

KTFREC News – Electronic Fruit Newsletter

April 22, 2011

Contents:

Upcoming Events

Plant Pathology Update

On Our Web Site – Stink Bug Resources

Other Fruit Newsletters

Upcoming Events:

April 28, 2011; 6:00 to 8:00 PM – Dinner and twilight meeting in Hampshire County at Gourmet Central. This meeting will include an overview of early-season disease development and an additional presentation to be announced. Attendees can sign up for recertification credits. For more information contact the Hampshire County Extension Office at 304-822-5013.

June 1, 2011; 6:30 to 8:30 PM – Twilight meeting in Washington County, Maryland, at Barr Orchards (22301 Durberry Rd., Smithsburg, MD). Specialists from WV, MD, and PA will attend and provide updates on issues related to entomology, plant pathology, weed management, and horticultural issues. More details to follow.

Plant Pathology Update

Fire blight activity at KTFREC:

Possible infection conditions are forecasted for Monday, April 25. Please read our Blog or our Current Conditions page for additional details.

<http://wvu-ktfrec.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.caf.wvu.edu/kearneysville/current.html>

Streptomycin reminders: For best blossom blight control, apply Streptomycin just before an anticipated infection, then re-apply it in 4 days if high risk conditions persist. High risk occurs with any combination of three out of the following four criteria: 1) blossoms open, 2) bacteria present on blossom surface, 3) average temperature for the day of 60° F, and 4) sufficient moisture in the form of rain or dew. Note that infection of susceptible cultivars is very likely to occur if all four of these criteria are satisfied, especially if there is a history of the disease. Streptomycin applied after infection can provide acceptable control, however the level of control that is achieved declines with time and declines more rapidly as temperature increases.

Avoid alternate row middle programs for fire blight control. If this method is used and if infection conditions occur after the first half spray, follow immediately with the second half spray of streptomycin. Try not to exceed 3-4 antibiotic sprays per year in order to minimize the chance that the fire blight bacterium will develop resistance to streptomycin (although in some years more than 3 or 4 sprays will be needed). Make blossom treatments strictly on whether an infection is expected or has occurred, not on how severe that event might be.

Apple scab infection periods at KTFREC:

7. April 19 – 20, with 26 wetting hours during this period at an average temperature of 53 F, and with 0.88 inches of rain. Rust infection possible.
6. April 16, with 15 wetting hours during this period at an average temperature of 54 F, and with 2.26 inches of rain.
5. April 13, with 33 wetting hours during this period at an average temperature of 51 F, and with 1.58 inches of rain.
4. April 8 – 9, with 29 hours of wetting during this period at an average temperature of 42 F.
3. April 5, with 12 wetting hours during this period at an average temperature of 55.1 F.
2. March 30 – April 1, with 41 wetting hours during this period at an average temperature of 37 F.
1. March 22 – 24, we recorded a split wetting period (13 hours at 42F and 19 hours at 42F) from 11:00 PM Mar. 22 - 10:30 AM Mar. 24, with about 32 hours total of wetting and about 0.75 inches of rainfall. Temperatures during the wet periods ranged from 50F down to 37F, thus providing conditions for the first apple scab infection period of the season.

Peach scab and Rusty spot: The shuck split - shuck fall stage is the time to initiate fungicide applications for managing these diseases on peaches and nectarines. Follow instructions in the spray guide for the selection of spray materials for these diseases. For scab control, remember that Bravo is highly effective but is not labeled for applications after the shuck fall stage. Control of rusty spot will be facilitated by adequate control of powdery mildew in adjacent apple orchards.

Oriental Fruit Moth Biofix

April 12, 2011 at KTFREC – we are updating trap catch and degree-day accumulations on this page: <http://www.caf.wvu.edu/kearneysville/pheromon.html>

On Our Web Site

We have a new web page with links and resources related to brown marmorated stink bugs. We thank our colleagues at the USDA and neighboring institutions (Penn State, Virginia Tech, University of Maryland) for their most up-to-date information. We will need to rely on them until we hire a new extension entomologist. <http://www.caf.wvu.edu/kearneysville/bmsbresources.html>

Updates for 2011 have begun on our “Current Conditions” web page. This page provides updates on observations of disease activity, links to fire blight forecasts (these will be available closer to bloom time), pheromone trap catch data, and degree-day tallies. I am updating our usual Current Conditions page as well as a new blog format (where you can leave comments) at <http://wvu-ktfrec.blogspot.com/>

Other Fruit Newsletters

I encourage everyone to subscribe to Penn State’s Fruit Times Newsletter, Dr. Doug Pfeiffer’s Scholar resources and email listserve, 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>.

The new web-based *Fruit Times* recognizes your Smart Phone and automatically changes to a more easily read format so you can receive timely updates while you are in the orchard. Another valuable feature is that Penn State fruit specialists can send out recommendations as *events change in your orchards* – not just once a month! To subscribe to daily updates, please visit: <http://extension.psu.edu/fruit-times>.

To subscribe to Dr. Doug Pfeiffer's Tree Fruit Scholar resource and email list, email Doug at dgpfeiff@vt.edu and express your interest. In addition to tree fruits, Doug also has available a Vineyard Scholar and a Berry Scholar.

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.

Let me know if you need to unsubscribe to this newsletter.

Thanks for reading!

Alan R. Biggs, Ph.D.

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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.

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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.