

# TREE PEST UPDATES

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## PEACH TWIG BORER

**HOST CROPS:** Peaches, Nectarine, Apricot, Plum

**2<sup>nd</sup> BIOFIX:** Trap catches started increasing fairly consistently in most stone fruit orchards between March 25<sup>th</sup> (in the higher population orchards) and 8<sup>th</sup> (in the lower population orchards) so I am establishing an areawide biofix of **June 1st**. If you have traps in your own orchard, use the date that you first started seeing an increase in your trap catches as your own biofix.

**TREATMENT TIMING:** If you still have fruit on the trees, you may want to consider a treatment if trap catches in your orchard have been high. As fruit begins to ripen it becomes more susceptible to attack; damage is most likely to occur from color break to harvest. Also, if you have young trees, watch for damage to the tips of the shoots which can set back the structural development of your orchard. If you see a damaging level of shoot strikes, consider a treatment.

**Traditional Spray Timing** (Ambush, Asana, Diazinon, Imidan, Guthion, Sevin, Success, Entrust): Apply 400-500 degree days after the biofix. Based on historical weather records, this is projected to occur **June 21-25 OR 21-25 days after your own orchard biofix**. Keep the preharvest interval (PHI) in mind for whatever material you use; you may need to use a shorter residual product or apply the spray a little earlier than the optimum to assure that the fruit is clean for harvest. *Success* is a “reduced risk” material (with a 14 day PHI) that is soft on beneficial insects (and people) but quite effective against worms. *Entrust* is a newly registered organic formulation of spinosad which is the same active ingredient that is in Success.

**Bacillus Thuringiensis (BT):** This is an organically acceptable material that is also soft on beneficial insects. Since it is short lived in the field, it is best applied twice – once at 300-350 DD which is projected to occur **June 16 OR 16 days after your own biofix** and again at 450-500 DD which is projected to occur **June 23<sup>rd</sup> OR 23 days after your own orchard biofix**.

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

## PEACH TWIG BORER 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