

**75rd Annual New England, New York, Canadian Fruit Pest Management Workshop**

**Burlington, VT, 22-22 October 2013**

**2013 REPORT - QUEBEC APPLE ORCHARDS**

**PEST TYPES: DISEASES**

Vincent Phillion, plant pathologist  
Institut de recherche et de développement en agroenvironnement (IRDA),

**Phytoplasma**

The Canadian food inspection agency (CFIA) reported the first ever Apple Proliferation Phytoplasma (APP) case in America in early 2013. The CFIA put orchard blocks of Pacific Gala originating from the USA in quarantine. An update on the situation will be made public October 24th.

Although this news is not related directly to Quebec, we are facing a very rare yellow aster phytoplasma outbreak in a large orchard (3000 mature trees on M26). The case evolved from just a few symptomatic trees in 2011. This orchard will be uprooted in December, but the industry is worried the disease already spread to other orchards in the region.

**Fireblight**

Following the worst recorded epidemic in 2012, we were anticipating a sequel in 2013. However, despite some conditions favourable during bloom, we observed almost no fire blight this year. The period between budbreak and bloom in 2013 was the shortest ever recorded (12-15 days, as compared to about a 3 week normal), which is in sharp contrast with 2012 which was the longest pre bloom period ever recorded (almost 6 weeks). It is likely that the pre bloom period was too short this year for insects to spread inoculum from old cankers to new areas. in the Quebec city region which is usually devoid of blight, more cases appeared in 2013.

**Apple scab**

The first recorded primary infection period was very late and came at bloom in most regions (May 9th). Despite high inoculum level carryover from 2012, and peak ascospore release timed with one week of solid rain after bloom (19-26 May), scab levels were low in 2013. Most growers now avoid systemic fungicides and opt for sprays during rain. Although bicarbonate is not registered, it is gaining a lot of attention.

**Powdery mildew**

Similar to 2012, powdery mildew was a problem in 2013. We expect that a relaxed spray schedule before bloom lead to this situation. Since the demise of sterol inhibitors and strobilurins, standard scab fungicide programs don't typically include products with efficacy towards powdery mildew, so reports of powdery mildew are steadily increasing. Noteworthy on Cortland and HoneyCrisp.

**Sooty blotch/flyspeck**

This is not a major issue for us. This year, it was a problem in certain areas on Honeycrisp/Honeygold.

**Bitter rot/lenticel rot**

Some "Colletotricum" reported especially on HoneyCrisp. (gloeosporioides?).