

# Apple Research Discounts SADH For Suckering

Studies were conducted during the past two years by Dr. Anthony H. Hatch and associates of The Pennsylvania State University in an attempt to control suckering in mechanically topped apple trees using the growth regulator known as SADH (succinic acid-2, 2-dimethylhydrazide).

Previous reports indicated that SADH was an effective growth inhibitor of apple trees. However, it has the disadvantage of not only reducing shoot length but also fruit size. The findings were announced August 31 at the annual meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Science in St. Paul, Minn.

Results indicated that the same amount of shoot control could be obtained by spraying the tops as by spraying the entire tree. There was a significant fruit size reduction even among limbs and

branches not sprayed with SADH when compared to untreated trees. The size reduction, however, was significantly less than trees completely sprayed with SADH.

Mechanical topping of apple trees to maintain them at a manageable height is a common practice in several Pennsylvania orchards. However, profuse suckering shades the area below, producing inferior apples.

Determining how SADH affects the natural hormone balance of the tree could furnish a clue to better understanding the processes of fruit ripening and fruit drop in apple trees.

A couple of research papers have indicated that SADH was not mobilized within the tree. It was envisioned that by applying the material to the top 2 feet of the tree, sucker growth control could be achieved without af-

# Yorkshire Show Fruit Tree Study Shows Value of Painted Trunks

The South Carolina Yorkshire Club Invitational Show and Sale was held August 18 at Orangeburg Fairgrounds, Orangeburg, South Carolina.

The Pennsylvania Yorkshire breeders participating were Real Farms, Tipton, and Leon Arnold, Lebanon.

Real Farms exhibited the second place senior open gilt and the 15th and 16th place senior boars.

Arnold exhibited the seventh place bred gilt, the fourth and 17th place senior open gilts and the seventh and tenth place senior boars.

Twenty head of bred gilts averaged \$222.50, 24 head of open gilts averaged \$132.90, and 24 head of boars averaged \$271.87.

## Ag Workers Should Use Head Gear

Farm workers should wear protective head gear while performing such jobs as construction, demolition, and maintenance work; repairing machinery and vehicles, operating machinery in orchards, shuttling in and out of buildings with low doors; blasting or any other jobs where there is a danger of flying objects; felling or trimming trees, fighting fires or burning off land; and electrical work. This is the advice of Extension agricultural engineers at The Pennsylvania State University.

fecting fruit size. Thus far, this has not been the case.

These results, plus others such as fruit drop control and fruit firmness, indicate that some mechanism is triggered which is sent throughout the lower portions of the tree to affect fruit size, firmness, and premature drop.

Trunks of deciduous stone fruit trees should be painted with a white exterior latex paint to minimize the hazard of winter sun scale, it was suggested recently by a Penn State scientist during the 69th annual meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Science in St. Paul, Minn.

Studies of winter sun scald of stone fruit trees were described by Dr. Anthony H. Hatch, of The Pennsylvania State University, who carried out the experiments in association with Dr. C. Marshall Ritter and Dr. J. David Martsof — all with the Department of Horticulture at Penn State.

Sun scald injury, as manifest by bark splitting, occurs on the southwest side of tree branches and trunks. It generally appears after cold, calm, and bright sunny days.

Pomologists for many years have felt that high temperatures in cambium layers exposed to the sun will induce cell activity during the day, making cells

susceptible to injury with the sudden drop to low temperatures after sunset. Sun scald is not lethal itself but subsequent infection of damaged tissue can lead to death of the tree.

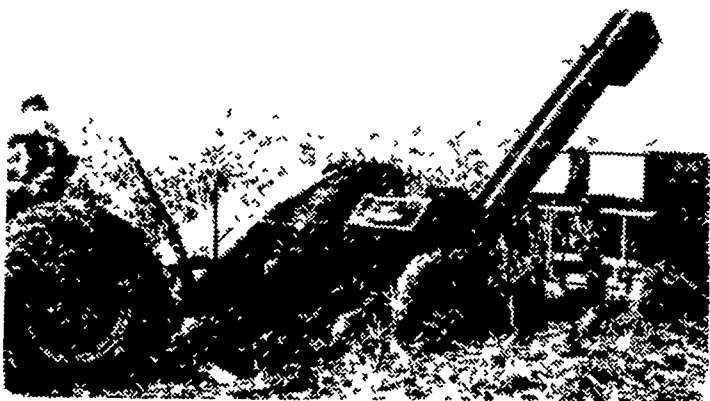
During a 48-hour period in February when conditions were right for sun scald, Dr. Hatch and associates monitored thermocouples under the bark of nectarine tree trunks painted white—while some were left unpainted for comparison.

Temperatures reached 64 to 68 degrees F. during the day—warm enough to induce cell activity—on the south side of unpainted trunks. Temperatures of painted trunks, on the other hand, remained near 30 degrees F., near that of the air. The temperatures dropped to -4 degrees F. during the night, subjecting the unpainted trunks to a drop of about 70 degrees.

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