

KTFREC News – Electronic Fruit Newsletter

February 1, 2010

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Winter Fruit School opportunities:

1) Winchester area commercial fruit production school (the WVSHS will have a break-out session at this meeting to conduct WVSHS business and hear updates from WVDA representatives).
February 19, 2010.

Here is the full announcement with details (items in parentheses are mine): “The next meeting of the Winchester Area Fruit Production School will be held on Friday, February 19, 2010, at the Best Western, Lee-Jackson Inn Banquet Convention Center, Winchester, VA. This building is located at 711 Millwood Avenue. The program will begin at 8:00 a.m.

This session will re-certify you (VA growers) for two years on your private pesticide license (category 90). In order to receive re-certification credit, you will need to sign in by 8:30 a.m. and sign out at the end. This sign-in will be strictly enforced at the School. (WV growers will be able to sign their recertification form at this event).

There will be a \$9.00 registration fee, payable at the door (checks made payable to VCE-Frederick County). Please call the Frederick Office at 540-665-5699 and let them know if you will be attending, so we can have an accurate account to provide for lunch. (WV growers who are WVSHS members will have their registrations paid for by the WVSHS as a benefit of membership – Julie will be at the registration desk to help with the WV registrations).

If you have any questions, I can be reached by emailing cmarston@vt.edu. Should you wish to reach me by telephone; the number is 540-432-6029.”

The Program:

Winchester Area Commercial Fruit Production School

Friday, February 19, 2010

Lee Jackson Conference Center, Winchester, VA

Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension and Frederick County Fruit Growers Association

8:00 a.m. - Registration, Coffee and Doughnuts, View Exhibits

8:15 a.m. - Conservation Programs, Mike Liskey, USDA

8:45 a.m. - Fruit Thinning, Preventing Pre-Harvest Apple Fruit Drop and Apple Return Bloom Update, Dr. Rongcai Yuan, Horticulturist, VT-Smith AREC

9:15 a.m. - Spray Bulletin Updates, Doug, Keith, Rongcai, and Alan

9:30 a.m. - Biology and Management of Stink Bugs, Dr. Doug Pfeiffer, Entomologist, VT

10:00 a.m. - WEST VIRGINIA BREAKOUT TO ADJACENT ROOM

Legal & Safety Update, Jeff Rogers, Pesticide Inspector, VDACS

Pesticide Regulatory Programs Update, Chad Carpenter, Compliance Manager, WV Pesticide Regulatory Programs

10:30 a.m. - In Search of the Sandy Hosey: The Life & Times of W.B. Alwood – Savior of the Virginia Fruit Industry, Dr. Mike Weaver, Director, VT Pesticide Programs

11:30 a.m. - Management of Apple Powdery Mildew; Is it Becoming Resistant to SI Fungicides?, Dr. Keith Yoder, Pathologist, VT-Smith AREC

Noon – Lunch, (Speakers and organizers lunches furnished by Frederick County Fruit Growers' Association)

1:00 p.m. - Fruit Production in the MidAtlantic: Past, Present, and Future, Dr. Steve Miller, Agriculture Research Service, USDA, Kearneysville, WV

1:45 p.m. - Maryblyt 7 (fire blight predictor) for Windows, Dr. Alan Biggs, Pathologist, WVU-KTFREC

2:15 p.m. - Orchard Decisions in Jeopardy, Dr. Doug Pfeiffer, Entomologist, VT

3:00 p.m. - Recertification Paperwork and Adjournment

2) Western Maryland Regional Fruit School at WMREC in Keedysville, MD. February 25, 2010.

The program for this event is online here:

<http://www.grapesandfruit.umd.edu/Pages/2010BrochureRFMFinal.pdf>

Pesticide applicator license recertification credits (6) for WV growers will be available for this event.

Hogmire Retirement

Dr. Hogmire officially retired on December 31, 2009. This article appeared in a recent issue of the Martinsburg Journal:

Henry W. Hogmire, Tree Fruit Entomologist, WVU-KTFREC, May 1, 1979 – December 31, 2009

Dr. Henry W. Hogmire retired from West Virginia University on December 31, 2009. He was the tree fruit entomologist at WVU's Kearneysville Tree Fruit Research and Education Center for over 30 years, serving the commercial fruit growers of West Virginia since May 1, 1979. Dr. Hogmire received a B.A. in Biology from Olivet College (Olivet, MI) in 1974, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Entomology from Michigan State University in 1976 and 1979, respectively.

Dr. Hogmire had a joint appointment with the WVU Extension Service, Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Unit (70%) and the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design, Division of Plant and Soil Sciences (30%). He also served as chair of the Fruit Center's Leadership Committee since 1994. As part of his Extension activities, Dr. Hogmire served as coordinator of the Fruit Center's newsletter, *The Orchard Monitor*, which had a mailing and emailing list of over 150 fruit growers in West Virginia and surrounding states. He also coordinated the Winter Fruit School, held at Kearneysville and Romney annually in March.

Dr. Hogmire's most significant accomplishment was the development and implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs in West Virginia orchards. In the 1980s, he trained field scouts that fruit growers could hire to inspect their orchards for pest problems. This resulted in a reduction in pesticide use and improvement in fruit quality, through better timing of pesticide application only when needed and the use of predators for biological control of mites. To help offset the increased costs of today's IPM programs, which include non-chemical strategies, Dr. Hogmire was successful in obtaining cost-share funding for fruit growers (over \$615,000 for 3 years) from USDA's Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) in 2008, which has led to increased adoption of advanced IPM strategies. Dr. Hogmire was recognized for his achievements in IPM as a recipient of the Outstanding Performance Award for Individual Program Excellence for Tree Fruit IPM Education from the WVU Extension Service in 2000, and the Eastern Branch Entomological Society of America Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension Entomology in 2001.

Over his career, Dr. Hogmire conducted numerous research projects at the Tree Fruit Center and in local grower orchards. In collaboration with colleagues, he was successful in obtaining over \$3.6 million dollars in funding to support his research program. He also served as a research advisor to 20 interns from Shepherd University, who completed research projects as part of their degree requirements.

The most rewarding and enjoyable part of his career was working one-on-one with fruit growers to help them solve their pest problems. "In looking back, I believe I learned more from fruit growers than I taught, which made me a better entomologist and public servant".

Insect Traps and Lures Ordering Update

We are working on the revised price list for these items and expect to be able to provide this service in 2010. The forms will be ready later this week and we will need replies with pre-payment by March 1, 2010. You will need to pick up your orders when they're ready at KTFREC (NRCS-EQIP participants will get delivery).

Plant Pathology Update

Peach leaf curl should be controlled in the spring with a fungicide application before the buds swell, unless you already made a leaf curl application in the fall. If leaf curl was severe in your peach and nectarine blocks in 2009, and you made your fall fungicide application to control the disease for 2010, a spring fungicide application will be needed to ensure complete disease control. In orchards where careful monitoring is practiced and where leaf curl has not been present for two or more years, this spray can be omitted until the disease begins to recur. For best control of peach leaf curl, make a dilute application of fungicide under calm conditions, making sure to cover each bud thoroughly. Using one of the fixed coppers for the leaf curl spray may help suppress bacterial spot in blocks where this disease is a problem. See the Spray Bulletin for fungicides and rates of application. For more information on bacterial spot, refer to the October 13, 2008, issue of the Orchard Monitor.

Apple scab urea application: A spray of 5% solution of urea (46-0-0) in water may be applied as late as green tip to apple leaves on the ground if this was not done in the autumn (42 lb. urea in 100 gal. water, applied at 100 gallons/acre). The nitrogen will hasten leaf litter decomposition and will result in reduced ascospore production by 60 to 90%, thereby changing high-inoculum orchards into low-inoculum orchards. Moving leaves from under the trees to the row middles with a leaf blower and then shredding them with a flail mower is a good alternative to the urea spray for small acreages on level land (mud, rocks, and weeds can turn this into a futile exercise). If you had enough scab that you easily noticed it at the end of last year's growing season, one of these inoculum reduction measures should be implemented. If the urea spray is used, remember to reduce other nitrogen applications accordingly. I would estimate that about half of the urea nitrogen will land in the sodded row middles, and thus will not be available to the trees.

Fungicide-resistant apple scab (some suggestions from Dave Rosenberger, Cornell University): In general, fungicide recommendations remain the same as last year. Copper applied at silver tip or green tip to suppress fire blight will also control scab for a week in the same way that one would expect from a mancozeb spray. Copper, mancozeb, and captan cannot stop scab infections once the scab fungus penetrates the leaf tissue, so applications must be made ahead of rains or within 12-18 hr (depending on temperatures) after the start of a rain. Copper should never be applied in the rain because it will wash to the ground too quickly to provide the desired residual protection against fire blight. However, captan and mancozeb applied during a rain can kill germinating spores and protect trees for another day or two following the application.

A prebloom schedule involving a tank-mix of mancozeb at 3 lb/A plus Captan-80 at 1.5 to 3 lb/A has frequently performed better than either product used alone, but Captan cannot be used in combinations with prebloom oil sprays. By using Flint or Sovran with mancozeb for two sprays sometime

between tight cluster and petal fall, one gains even more activity against scab (so long as it is not strobby resistant) as well as protection against rust and mildew. Even where DMIs no longer control scab, they are still recommended in combinations with mancozeb or captan for sprays at petal fall and first cover because they still provide the best overall activity against mildew and rust diseases. In cases where a protectant fungicide could not be applied ahead of rains during the prebloom period, Scala or Vanguard can provide up to 72 hr of reach-back activity. However, these fungicides do not redistribute well, so they should always be used in combinations with mancozeb or captan. Syllit combined with mancozeb might also prove useful for early-season sprays if resistance testing has shown that the scab population is not fully resistant to dodine. There is still considerable uncertainty about the usefulness of so-called "second generation" DMIs like Indar and Inspire Super in orchards where Rubigan and Rally are no longer effective. Indar and Inspire Super are definitely more effective than labeled rates of Rally and Rubigan when applied in orchards where the latter products have lost effectiveness. However, regular use of Inspire Super or Indar is expected to cause a continued shift toward greater levels of DMI resistance until even these new products will no longer control scab. We just don't know how quickly that shift will occur.

Other Fruit Newsletters

I encourage everyone to subscribe to Penn State's Fruit Times Newsletter and the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension email newsletters from Dr. Joe Fiola.

To subscribe to Fruit Times, send an e-mail to: Fruit-Times-L-subscribe-request@lists.psu.edu; no subject or message text is required. Or view Fruit Times on the Web at <http://fruittimes.cas.psu.edu>.

To subscribe to Dr. Joe Fiola's email updates, contact him at jfiola@umd.edu. Dr. Fiola distributes a wide variety of information from many sources pertaining to commercial production of tree fruits, small fruits, grapes, and vegetables.

Thanks for reading! Please send comments or suggestions.

Alan R. Biggs, Ph.D.

Professor of Plant Pathology and Extension Specialist – Tree Fruit Diseases

WVU Extension Boilerplate: READ THE LABEL CAREFULLY AND USE THE CHEMICALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LABEL CAUTIONS, WARNING AND DIRECTIONS. REQUEST A MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET (MSDS) FROM THE MANUFACTURER FOR EACH PRODUCT YOU USE.

Trade and brand names are used only for the purpose of information, and the West Virginia University Extension Service does not guarantee nor warrant the standard of the product, nor does it imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others which may also be suitable. The West Virginia University Extension Service assumes no responsibility in the use of hazardous chemicals.

Individuals requesting an accommodation to a meeting because of a disability should contact one of the Extension Specialists at the WVU Kearneysville Tree Fruit Research and Education Center at (304) 876-6353 at least five days prior to the event.