer-apple

San Jose Scale females give birth to live young which are under caps on the tree. The scale crawlers will emerge about 4-6 weeks after petal fall which is around early to mid-June and within 4-5 days they settle down and begin feeding. To monitor for crawlers, wrap black electrical tape around the branch next to the overwintering scale. Coat with a thin layer of Vaseline or other sticky material – the crawlers will become stuck as they crawl across it. The 2nd generation of crawlers will be out in late July to early August.

High efficacy materials include Besiege, Esteem 35WP, Centaur 0.7WDG and Movento 240SC. Movento requires oil as a penetrant but if you are planning to use Captan you will need to switch to another fungicide for this spray. Captan cannot be mixed with oil and cannot be applied within 7 days of an oil application.

Shelf fungus are wood rotting fungi that go into the heartwood of the tree. There is usually some type of injury that allows this fungus to enter the tree. It is also a clear indication that the tree is dead or dying. Pictured is a shelf fungus on a peach tree.

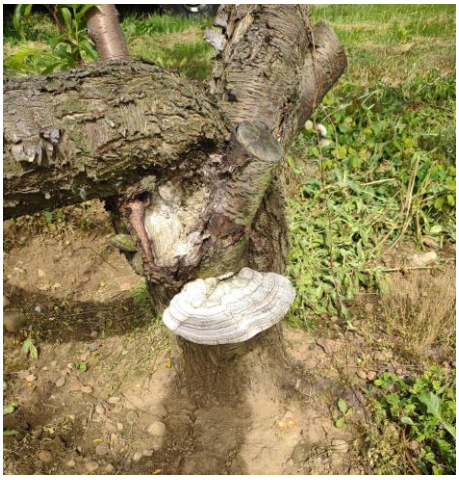

Photo: M. Concklin

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