

Rhode Island Report for 80th Fruit Workshop

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Diseases

Very dry spring and summer made disease management easy until it started raining in mid August and wouldn't stop. Lots of fly speck and sooty mold and some fruit rots in September and October.

Marssonina leaf blotch defoliated some varieties of apple in September. Unsprayed trees were defoliated in August. Disease seems to do very well on Honeycrisp and Gala.

Insects

Plum curculio had a big year. Could find scars at most orchards and unsprayed trees with 100% damage.

Codling moth plagued many orchards. Wonder if we have codling moth resistance problems. Growers will be paying more attention next year and many will apply Delegate. We have mostly ignored coding moths until now.

Winter moth population has declined and expect to be able to treat caterpillars as Nova Scotia growers do (or I think they do) – insecticide treatment at tight cluster. For years some growers started spraying at green tip to stop huge number of winter moth caterpillars from entering buds. Some growers had been applying 4 prebloom insecticide treatments to manage winter moth caterpillars. Release of parasitic fly has helped, but probably reduced winter moth population is more related to native insects and birds attacking winter moth larvae and pupae in soil.

Other

Last year showed picture of splitting Honeycrisps. Think it was a boron deficiency issue. Last year grower had problem with Honeycrisps splitting starting in early August.

