

Control of orchard insect pests stressed

By KENDACE BORRY Penn State, spoke on the LANCASTER -- Dr. "Big Five of Insect Pests" at Robert C. Tetrault, Ex- the recent Lancaster-tension entomologist from Dauphin-Lebanon Fruit meeting held at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center. Citing the rosy apple aphid

as the biggest problem in Pa. orchards, he warned of the damage the pest could do.

A description and growth pattern of the rosy apple aphid was given. The overwintering black eggs can be found around the base of buds, under small pieces of bark, and in other places protected on twigs and branches of trees. The eggs hatch as the apple buds open and the young develop into a stage known as the stem mother.

These young aphids can be distinguished from the apple grain aphid and the green apple aphid by the longer, black tailpipes, which are a dark green color with a whitish bloom and a narrow row of small black spots on each side of the body.

The stem mothers mature as the first apple blooms appear and they produce live young at a phenomenal rate. One characteristic habit of the rosy aphids is the closeness of congregation found in the young around the mother. Each female will average five young a day and can produce up to 185 young.

Throughout the year, aphids produce living young. They develop into both winged and wingless in-

dividuals. The winged aphids will migrate to their alternate host plant, narrow-leaved plantain, *Plantago lanceolata*. There are usually four to five generations on apple and each female can produce about 130 young. Many aphids of the third generation and most aphids of the fourth and fifth generation develop wings and migrate to plantain.

Summer aphids on plantain are different than those on apple. There are six to eight generations on plantain and the last generation produces winged forms which return to apple. On apple the Fall migrant females give birth to a form which mate with the returning males and produce overwintering eggs. Each female will lay four to six Fall eggs.

Injury by aphids is produced in several ways. The leaves are often curled and discolored, the fruits and twigs can be deformed. A considerable amount of plant sap is removed by aphid feeding on leaves and shoots and this lowers the vitality of the trees, especially when the soils are dry. Honeydew is produced in great abundance and the

black sooty fungus which grows on the honeydew affects the fruit quality and photosynthesis process.

A prebloom spray is needed to prevent rosy aphid injury. The prepink stage is considered the best time to control aphids.

The European red mite was named as the second most damaging insect in orchards. While Tetrault stated that the pest is still a concern to orchard farmers, he noted that there is a reduced cost of control for the problem this year.

Third on the list was pear psylla. Tetrault stated that there is a probable resistance problem with the materials recommended. Increased rates are recommended for better control. Good coverage is necessary. A slow rate of application will add in the solution of the problem.

The tufted apple bud moth was picked as the fourth most destructive pest and the San Jose Scale was named fifth.

Tetrault stressed the importance of good, economic insect control. He spoke of the black lady bird beetle and said that it is a predator of the European red mite.

A meeting of the Lancaster County Fruit Growers was held after the day's session. Mention was made of the group's Spring banquet to be held April 10. An election of officers was held.

For the 1978 term, president of the group will be Richard Shenk, Lancaster R6. John Wolgemuth, Mount Joy R2, was elected vice president; Dan Rohrer, Manheim R7; was named secretary, and Ray Kauffman, Ronks, was elected treasurer.

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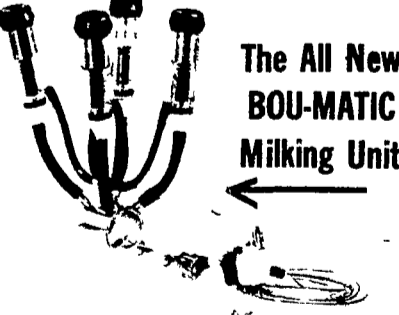
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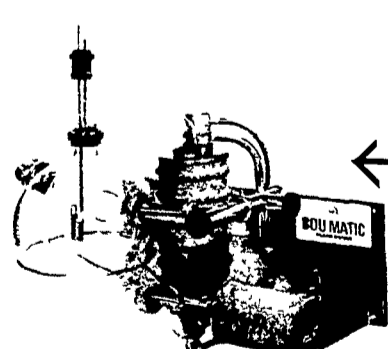
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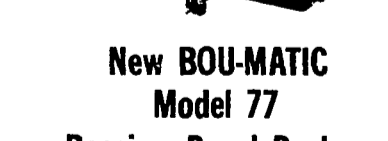
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