

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2014

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Disease Update

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Emily Pochubay and Nikki Rothwell
Extension Educators

Good news! The forecast is looking sunny and warm and if this predicted nice weather holds true, there is less risk for potential disease infection periods in the coming week. There is a possible storm predicted for Monday.

APPLE SCAB

Although the forecast is looking sunny and warm for the coming week, primary apple scab infection period is ongoing. Our heaviest potential apple scab infection period occurred 12 May through 13 May. The NWMHRC collected an average of 1,885 apple scab spores per spore rod from the NWMHRC apple scab monitoring field site in Leelanau County following the 12 May infection period. Since then, two rain events on 15 May and 20 May have occurred and although these most recent rain events did not result in a potential apple scab infection at the NWMHRC, other areas in the region (Bear Lake, Benzonia, Old Mission) did have the potential for infection on 20 May.

Apple scab spores collected from the NWMHRC monitoring site following 15 May and 20 May rain seem to be on the decline with an average of 110 spores on 15 May, and no spores on 20 May. However, research has shown that fewer apple scab spores are dispersed following rain that occurs during the night, and rain events on 15 May and 20 May began at approximately midnight and continued into the early morning the following day. Therefore, the lower average number of spores collected on these dates was likely linked to a combination of cooler temperatures, duration of the wetting events, and the wetting event occurring during nighttime hours.

Many apple growers who had **powdery mildew** infection in their orchards last season have sprayed an SDHI fungicide such as Luna Tranquility to manage both apple scab and powdery mildew in apples that have reached the tight cluster stage.

CHERRY LEAFSPOT

In some orchards, bract leaves are unfolded or approaching that stage. As bract leaves unfold, stomata on those leaves are open and susceptible to cherry leafspot infection, if conditions favor this disease. Cherry leafspot infection is not yet of concern if bract leaves are not present or unfolded. Potential infection periods for cherry leafspot in the region that occurred prior to today are as follows:

Potential cherry leafspot infection periods – risk and severity

Date	Bear Lake	Benzoni	East Leland	Eastport	Elk Rapids	Kewadin	Northport	Old Mission	NWMHR C
5/8	-	None	-	None	None	Heavy	-	None	None
5/9	Moderate	Light	Light	Light	Light	-	Heavy	Light	Light
5/12	Heavy	Heavy	Heavy	Heavy	Heavy	Heavy	Heavy	Heavy	Heavy
5/20	Moderate	None	None	None	None	None	None	Light	None

When looking at this chart, keep in mind that bract leaves needed to be present and unfolded on the date where there was a potential infection period for a cherry leafspot infection to have occurred.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Insect and disease predictive information is available at:

<http://enviroweather.msu.edu/homeMap.php>

60 Hour Forecast

<http://www.agweather.geo.msu.edu/agwx/forecasts/fcst.asp?fileid=fous46ktvc>

Information on cherries is available at the new cherry website:

<http://www.cherries.msu.edu/>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports have moved to MSU News

<http://news.msue.msu.edu>