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crop management alert 39-2014 © 1995

as of : Wednesday, May 07, 2014 4:25 AM
WNY crops: apples approaching tight cluster
 stone fruit @ VERY early bloom
agr.assistance
growing smarter since 1985

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WNY weather forecast

provided by
www.wunderground.com
normal 5/07 high = 64°F

Wednesday 5/07 - high 60°F; 30% chance of PM showers
Thursday 5/08 - low 47°F, high 68°F; 30% chance of lingering AM showers
Friday 5/09 - low 55°F, high 80°F; 60% chance of thunderstorms
Saturday 5/10 - **Mother's Day Sunday** 5/11 - highs 65-70°F; T-storms ???



*** Bee smart !!** - There is little advantage in waiting until full pink to apply any pre-bloom insecticides on apples. Tight cluster timings are just as effective as full pink sprays vs. rosy aphid, San Jose Scale and woolly aphids- and make it much easier to safely schedule getting bee pollinators delivered into your orchards. Additional bad news about honey bees and pesticides is not needed- and the media is just salivating for a bee loss story.

* Why we advocate Vitazyme biostimulant use on treefruit crops...

- Because this *tried and tested* biostimulant program *just plain works !!*
- And the program is very cost-effective at less than \$40/acre per year for 4 applications @ 1 pint/acre- beginning with application #1 at tight cluster-pink.
- Both small plot replicated evaluations as well as commercial usage on thousands of acres have shown improvements in overall plant productivity- increased return bloom, higher long-term yields and improved fruit quality(soluble solids).
- The key to reducing your production costs *per bushel* is increasing *long-term* yields. Many fruitgrowers are rightly proud to pick 900-1,000 bushels/acre of apples. But there are growers who *average* nearly 1,500 bushels/acre *across* their apple acreage- *year in and year out*- with more consistent return bloom even on biennial varieties like Goldens, Jonagolds, Fuji and Honeycrisp. And one common component in many of their production programs is Vitazyme use.
- Vitazyme biostimulant programs should be used to complement- *not replace*- other crop fertility inputs. Ground-applied fertilizer rates can be reduced somewhat(approximately 20-25%) where Vitazyme programs are being used.

*** Brown rot blossom blight control** becomes a concern on stone fruit crops during warm, wet weather during bloom. With the steadily declining efficacy of the SIs(Indar, Elite, etc), we just don't have the pre-harvest big guns to lean on as much anymore. **Getting on top of brown rot EARLY- with both dormant and bloom sprays- has once again become essential to achieving consistently excellent brown rot control at harvest(and beyond).**

- Chlorothalonil(Bravo, etc.) tank-mixed with iprodione(Rovral, Meteor, etc.) is a very strong option vs. brown rot blossom blight- as well as a sound resistance management alternative. Iprodione fungicides can be applied twice during bloom on stone fruit crops- up until petal fall.
- REMINDER: Don't use captan fungicides until pre-harvest sprays on prunes/plums and sweet cherries due to the risk of foliar phytotoxicity on some varieties.
- The new SDHIs are also quite effective vs. brown rot. Luna Sensation(NOT Luna Tranquility) is labeled for use on cherries(but not in NY), while Merivon is labeled for use on all stone fruit crops.
- REMINDER: Although brown rot fungi prefer warm conditions, blossom blight infections can also occur under prolonged wettings at cool temperatures- especially where overwintering brown rot inoculum levels(mummies) are very high.

REMINDER: tight cluster vs. pink stages on apples...
Some years they are 3-4 weeks apart, other years just 3-4 days.

at full tight cluster all of the cluster leaves are *fully* expanded- but the flower cluster is still very tight ☺☺☺☺



whereas at the full pink stage flower clusters are fully separated ☺☺☺☺



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