

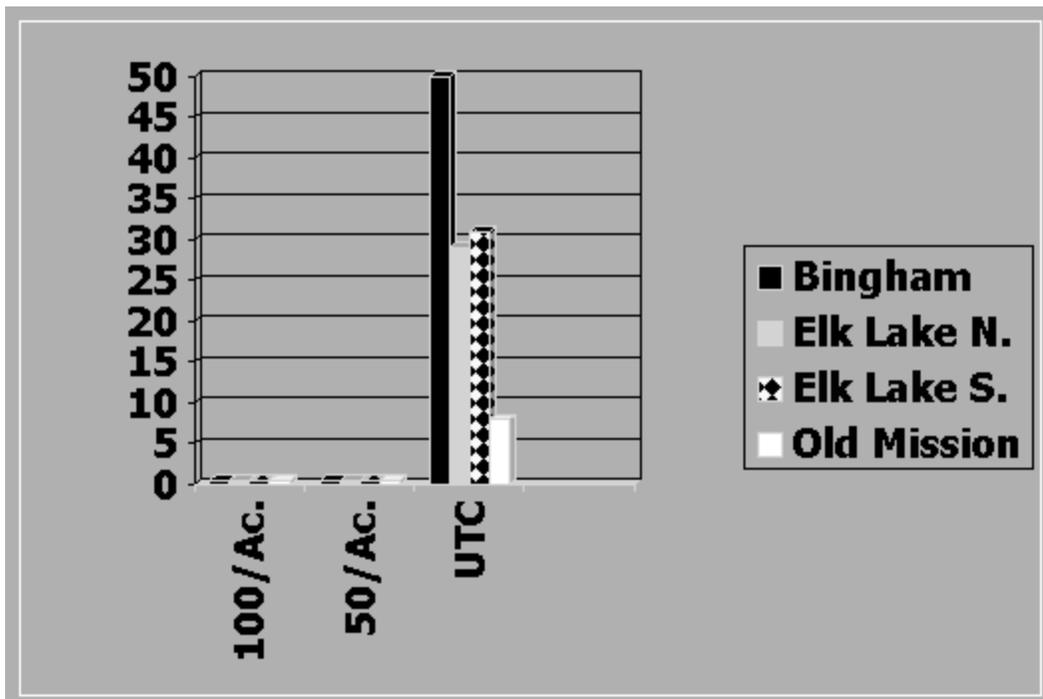
NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTROLLING PEACH TREE BORERS

Gary Thornton, District Fruit IPM Agent, Larry Gut, Department of Entomology, Michigan State University

Stone fruit growers have available to them, for the first time, the opportunity to control both Lesser and Greater Peach Tree Borers without putting on trunk sprays. Pheromone Disruption has been tested for controlling Lesser and Greater Peach Tree Borers the last few years with great results. The Lesser Peach Tree Borer (LPTB) pheromone is the one that you want to use, as it will also disrupt the Greater Peach Tree Borer, however, it won't control the American Plum Borer (APB).

Growers can successfully prevent the borers from showing up in the trunks of their trees by distributing the pheromone ties evenly throughout the orchard, prior to the flight of the LPTB starting - prebloom to petal fall at the latest. The ties should be attached to the trees at shoulder height, whereas, Codling Moth ties have to be hung high in the tree. If these are applied at 100/acre then the male moths can't find the female moths and the result is that no fertile eggs will be laid and thus no larvae. One application has been shown to provide control for an entire season. The research below, which was done in NW Michigan shows that complete trap shutdown, which signifies control, occurred when either the 50 or 100 ties per acre rate was used. With other pests, trap shutdown is usually indicative of control, however, we are currently in the process of verifying that this is the case.

The trunk sprays have been and remain highly effective and have the advantage of also controlling the APB. So if you have had an APB problem then you should either continue on with your current program or consider using the pheromone disruption for a year and reevaluating your trees at that time. Growers that are next to urban areas should be particularly interested in this product, as the Lorsban 4E, that is typically used for the trunk sprays, is also the number one homeowner complaint that we have in NW Michigan. In situations like this, pheromone disruption could help a particularly sticky situation and improve the overall image of agriculture.



Lesser Peach Tree Borers Caught per Year in Cherry Orchards

Pheromone disruption ties for the LPTB are sold in 400 to the pack and can be purchased from Great Lakes IPM (517- 268-5693), as well as many of the local Ag Chem dealers. If you do not use them up, they should be put in the freezer and will store that way until the next growing season.

Please send any comments or suggestions regarding this site to:

Bill Klein, kleinw@msu.edu

Last Revised: 4-13-00