



Apple Pest Report: Friday, September 18, 2009

Vol. 17 No. 12

Flyspeck

The recent dry weather has been helpful to reduce the risk of flyspeck developing on fruit for which the final fungicide application was made prior to heavy rainfall on August 21-24. Even with the dry weather, the flyspeck model estimates that fruit which did not receive renewed fungicide protection after August 22 could have flyspeck begin to appear in early October. The risk of flyspeck developing before harvest on late maturing cultivars depends on proximity to border row flyspeck hosts, microclimate, and weather between now and then.

Scab

Even though fruit scab control is much better than might be expected after such a rainy summer, leaf scab levels are high in many Maine orchards this fall. As apple leaves age they lose natural resistance to late season scab infections. Active scab infections on leaves in the autumn exchange genes (i.e. mate) with other scab lesions on the same leaf. Over the winter and early spring structures develop that will release primary scab ascospores from Green Tip until about a week after Petal Fall (late April to early June).

Removing those leaves from the orchard before next spring is ideal, but is only feasible in a small planting. Treating fallen leaves on the ground with urea (42 lbs. urea per 100 gallons of water per acre) in the fall, or chopping them with a mower (flail mower is best, but rotary mower also helps) accelerates leaf decay. Chopping also interrupts the ability of scab infections to exchange genes.

But leaves often don't fall until there is snow cover and it is too late to run a boom sprayer or mower. Once leaves freeze to the ground mowing isn't as effective. The ground urea application and mowing can be done in early spring with nearly the same degree of efficacy for reducing the scab ascospore population. But in early spring soil is often either snow covered or too wet for tractor use.

One option to deal with these constraints is to apply the urea as a foliar application to leaves on the tree before they fall. There has been concern that late

season application of urea to the foliage while still on the tree might result in nitrogen being absorbed by the tree which could interfere with hardening off to resist cold winter temperatures. But as long as the application is made after the leaves have started to turn brown this shouldn't be a problem.

To get an estimate of how much overwintering scab inoculum will be available next spring, check 100 shoots randomly around the orchard. On each shoot glance at roughly 15 leaves, tops and bottoms. You don't have to examine each leaf individually, which would take far too long. Check branches from both the inner and outer canopy, and include branches from the as high in the canopy as you can see. Save every leaf you find that has any spots that look they could be active scab lesion. Dead dry spots with a flat dead surface do not count, but any spots with a velvety or textured surface or surrounded by a ring of yellowing but not dried up tissue should be counted.

Leaves are starting to senesce and develop purple and brown spots, which makes it too difficult to quickly scan for scab lesions. But most orchards probably have another week for doing this scab index.

If you find only 5 or fewer leaves with scab spots on 100 shoots, the block will have a low inoculum level next spring. In that case, you can be a little more relaxed about needing to protect against the earliest infection periods at Green Tip and Half Inch Green next spring.

If you find 28 or more infected leaves, this indicates high inoculum potential, and incentive to use sanitation measures (leaf shredding, urea application) to reduce the scab ascospore population this fall or early next spring.

Lack of fruit scab is NOT a reliable indicator of scab inoculum level.

Insects and Mites

White apple leafhopper are numerous in some orchards, their foliar feeding is not likely to harm the crop, though their honeydew excrement could. They are most important as a nuisance to pickers. If they are a problem, a low dose application of Sevin (carbaryl) is an effective control with a 3-day preharvest interval.

Pear trees with extensive **pear leaf blister mite** damage to leaves can benefit from a postharvest application of Sevin, or oil + diazinon or oil + Thionex, at least 24 hours before the next frost. More information on this pest is available at <http://www.canr.msu.edu/vanburen/fplbm.htm>



Michigan State Univ. photo

McIntosh Drop Estimate

The estimated date for 10% drop of sound McIntosh fruit at Highmoor Farm is September 18 – 25.

Odds and Ends

1. Pesticide Application Notification

LD 1293, An Act To Require Citizen Notification of Pesticide Applications Using Aerial Spray or Air-carrier Application Equipment was passed by the Maine State Legislature and signed into law by the Governor last June. To begin implementing the new regulations, the Maine Board of Pesticides Control sent the following press release was sent to newspapers and town offices.

Want To Know About Pesticides Sprayed Near Your Home?

New Pesticide Notification Registry Takes Effect

A new law takes effect on September 12 that will provide a simple way to be notified about how, what, when, and where pesticides are being sprayed near your home. This public registry, a list of names and contact information, will allow interested parties to receive notification about outdoor pesticide applications made by airplanes, helicopters, mist blowers, or air-blast sprayers. The registry is required as part of LD 1293, *An Act To Require Citizen Notification of Pesticide Applications Using Aerial Spray or Air-carrier Application Equipment*, passed by the Maine State Legislature and signed by Governor Baldacci last June.

The law gives the Maine Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) the responsibility for developing and maintaining the registry, where any resident of property in Maine can be included, free of charge. According to the law, anyone on the registry located within 1,320 feet (one-quarter mile) of an area being sprayed will have to be notified at least 24 hours, but not more than seven days, before a pesticide application by air or air-assisted equipment is to be made.

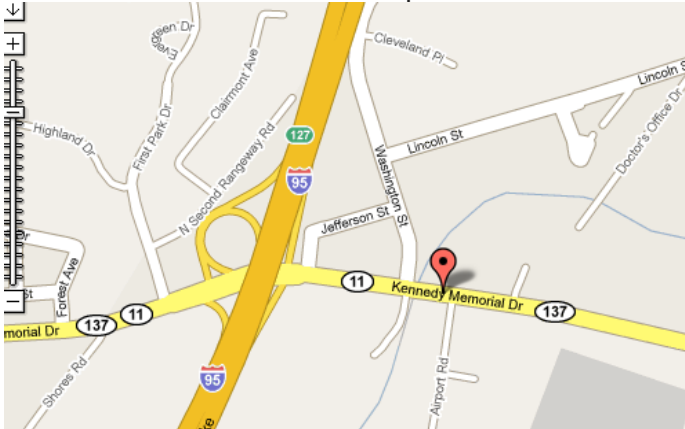
To be placed on the 2010 registry, names must be submitted by March 15, 2010. The registry will be made available to pesticide applicators no later than April 1, 2010. Names will remain on the registry until the BPC is notified in writing to remove a specific listing, or until it is determined that a contact is no longer valid.

To signup on the registry, go to the BPC website, www.thinkfirstspraylast.org, or contact the BPC at 207-287-2731 for a registry application form.

The new regulations are part of Chapter 28—Notification Provisions for Outdoor Pesticide Applications. Copies of the proposed regulations are available at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/laws/rulemaking.htm. The Board proposes to make the following changes to Chapter 28:

- Clarify that mandatory disclosure must be provided to occupants of buildings that are both on abutting properties AND within 1,320 feet of the application site.
- Provide an alternate notification system for applications that cannot reasonably be foreseen 90 days in advance.
- Exempt from mandatory notification aerial applications that are subject to Chapter 51 of the Board's rules. This chapter covers notification requirements for persons contracting aerial pesticide applications to control forest, ornamental plant, right-of-way, biting fly and public health pests.
- Allow land managers to propose an alternative notification plan to the Board.
- Establish deadlines and information requirements for the registry of individuals wishing to be notified.

There will be a public hearing on Friday, October 2 at 9:30am in Waterville to receive comments about these proposed changes. The hearing is at the Hampton Inn, 425 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Waterville. To get there, take exit 127 and head east on Rt. 11 Waterville. The Hampton Inn is on the right.



You can also submit comments by sending an email, letter or fax to Henry Jennings by 5:00 PM, Friday, October 16, 2009.

Henry S. Jennings, Director
Maine Board of Pesticides Control
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
Telephone: 207-287-2731
FAX: 207-624-5035
E-mail: henry.jennings@maine.gov

Closing words

"This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.

I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake.

Life is no brief candle for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

-- George Bernard Shaw

Best wishes for a happy healthy harvest!

- Glen

[Glen W. Koehler](#)

Associate Scientist IPM

Email: gkoehler@umext.maine.edu

Voice: 207-581-3882 (within Maine: 800-287-0279)

Pest Management Office

491 College Avenue

Orono, ME 04473-1295

<http://pmo.umext.maine.edu/apple/>

Putting Knowledge to Work with the People of Maine



A member of the University of Maine System

[Nondiscrimination statement, disability resources, nondisclosure statement](#)