

# Northern Michigan FruitNet 2013

## Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

### *Disease Update*

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With all of the wet weather and fogs we have had this season, I have been surprised at how little disease we have been observing in orchards. On Monday, I even think I said that orchards were looking clean so far this season. However, I think this situation may be changing as we have seen an increase in disease symptoms show up in both apples and cherries.

First, **scab** lesions are starting to appear in blocks of apples all across the region, even in orchards where growers thought they had a solid spray program. We have not called an end to primary scab, but if orchards already have lesions on the leaves, fungicide applications must continue to keep fruit clean. **Powdery mildew** is also showing up in apple orchards. With the **fireblight** conditions we had during bloom and EIPs well above 100, we have been surprised to have seen so little fireblight symptoms—but this week, we are starting to see the shepherd's crook in some varieties of apples. Most of this disease is a result of those perfect fireblight conditions, but some of the symptoms may be a result of hail damage.

In cherries, we have a mix of issues on the pathology front. We have identified both **American brown rot** (ABR) and **European brown rot** (EBR) in tart cherries. **American brown rot** in tart cherry is not as common as it is in sweet cherry. However, this spring, we have seen ABR at epidemic levels in some tart blocks across the region. European brown rot is also apparent in tart cherry blocks. More information on this ABR-EBR situation is forthcoming pending species identification of our samples from the MSU Tree Fruit Pathology lab.

With the Mother's Day freeze event, we thought we would have seen more **bacterial canker**, and this week, leaf and fruit damage is apparent. To add insult to injury, some of the fruit with canker have provided a wound site for the **American brown rot** fungus—we have already seen sporulating sweet cherries. The canker likely caused a 'wound' to the green fruit, which gave the ABR fungus an infection point. Growers need to scout their orchards as soon as possible to determine if canker caused a problem because the bigger issue will be to control American brown rot from now until harvest, particularly if this fungus is already sporulating on green fruit. The two new fungicides Merivon and Luna Sensation are excellent against **powdery mildew** and **leaf spot** and very good on ABR. However, growers should be sure to read the Merivon label very carefully as there are many products that cannot be tank mixed with Merivon.

## **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>