
TREE PEST UPDATES

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July 5, 2005

ORIENTAL FRUIT MOTH

2nd BIOFIX: The second flight began about **June 26th**.

HOST CROPS: Peaches, Nectarines, (rarely Apricot, Plums)

PEST ID and DAMAGE: This worm is white to pink in color with a black to brown head. It usually enters the fruit at the stem end and heads directly to the pit where they like to feed. It can be difficult to see this damage until the fruit is cut open. They rarely cause damage to the outside of the fruit. They also bore into the terminal shoots like Peach Twig Borer (PTB).

TREATMENT AND TIMING: There are only a few orchards in this area that have had problems with this pest. If you've had a problem in the past and significant trap catches this generation, you may need to treat. Damage is most likely to occur between color break and harvest. Look in the tree tops - if you see *any* OFM fruit damage or a significant number of shoot strikes from the last flight, apply a spray. If your trap counts are low and you have not had problems with this pest in the past, you probably don't need to treat.

Sprays are best applied 400 (for coloring fruit) to 500 (for green fruit) degree days after the biofix. This is projected to occur **July 11–14 OR 15–18 days after your own biofix**. This spray window corresponds quite closely to that for Peach Twig Borer this cycle, so you may be able to get both pests with one spray. The same materials are effective for both pests.

Many thanks to Suterra for providing traps for the Contra Costa County Tree Pest Update Program

ORIENTAL FRUIT MOTH UPDATE

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What's a Biofix?: It's just the beginning of the flight for each new generation. We usually have 3 generations for peach twig borer in this area. We use the Biofix to begin degree day calculations for each generation so we know when egg laying, hatchout, and other lifecycle events will happen. This helps us to time our treatments most effectively.

What's a Degree Day? Insects develop faster or slower depending on the temperature. Degree days are a measure based on the maximum and minimum temperatures for each day which allow us to figure out how fast the insects are developing. You may see them abbreviated as DD or °D. If you have the daily maximum & minimum temperatures for your orchard, you can look the degree days up on a chart. If you have access to the Internet, you can get Brentwood weather data and do a degree day calculation from the UC IPM Program home page. This page also lets you calculate the projected degree days based on historical weather data so you can make projections for potential treatment windows (this is how I do it!). The address is <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu>. Give me a call if you would like a degree day chart or more information