

# TREE PEST UPDATES

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*This will be the LAST Tree Pest Update newsletter that you receive as I will be retiring July 1<sup>st</sup>. I hope this newsletter has helped with your pest management decisions over the years. It's been a true pleasure to work with you all.*

## PEACH TWIG BORER

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> BIOFIX:** Trap activity picked up in mid June indicating the beginning of the second flight. I am establishing a 2nd area-wide biofix of **June 17**. The flights can vary quite a bit between orchards at this time of year due to variation in the 1<sup>st</sup> flight treatment. *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:** Not all orchards will need to treat this generation. If you still have fruit on the trees, 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** (*Delegate, Altacor, Belt, Entrust, Intrepid, Imidan, Asana, Warrior*):

If weather remains normal treatment dates for these materials are as follows:

Coloring fruit: 300 DD = **June 30** or **14 days after your own orchard biofix**

Green fruit: 400 DD = **June 28** or **18 days after your own orchard biofix**

Keep the pre-harvest interval (PHI) in mind for whatever material you use – many have a 14 day PHI. 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. *Delegate* is a new “reduced risk” material (with a 1-14 day PHI, depending on the crop) that is soft on beneficial insects (and people) but quite effective against worms. *Entrust* is an organic formulation of similar chemistry.

**Bacillus Thuringiensis (BT):** This is an organically acceptable material that is soft on beneficial insects and *can be applied up to the day of harvest*. Since it is short lived in the field, it is best applied twice:

1st spray: 300-350DD = **June 30- July 2** or **14-16 days after your own biofix**

2<sup>nd</sup> spray: 450-500 DD = **July 7- 9** or **21-23 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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### Time Sensitive Material

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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