

## **Maine 2017 Tree Fruit Pest Report**

Northeast Tree Fruit IPM Working Group, October 24, 2017  
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### **Weather**

Bud stage dates were close to the 1981-2010 average. April was about 2F warmer than 1981-2010 average, May – August were within 1F of average. September was about 6F above average, and early October 8F above average.

Precipitation in April was about at about 100 to 110% of normal. May about 150%, June: 50 – 100%, July-September were 30 to 70% depending on location, early October was about 30% of normal. By mid-October, the area of abnormally dry to extended over most of Maine, D1 Moderate Drought along the coast.

### **Diseases**

#### **Apple scab**

Infection potential was highly concentrated around the May 22 rain. Several growers were caught short with inadequate coverage, with lesions becoming numerous in mid-June. Twice this year growers called me to say that scouts had reported scab that was not present. In both cases the growers had failed to detect incipient outbreaks, i.e. the scouts were correct and the growers had failed to see the lesions.

#### **Fire blight**

The warmest day of the year was on May 18 with a high temperature above 90F in many Maine orchards. Southern Maine apples were in early bloom. In the central and coastal Maine apple production area, the high temperatures pushed buds from Pink to Full Bloom.

Showers on May 18 and 21 generated high risk ratings by Cougarblight and the Eastern Fire blight model (which is basically MaryBlyt). But little fire blight developed, even in blocks that had substantial fire blight in 2016. This seems to support the observation by Tim Smith (author of Cougarblight) that early bloom infection periods are of much less consequence than blossom infection periods in late bloom – early Petal Fall period.

**Flyspeck/Sooty blotch** - No news. Despite dry summer the total number of flyspeck growth hours was close to normal.

**Dieback** – Unknown cause(s) for branch dieback in an orchard. Symptoms included what looked like herbicide induced leaf curling. Another case of tree collapse in July, long after the usual syndrome of winter damaged trees collapsing at Fruit Set. Possibly related to delayed reaction to drought stress in 2016.

## Insects and Mites

### **Leafminer, Plum curculio, White apple leafhopper, Codling moth, European red mite**

– Nothing remarkable. White apple leafhopper numbers became problematic in a few blocks after being hard to find throughout the summer. European red mite numbers near zero in almost all of the ca. 40 blocks checked weekly in June - August.

Pheromone trap captures for codling moth, lesser appleworm, obliquebanded leafroller and oriental fruit moth not remarkable. And also of little use. What is a meaningful number? I probably will discontinue trapping for LAW, and continue the others only to detect outbreaks.

**Apple maggot** trap captures in 2017 were low until mid-August, presumably from dry soil conditions. Some locations never did catch many.

Several rows of unsprayed Honeycrisp, McIntosh, Cortland, Gala and other cultivars had extensive damage on Honeycrisp (10+ stings per fruit) but very little damage on the other cultivars.

**Stinkbug** – Numerous homeowner reports of brown marmorated stink bug indicate that BMSB is now established in Maine. No known crop damage,

**Spotted wing drosophila** – Trap catches exceeded threshold of 10 per trap per week 3-4 weeks earlier than previous recent years. First experience with SWD infestation of otherwise intact peaches.