

77th Annual New England, New York, Canadian Fruit Pest Management Workshop

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2015 REPORT - QUEBEC APPLE ORCHARDS

PEST TYPES: DISEASES

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Fire blight

Still in the aftermath of the worst recorded epidemic (2012), albeit with reduced severity. 426 samples analyzed at the Quebec diagnostics laboratory (282 positive) in an effort to force growers to “eradicate” the disease in the Oka region.

Bitter rot/lenticel rot

More “*Colletotrichum*” reported this year. In most cases from transitioning organic orchards. Up to 50% of Paulared in one orchard. Other cultivars include Lobo, Primgold, HoneyCrisp Delcorf and Melba.

In my opinion, the problem is made worse in sites with past cases of fire blight, 2015 winter damage, and irrigation deficit.

Silver leaf (*Chondrostereum purpureum*)

Occasional disease, reported with greater severity on HoneyCrisp in 2015. Again, probably a consequence of the 2015 winter. Some symptoms reported on fruit, but wondering if something else might be linked (*Tilletiopsis pallescens*?) (white haze)

Phytoplasma (Yellow aster in apples)

The industry is closely monitoring a yellow aster phytoplasma outbreak that originated in 2011. All samples reporting negative, but symptoms are still reported in 2015.

Moldy core / core rot

This disease is observed yearly in Cortland and Spartan and losses can be significant in certain years. In 2015, up to 20-30% of fruits showed decay in Oka whereas disease incidence was reported lower in Montérégie Est. Hypothesis for the striking regional difference welcome. (climate similar)

Apple scab

Low to Moderate issue overall in 2015 but as usual was locally problematic. In well maintained commercial orchards measured scab incidence in mid July 2015 ranged from 1 to 91 scabbed leaves per 100 shoots. In very clean orchards mid summer scab levels can be below 0,5 scabbed leaves per 100 shoots. Although ejection was delayed after budbreak, it seems leaves used in the spore tower were not reflective of the actual orchard situation and may have underestimated early risk.

Powdery mildew

Reports of powdery mildew are now frequent all the way up to Quebec city, especially on cultivars like GingerGold. This disease was almost never observed 10 years ago.

Sooty blotch/flyspeck

This is not a major issue for us. Reported locally, but generally increasing where summer treatments are not done. Found even on “earlier” cultivar like HoneyCrisp.