

PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

FRUIT EDITION \$1.50

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Nov. 20 - Important Date for Fruit Growers

Win Cowgill, Agricultural Agent and Kristin Smolenski, Program Associate

Producers growing **apples, peaches, cranberries and blueberries** are strongly encouraged to speak with a crop insurance agent about covering their 2009 crops with an insurance policy by the enrollment/policy change date of November 20, 2008. The new farm bill has made crop insurance a requirement for eligibility on future federal disaster programs. Each and every insurable crop grown by a producer must be covered with crop insurance if there is a policy available in their county. If no policy is available, producers must sign up for FSA's noninsured crop assistance program (NAP).

In order to remain eligible for government crop disaster assistance in 2009, ALL crops grown by a producer must have insurance or NAP. This means that if producers do not cover their insurable fruit crops this fall, their *spring-planted* crops will not be eligible for disaster assistance. It is important for producers to realize that every crop grown throughout the year must be covered to remain eligible for crop disaster assistance. If even one crop is not covered by crop insurance or NAP, every crop grown by the producer becomes ineligible for any federal disaster program.

Another change that occurred with the implementation of the farm bill is the increase in fees for the producer when purchasing a Catastrophic or CAT policy. CAT fees for 2009 crop insurance policies are now **\$300** per crop per county. NAP fees are now \$250 per crop per county, not to exceed \$750 per county or \$1,875 per producer.

With this increase in CAT fees, producers are encouraged to look into purchasing higher coverage policies. For example, a fresh apple policy with a \$10.10/bu price election and an average yield of 500 bu/acre may cost a producer around \$45 an acre for the lowest buy-up level. The lowest buy-up level is 50% yield coverage and 100% of the price election where a CAT policy covers 50% yield but only 55% of the price election. If a producer is growing less than 7 acres of apples, the buy-up policy will actually be the cheaper option. The example above is only for illustration purposes. Producers should talk with their insurance agent to get a quote on a crop insurance policy. Remember to ask your insurance agent to run several estimates for different levels of coverage to demonstrate the different premiums and how far your money can go. And don't forget to enroll your 2009 fruit crops for crop insurance by November 20, 2008! Call the New Jersey Crop Insurance Education Team for more information at 1-800-308-2449. □

Apple Maturity Update for North-Central New Jersey

Win Cowgill, County Agricultural Agent

We have had an excellent harvest season to date in North Jersey. Apple maturity is right on track, fruit quality is high, and the weather is cooperating. Cool nights and adequate rainfall have ensured excellent fruit quality.

Note: this will be the last apple maturity report of the 2008 season as the Fruit edition of the Plant and Pest Advisory newsletter moves to our winter schedule of once per month. Our next newsletter will be in November.

Cortland and **Empire** harvest are winding down. Macoun harvest is just about complete except for Sussex County. High quality fruit was harvested by those growers who waited until the full varietal flavors developed at the end of September.

Liberty - 'Liberty' resulted from a cross, 'Macoun' x Purdue 54-12, made in 1955. Its apple scab disease resistance comes from *malus floribunda*. The fruit of 'Liberty' is a deep dark red over 90 percent of the surface. The ground color is yellowish. Fruit quality -- 'Liberty' is a very tasty apple when -- pay attention here! -- picked fully ripe. It has a flavor reminiscent of freshly-squeezed apple cider, and is hard to put down when you start eating one. I sometimes refer to it as the 'cider apple.' I suspect it has inherited some of its great flavor and crunch from 'Macoun,' which if you are not familiar, has developed a 'cult-like' following in some areas of New England. 'Liberty' also makes excellent fresh and hard cider.

Because of its taste and crunch it is drawing a following in New York City at the Green Markets. For the full description and Cornell release fact sheet in Liberty go to: <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/pubs/fls/OCRPDF/73.pdf>.

Hunterdon	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Liberty	Snyder	10/5	Yes	16.1	13.5	3.5

Empire

Warren-	-	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Empire-Hackettstown		10/5	yes	16.1	12.6	4.2
Race	Blairstown	10/5	no	14.4	11.8	6.6

Golden Delicious - harvest is about complete except for retained fruit in the more northern counties which are moving along as well.

Hunterdon	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Gibson Golden Del	Snyder	10/5	no	15.6	16.8	6.6
Warren-	-	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Golden Delicious-Hackettstown		10/5	yes	16	13.8	4.6

Red Delicious

Hunterdon	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
OregonSpur -	Snyder	10/5	no	14.1	12.3	5
Warren	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
RedChief-	Blairstown	10/5	no	14.7	12.6	5.2
RedChief-	Hackettstown	10/5	yes	15.3	12	2.7

IdaRed

Warren	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
IdaRed-	Blairstown	10/5	no	13	11.3	3.6

Mutsu/Crispen

Warren	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Mutsu	Blairstown	10/5	no	14.2	12.6	5.3
Morris	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Mutsu	Harding Twp	10/6	yes	16	12.6	2.3

Pinova

Warren	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Pinova	Blairstown	10/5	no	14.2	13.6	4.9

Cameo

Morris	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Cameo	Harding Twp	10/6	yes	14	12.2	4.8
Hunterdon	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch

SEE APPLE MATURITY ON PAGE 2

A New Look at Lesser Peach Tree Borer Control using Mating Disruption

Kris Tollerup Ph.D., Postdoctoral Associate, Tree-Fruit Entomology, Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Bridgeton, NJ

With the increasing pressure to reduce the use of organophosphate insecticides, alternative methods such as mating disruption (MD) is becoming more important. The **lesser peach tree borer** (LPTB), *Synanthedon pictipes* (Grote & Robinson), is one of several tree-fruit pests for which MD products are available. On peach the LPTB is commonly associated with disease cankers caused by the fungi *Cytospora cincta* Sacc. and *Cytospora leucostoma* Sacc. This clear-winged moth is also associated with mechanical injury and pruning wounds. If not controlled, the *Cytospora* wounds in which LPTB feed, enlarge and can eventually girdle the infected branch or limb.

Over the past two seasons we have worked with two manufactures of LPTB mating disruption products and a Cumberland County grower. We tested two MD dispenser products, a twist tie which is applied by wrapping it around a small limb and a card/clip that is applied by clipping it on a small limb or branch. Both products were applied in early May at approximately 100 to 150 dispensers per acre. To assess the effectiveness of these MD products, we monitored male LPTB using delta traps baited with LPTB sex pheromone. The traps were checked weekly from early June through early September. In addition to this, we monitored LPTB

infestations by counting the number of pupal cases, exuvia, on 30 trees in each of the treatments.

In comparison to non-treated control plots, both MD products effectively prevented the capture of male LPTB in pheromone traps for most of both seasons. Since the areas treated with MD are “flooded” with sex pheromone, males are not able to locate the pheromone source in the delta traps. The degree of LPTB infestation appears to be decreasing in comparison to non-treated control plots.

These results are very encouraging and we plan on continuing this experiment into next season. We will keep you and your local County Agents abreast of our results. □

Editor's note: This is the last weekly issue of the season for the Fruit edition of the Plant & Pest Advisory. The remaining issues for the season will be monthly.

APPLE MATURITY FROM PAGE 2

Cameo	Snyder Farm	10/5	yes	16.3	12.9	3.1
Northern Spy						
Warren	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Northern Spy	Hackettstown	10/5	no	16.4	11.8	4.8
Enterprise						
Morris	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Enterprise	Harding Twp	10/6	yes	15	12.2	1.9
Stayman						
Morris	Location	Date	Retain	Pressure	Brix	Starch
Stayman	Harding Twp	10/6	yes	16.6	9.5	1.9



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Pesticide User Responsibility: Use pesticides safely and follow instructions on labels. The pesticide user is responsible for proper use, storage and disposal, residues on crops, and damage caused by drift. For specific labels, special local-needs label 24(c) registration, or section 18 exemption, contact RCE in your County.

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