

78th Annual New England, New York, Canadian Fruit Pest Management Workshop

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2016 REPORT - QUEBEC APPLE ORCHARDS

PEST TYPES: DISEASES

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Fire blight

Worst outbreak of fire blight ever recorded for Quebec. In affected orchards, the disease was present on all susceptible cultivars, but also at surprising levels on McIntosh. The Laurentides region was most hit, clearly as a consequence of lingering inoculum sources of the previous worst epidemic (2012).

Conditions were favorable for bacteria multiplication during bloom. Dew possibly on May 22nd and most likely on May 24th most likely caused the bulk of the infections, but these were undetected by weather stations. Rain on May 25th also caused infections. The ministry of Agriculture issued regional legal ordonnance to eliminate visible foci in orchards or potentially face legal action including tree eradication by the ministry which would be billed to the grower. FB was reported in all regions, which is rare. Thankfully, the dry conditions which prevailed over our area through summer acted as a natural “Apogee” and stopped growth.

Bitter rot/lenticel rot

Less rot this year, most likely because of the very dry conditions. However, with the new FB foci we are anticipating a bad bitter rot season in 2017.

Phytoplasma (Yellow aster in apples)

The industry is closely monitoring a yellow aster phytoplasma outbreak that originated in 2011. One positive diagnostic in 2016.

Apple scab

Low impact issue overall in 2016 but as usual was locally problematic. In well maintained commercial orchards measured scab incidence in mid-July 2016 ranged from 0 to 22 scabbed leaves per 100 shoots, which is low compared to other years.

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. In 2016, the situation was similar to other years. Sprays are now regularly recommended in young plantings.