



Ohio's Fruit News! Mini-Newsletter

May 2017

Spring Insect Update!

By: Celeste Welty

Codling Moth emerging in Central Ohio Apples

The first detection of adults of codling moth in pheromone traps at our research apple orchard in Columbus was last Wednesday, on 26 April. Moths were found in only one of four traps over the following 4 days. There was an increase today, Monday, 1 May, thus we are choosing 1 May as the biofix date. Starting on the biofix date, we will track average daily temperatures until we reach an accumulation of 200 to 250 degree-days, which is our target date for application of insecticides to control young larvae emerging from eggs.



Codling Moth

Oriental Fruit Moth

The first detection of adults of Oriental fruit moth (OFM) in pheromone traps at our research apple and peach orchards in Columbus was on 7 April, followed by an increase on 10 April, which we chose as the biofix date. We trapped large numbers of moths between 17 and 21 April, but catch is now falling.

In the Wayne County crop scouting program, Chris Smedley found the first OFM in traps on 18 April. She has detected this pest at 3 of the 4 orchards being monitored.



Oriental Fruit Moth

Early-season Pests on Strawberries

The two-spotted spider mite and thrips are occasional pests of strawberries that were reported last week in central Ohio. Patches of reddish brown leaf tissue are a symptom of these pests, but a close look with a magnifier is needed to verify whether either of these pests is present, because both are very small. One quick method of detection of spider mites is to tap leaves over a piece of paper and look for dark specks that move. Another symptom of spider mites is fine webbing on the underside of leaves, as seen with a magnifier. Thrips are small but distinctly long and narrow.

We have several miticides available for use on strawberries ([as summarized in this linked chart](#)). Thrips are difficult to control on any crop and we do not have insecticides that are excellent at controlling them. The insecticides and miticides allowed on strawberries do not have both of these pests on the label of one product. However, Amectin (Agri-Mek) does have spider mites on the strawberry label, and it has thrips as target pests on labels for other pests, so it is likely to control both pests. Other options for thrips are Radiant (spinetoram), Sivanto (flupyradifurone), and Entrust (spinosad).



Two-spotted
Spider Mite



Orange rust found on blackberry



Orange Rust Alert!

By: Melanie Lewis Ivey

Be on the lookout for orange rust in your brambles (except red raspberries). The orange rust fungus grows systemically in infected plant and once a plant is infected it is infected for life. When diseased plants first appear in early spring, dig them out (including roots) and destroy them before spore pustules form, break open, and discharge the orange masses of spores. If plants are not removed, these spores will spread the disease to healthy plants. Fungicide applications should be applied after removing the plants to protect the healthy plants and stop any new infections that may have occurred. Consult page 119 of the [Midwest Fruit Pest Management Guide](#) for a list of the effective fungicides used to control orange rust.

The two left images show early season symptoms of orange rust on blackberry (cv. Triple Crown). The top right image is a close up of spore pustules. These pustules are almost ready to break open and release thousands of spores!

Hops Downy Mildew!

By: Melanie Lewis Ivey

Downy mildew was confirmed last week on hops in Medina county. Growers should be scouting their yards daily for downy mildew. Symptoms include stunted spikes with short internodes, yellowing of leaves and down curling or cupping leaves. On the underside of the leaves dark spore masses may be seen. Fungicide spray programs should be initiated as soon as possible. Fungicides registered for downy mildew control on hops include Revus, Forum, Ridomil, Zampro, Phosphonate, Fosetyl-Al, Ranman, Curzate and Kocide. Consult the label for recommended rates and application timings. The website www.cdms.net is a good site to look up labels.



Downy Mildew symptoms on hops

High Tunnel Blackberry Plants are either blooming or close to bloom in Piketon, Ohio

By: Gary Gao, Ph.D.



We planted a small number of Ouachita and Natchez thornless blackberry bushes in a high tunnel at OSU South Centers in Piketon about four years ago as a part of a specialty crop block grant from USDA through Ohio Department of Agriculture. For comparison purposes, the same varieties were also planted in rows outside of the high tunnels. Growing blackberries in high tunnels can protect plants from winter injury and in most years, berries are ready to pick about X weeks before those produced in the field. Both Ouachita and Natchez are varietal releases from the University of Arkansas. The picture on the left displays the thornless blackberry bushes in high tunnel production.

Blackberries at the “popcorn” stage in high tunnel

Although we normally find that blackberries in high tunnels bloom earlier than those grown in the open field, this year the blooming time is about the same. Our mild winter and warm spring temperatures contributed to an early bloom of Natchez beginning last week. In the high tunnel, Ouachita were at the “popcorn” stage by April 28th and the blooms are expected to “pop” at any time. In the same high tunnel, Natchez were blooming by April 28th.



Natchez blackberries at the early bloom stage in open field

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