



Healthy Fruit

Volume 13, 2005

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

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Upcoming Meetings/Events

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Time	Information
July 11	UNH Tree Fruit Twilight Meeting for Commercial Growers	Apple Hill Farm, 580 Mountain Rd., Concord, HN	5:30 PM	George Hamilton 603-641-6060
July 18	Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association Summer Meeting	Nicewicz Farm 116 Sawyer Road Bolton, MA	TBA	Jon Clements 413-478-7219

Getting a Handle on Scab

By now, if you have any scab in your orchard, it should be visible. Thanks to the long, cool, wet weather during May, there's a little more scab than usual in some orchards, and plenty of scab where trees were left unprotected or a critical spray was missed. If there is no scab visible after you've taken a good look at trees, including insides and tops, then you don't need to read any further.

However, if you have some scab on leaves and/or fruit, what should be done? First, don't panic. The best indicator of how much scab you will end up with at harvest is the amount of scab on fruit in mid-season. So, if you have some scab, but it's all on the leaves, then there's a good chance, with a regular fungicide program, that fruit at harvest will be relatively scab-free. A lot of scab on fruit now indicates a more serious problem (resistance, poor calibration, bad timing), one that should be looked into and resolved before next year.

To decrease scab pressure on the leaves, start with a full rate of captan on a relatively hot day, when temperatures are 80°F or more. The full rate is 1.25 lb. Captan 80 WP per 100 gal., or 2 lb. Captan 50 WP per 100 gal., or 2 pt. Captan 4L. After 7 to 10 days, as second fungicide application should be made. The first choice would be a full rate of Sovran or Flint plus a half rate of captan. Sovran 50WG should be applied at 1.6 oz. per 100 gal.; Flint 50WG should be applied at 0.8 oz. per 100 gal. A second choice, if the maximum number of strobilurine applications has already been made, or if scab is relatively light, would be a second full rate application of captan alone.

Some will ask "What about Topsin? Doesn't it eradicate scab." Yes, as long as the scab hasn't become resistant. If Topsin-M 70WP is used, it should be applied at the full rate, 3 oz. per 100 gal., and it should be applied with a half rate of captan.

As fruit sizes and tissue matures, it will become more resistant to scab. After the two eradication sprays, regular cover sprays that include a half rate of captan at 2 to 3 week intervals should be adequate to protect fruit into harvest. After harvest, it will be time to consider ways to destroy scab inoculum before it can cause problems next season. D. Cooley

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