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**Horticultural and Pest Management Notes,  
produced by Lake Ontario Fruit Program, CCE**

From FAX: 585-798-5191 D. Breth & M. Miranda S. Jul 2, 2013

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**Pest Management Notes....** This is a short one since I am out of town attending the 13<sup>th</sup> International Fire Blight Workshop.

**Codling moth egg hatch** is still heavy and most traps have hit the "B" peak for the first flight last week or this week and will start to decline except in very high pressure sites where traps continue to exceed 10-20 moths per week. For those of you with a heavy population, continue to maintain insecticide coverage for the eggs that are hatching but I some will not survive the rains. But we already can see fruit infestation in some of the high pressure sites, already losing the battle! If you had high populations last season and trap counts continue to be high, you will need to be on a 2 week schedule until trap counts come back down to the suggested threshold of 5 moths per week. Delegate, Altacor, Belt, and Voliam Xpress (12 oz./a) are still the best choices if you have high CM pressure.

And one additional note for codling moth – remember where you are storing your bins from fruit that was wormy last season, because we have seen high concentrations of moths emerging from those bins last week, and if they are nested will continue to emerge with the differential warming of the bin pile. The orchards around the stored bins (whether under cover or not) should be watched carefully, for codling moth activity.

**Obliquebanded leafrollers** are flying and biofix for the degree-day timing model in early sites was Jun 6, and the rest of the flights started between Jun 6 and June 10. We have accumulated approximately over 500 DD 43°F and larvae can be found to scout at this time. We recommend an insecticide for low pressure sites to be applied at about 600 DD. This spray should be able to be accomplished with your codling moth sprays. Another insecticide option if codling moth is not a problem would include Proclaim.

### **Horticultural notes... (from Mario)**

**Hand thinning:** Hopefully by now you are close to finish the hand thinning job for size for Gala trees this week. Every Gala block where we worked with this year for the precision chemical thinning project (20 sites around the state) had too much crop after aggressive thinning. So start this task as soon as possible where Gala blocks have a fruit set that is still relatively high. When doing hand thinning we suggest using precision crop load management techniques. This includes counting the number of fruits of 5 representative trees per block before hand thinning and then determining the number of fruits to remove via hand thinning. We suggest strict crop load management of 6-7 fruits/cm<sup>2</sup> TCA on mature HC trees and 4-5 fruits/cm<sup>2</sup> TCA on young HC trees. For annual cropping varieties like Gala use 5 fruits/cm<sup>2</sup> TCA for the first five years and then 7-8 fruits/cm<sup>2</sup> TCA. Look for the hand thinning's article for precision crop load management by Hoying and Robinson in issue 15 of the LOF newsletter last week. Utilize the Cornell University young apple thinning gauge. Call Mario (315-719-1318) if you want a gauge. I have still 30 or so gauges to deliver to interested growers.

**Summer NAA Sprays NOW to Improve Return Bloom Next Spring:** We recommend 7.5 ppm NAA (3 ounces per 100 gal or 6 ounces per acre) or 150 ppm Ethrel (0.5 pints per 100 gal or 1 pint per acre). Do not use Ethrel on early-ripening cultivars including Honeycrisp and Macoun because it may stimulate early ripening. Instead use NAA on these varieties. For late ripening varieties, Ethrel and NAA seems to perform similarly. You can also alternate Ethrel and NAA sprays or spray 1 or 2 sprays of Ethrel followed by 2-3 sprays of NAA. With pears we also suggest 4 applications of 5-7.5 ppm NAA starting in mid June to stimulate flower bud initiation. (We have not tested Ethrel on pears but it is likely to stimulate pre-mature ripening with Bartlett.) Don't forget to have enough water available for your hand thinning crews this week.

**Tree Training/Care:** Critical early summer tree training tasks are: (1) singling down the leader by eliminating the 2nd, 3rd and 4th buds below the leader and (2) tying down feathers of newly planted trees. On Fuji and Macoun trees also tie down lateral branches on second and third year Tall Spindle plantings. Now is also the time for a second application of ¼ lb of calcium nitrate to newly planted apple trees in a doughnut shaped band around each tree. During the early season encourage strong leader growth and fill the vertical space. Leader growth during the early years should be at least 18-24 inches of growth. Steve's research has also found that there is no difference in leader growth between blossom and small fruit removal suggesting that there is still time to remove fruitlets on newly planted trees without interfering with tree growth.

**Tree support/trellis:** Please support your newly planted trees (also second and third year plantings). Build the proper trellis (or the best support possible) for your trees as soon as you have the time and labor this week.

Every effort has been made to provide correct, complete, and up-to-date pesticide recommendations. Nevertheless, changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly, and human errors are still possible. These recommendations are not a substitute for pesticide labeling. Please read the label before applying any pesticide.

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