

## Bugs and Blights on Fruits in May

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If you haven't discovered the [Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center's Orchard Pest Management On Line](#) I am featuring the information with direct links to information at this site on the pests below.

Degree day tables are presented for a number of the insect pests. Using this information the estimated date range for life stages of many of the insects can be calculated. Keep in mind that there may be differences in the degree days since our temperatures fluctuate more than in eastern WA. So always let your own observations be your guide and modify accordingly.

<http://jenny.tfrec.wsu.edu/opm/displaySpecies.php?pn=-55>

**Green apple aphids** concentrate on the leaves out at the tips of branches. Leaves may curl under a bit. This aphid is usually a spring problem and it is often overcome by parasitoids and predators. It is mostly either a cosmetic problem or may slow the growth of young trees. Watch for tiny orange maggots feeding on the aphids.

<http://jenny.tfrec.wsu.edu/opm/displaySpecies.php?pn=380>



**Rosy apple aphid** is more serious. Feeding near the fruiting spurs this aphid causes a curling and deformation of the leaves with often the indistinct yellowing symptoms typical of virus. More important, their feeding can cause the apple to develop unevenly resulting in small lumpy apples. <http://jenny.tfrec.wsu.edu/opm/displaySpecies.php?pn=390>

**Lecanium scale** is a sucking insect that looks like “brown ladybugs that don't move and drip sap” as one caller described them. As the female lays her eggs beneath her, she shrinks till only the outer hardened shell of her back is left. At this time, it would be premature to use any pesticides since the best timing would be for the young crawlers. Moderate numbers of scales is not significant and can be watched to see if it progresses the next year. Birds, predators and parasitoids generally keep these scales under control. If you come upon them after they are hardened, you can't tell if they are a live or old & dead scales. In this case, pick off the scale and look for round little eggs to roll out in your palm. If you find only



fluff, the eggs have hatched. If there is an outbreak, hold the pesticides until the flat yellow crawlers hatch. This is the vulnerable stage. Use a bit of double stick tape wrapped around a twig on the warm side of the tree, near a female to trap crawlers until you can check them. Then wait till the shady side catches up before applying any pesticide. I have never had to spray for this scale. Even in the very heavy year, when they were so numerous that leaves failed to reach full size, I got fruit and the following year the population collapsed and disappeared. <http://jenny.tfrec.wsu.edu/opm/displaySpecies.php?pn=510>

**Spotted wing drosophila** is a new pest in our area. It looks much like other vinegar flies (the kitchen fruit flies – which are not true fruit flies). The males have a dark spot on their wing tips, while the female has a very sclerotized (hardened) ovipositor with sawlike teeth that make it possible to insert eggs into live soft fruit. There is increasing information on the web describing these insects and their biology – as much is known now. A number of research projects have been begun and at a meeting in Portland researchers from around the region gathered to share information and develop strategies for growers. <http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/jspui/bitstream/1957/13090/1/em8991.pdf> and <http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/ENTOMOLOGY/pests/SWD.html> and <http://sanjuan.wsu.edu/Documents/SWD11.09.pdf>



**Apple leaf curling midge** is also a new pest of the leaves of apple, causing infested leaves to roll upward from the tips and along the edges. Tiny orange midge larvae can be found in the rolled leaves. (Photo by E. Beers, WSU)



<http://jenny.tfrec.wsu.edu/opm/displaySpecies.php?pn=645>

**Black cherry aphids on stone fruits** cause leaves to roll under from the sides or tip. The aphids are protected inside the rolls. Unroll the leaves to check on the status of the aphids. Are they still there? Place

rolled leaves in a clear plastic bag where parasites, syrphid fly larvae, ladybugs, lacebug larvae and other beneficial insects. Perhaps even some parasitoid adults.

<http://jenny.tfrec.wsu.edu/opm/displaySpecies.php?pn=420>



**Beneficial insects** are also featured on the website. Great photos of beneficials are



shown with a full complement of photos of the entire life cycle. You might know of the green lacewing but how about the brown lacewings seeking insects in bark crevices. <http://jenny.tfrec.wsu.edu/opm/toc.php?h=4> (Photo by E. Beers)

**A last word for the diseases.** If it is raining, apple scab is germinating on the wet leaves of apples. A similar disease on pears also causes scab. These are the most common fungus diseases of pome fruits.

**Apple scab** is a disease of apples caused by the fungus *Venturia inaequalis*. Fungicide protection of the newly emerging leaves on susceptible cultivars is essential with additional applications for later emerging leaves and fruit. Some apples are only lightly affected and the scabs can be peeled away. In this case, ugly is only skin deep. Protective plastic cover to keep leaves from getting wet will prevent the fungus since spores require free water to germinate. I have run a plastic sheet from face board under the gutter and eliminated the scab on all but the tips sticking out beyond the plastic. Keep the ends open for good air circulation.



[http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/tfipm/images/leafscab.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/tfipm/pplescb.htm&h=352&w=402&sz=40&tbnid=3IOrx\\_xlXLHWkM:&tbnh=109&tbnw=124&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dapple%2Bscab&hl=en&usq=\\_\\_ppWfgsjHDvrSJK76nFg7K5hed1g=&ei=E7XjS6qIG4zuswPUyO25DQ&sa=X&oi=image\\_result&resnum=4&ct=image&ved=0CCwQ9QEwAw](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/tfipm/images/leafscab.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/tfipm/pplescb.htm&h=352&w=402&sz=40&tbnid=3IOrx_xlXLHWkM:&tbnh=109&tbnw=124&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dapple%2Bscab&hl=en&usq=__ppWfgsjHDvrSJK76nFg7K5hed1g=&ei=E7XjS6qIG4zuswPUyO25DQ&sa=X&oi=image_result&resnum=4&ct=image&ved=0CCwQ9QEwAw)

**HORTSENSE.** To get a list of pesticides registered for homeowner use type hortsense into your browser. Then select tree fruits or small fruits and go to the insect or disease section to get a photo, short paragraph, a list of IPM options, and a list of some of the brand products registered for the homeowner. Use the IPM options first and pesticides as a last resort. Always use them as the label directs.

<http://pep.wsu.edu/hortsense/>

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