



**HAMILTON
AGRONOMY**

One of the most important things we help grow is trust.

Words to grow by...

In This Issue:

- Watch for Fire Blight on Pears and Apples
- Scout Potatoes Early to Protect Yield Potential
- Managing Shoot Fire Blight Buildup
- Watch for Aphids
- Protect Against Borer Damage
- Manage Phomopsis Twig Blight
- New Foliar Fertilizer

Spring 2010

Contact Us!

**Hamilton Agronomy
South:
877.969.1122**

**Hamilton Agronomy
Traverse City:
800.435.5143
www.hfb.com**

Watch for Fire Blight on Pears and Apples

Fire blight is one of the most destructive diseases of apple and pear, potentially causing extensive tree damage. It often advances quickly through an orchard, rapidly destroying blossoms, vegetative shoots, major limbs and, sometimes, whole trees.

Fire blight outbreaks can be severe after a hailstorm. If hail occurs and fire blight is either present in the orchard or has been a problem in previous years, contact your Hamilton Agronomist to discuss your best options for mitigating losses.



Managing Shoot Fire Blight Buildup

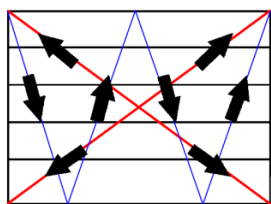
Hamilton Agronomy reminds growers that Apogee™ (prohexadione calcium) is effective in managing early cessation of terminal growth. Apogee™ inhibits gibberellin biosynthesis. Shoots with inhibited growth are less susceptible to fire blight and, when controlled, there is less potential for buildup of fire blight during summer months. Apogee™ only decreases host susceptibility; and does not affect the pathogen directly. Also, note Hamilton Agronomists, the product is not a substitute for streptomycin during bloom for blossom blight control.

For maximum efficacy, the best time to apply Apogee™ 27.5% is at full bloom to early petal fall on king blooms. The drop in susceptibility will not become effective until 10 days to 2 weeks post application. *Apogee* is a registered trademark of BASF

Scout Potatoes Early to Protect Yield Potential

Good scouting begins early. As potatoes reach 4-6 inches during June, growers are encouraged to carefully scout fields to achieve a random sample. To best assess pest populations within a field, walk in a V, W or X pattern as you inspect plants for signs of disease and pests. Randomly select between

Potato Pest Economic Thresholds	
Potato Pest	Economic Threshold
Aphids	10% of plants with aphids or 1 green peach aphid
Colorado Potato Beetles	
• Small Larvae	200 pr 50 plants counted
• Large Larvae	75 per 50 plants counted
• Adult	25 per 50 plants counted
Flea Beetles	15 holes per terminal leaflet
European Corn Borer:	1 egg mass per 15 plants counted



fifty

and one hundred plants for examination, taking into account wind direction, wind speed and field orientation as you scout. Not sure of economic thresholds? A few thresholds are provided here for some pests often found in June and early July. Better yet, consult your Hamilton Agronomist to help you develop an appropriate management plan.

Watch for Aphids

Green peach and potato aphids are regular visitors to Michigan potato fields, feeding on plant juices and transmitting viruses. Many times, that damage is not observed until the crop experiences premature death and yield loss is irreversible. Control measures are best practiced from June through vine-kill. A variety of products are labeled for green peach and potato aphids. Talk with your Hamilton Agronomist today.

New Foliar Fertilizer

Hamilton Agronomy is working with a new foliar fertilizer that stimulates growth on young trees. Hamilton's Jeff Layman reports that, last year, several growers had good results with water-soluble dry products enhancing fruit finish. Layman said, "The Sugar Express™ product is a 4-10-40 (NPK) product. Nutrient Express™ is a 4-41-27 product. Each contains an enhanced micro-nutrient package behind them which really provides additional performance with the product."

Sugar Express and Nutrient Express are registered trademarks of Miller Chemical & Fertilizer Corp.

Protect Against Borer Damage

Borer damage is not difficult to monitor. Larval feeding areas are relatively obvious. Many orchards use pheromone traps to monitor adult flight during the summer months. Peachtree borer flight typically begins in mid-June. The peachtree borer feeds on the trunk of trees and at ground level. Young trees are at particular risk. Talk with your Hamilton Agronomist to discuss trunk spray options as July approaches.

The dogwood borer (DWB) threatens apple trees, feeding inside burr knots which typically develop on the exposed area above the ground portion of the clonal rootstocks. There are several options to manage DWB including cultural control of planting deeper to avoid rootstock exposure. Handgun applications of Lorsban® 50WP or Lorsban® 4E directly to the trunk during peak moth flight will kill larvae right after hatch. (Lorsban® is a registered trademark of Dow AgroSciences, LLC.)

Optimize Yields – Have Hamilton Help Assess Fruit Quality Now

Assess fruit quality now! Hamilton Agronomy offers growers fruitlet and leaf sampling services. Call us today to have your Hamilton Agronomist come to your orchard!

Manage Phomopsis Twig Blight

Impact from Phomopsis twig blight and cankers are typically apparent on blueberry bushes that have been weakened by other factors. Where present, the fungus (*Phomopsis vaccinii*) can cause a fruit rot.

Look for a blighting of one-year-old woody stems that have flower buds. The fungus enters the flower buds and eventually makes its way into the stem. Infected stems will wilt and die. Elongated cankers produced by the fungus cause young stems to die back. Hamilton Agronomists encourages growers to look for cankers on one-year-old stems during early summer. As the season progresses, cankers continue to progress downward, eventually encircling the entire shoot. If we get unusually warm weather, leaves on infected twigs will turn brown and remain attached to the stem.

Where blighted tips are present, cut shoots back to a point where the pith appears normal. No commercial cultivars show strong resistance to Phomopsis canker. Other management tips include removing and burning all blighted or discolored wood during dormant pruning. http://fpath.cas.psu.edu/Fruit_facts/Blueberry/phomop.html.



4670 East Washington
Hamilton, MI 49419

www.hfb.com