

Adams fruit growers hear insect, disease reports

By M.H. Citty
BENDERVILLE — Adams County fruit growers heard a report last Wednesday evening from Larry Hull, assistant professor of Entomology at Penn State, warning of one "of the biggest years we've seen for the Tufted Apple Bud Moth."

"We saw a large number of second generation moths last year," Hull noted, "That increase can be seen in this season's first generation."

"Last year, the highest trap count we had for the first generation was 100. This year the number has jumped to 175 in one trap and 200 in another which means we will probably see more second generation moths."

According to Hull, the second generation inflicts more damage because the moths eat the fruit, while the first generation feeds on the leaves. He told the growers that to knock down the number of first generation moths will require more water in the spray to reach the insects. But he admitted, this may not be sufficient because the moths can be living on other hosts outside the orchards.

The second generation will start about August 10 and peak around August 29 and end about the first week of September. To combat the second generation, Hull recommended the growers use the best

selection of chemicals they can with more water to penetrate to the fruit clusters and shorten the intervals between spraying.

Another feature of the fruit growers meeting which was held at the Flying Hill Farm of the Sunny View Fruit Orchard, was Extension Agricultural Engineer Donald Daum who demonstrated sprayer calibration.

Daum urged the growers to check their sprayers' actual output by filling the sprayer and going over an area of ground and seeing how much water it takes to refill the tank.

"This will give you the information you need so you don't over or under spray," Daum noted "Just normal wear on the apertures will affect the amount of water coming out and large openings may not atomize the solution to give a fine spray."

He also reminded the group to remember the number of square feet in an acre and to find out how many trees they have per acre. "If you know that there is 43,560 square feet in an acre and the space between the trees and the distance between the rows you can find the number of trees in an acre."

Daum then calibrated two sprayers by filling them up and operating them over two-tenths of an acre, then seeing how much was

needed to refill the equipment. Both were within ten percent of normal. One was estimated to be putting down 20 gallons per acre and the other was approximately 75 gallons. The test showed actual use to be over 17 gallons and 80 gallons respectively.

Before the meeting the members toured the farm owned by Fremont Kuntz. The farm has over 400 acres of apple trees and 35 acres of pear trees.

During the tour, Fremont pointed out his EM7A semi-dwarf apple trees, which only grow two thirds as tall as normal trees. He told the growers he has not lost a new tree this year and gave credit to good tramping of the soil around the roots and spraying Thuram the first two years to keep deer away.

Other speakers at the meeting included Richard Stouffer on nematode sampling and types of nematocides. The best time to collect samples for testing, he explained, is May and June or September and October when the ground is moist. Samples should be sent to the laboratory as soon as possible because the nematodes must be alive for analysis. "I also can help make recommendations, if you tell me the types of trees being grown in the soil and how old they are," added Stouffer.

Concerning nematocides, Stouffer noted fumigants penetrate

soil and are generally more effective than contact nematocides. But no fumigant-type nematocides have been approved for use on living trees. Only contact nematocides can be used in established orchards, and only on non-bearing trees. He noted that other states have an emergency permit to use fumigants on bearing trees, but Pennsylvania does not have that approval.

A reminder to watch out for fungi was expressed by Kenneth Hickey, professor of Plant Pathology at Penn State. He noted he had observed cases of apple scab and it's starting to spread due

to the wet weather. He also reminded the growers to watch out for "Flyspeck" and "Osooty Blotch" fungi which appear during the wet season. These two fungi will affect the fruit's appearance which may not be important for processed fruit but is for fruits destined for the fresh market.

Adams County Extension Agent Thomas Piper concluded the meeting by reminding the growers to get leaf samples tested; that the South Mountain Fair starts the week of September 7th; and that it would be a good idea for the growers to inspect and set aside fruit for the 1982 Pa. Farm Show.

Australian conservationist receives coveted award

SPOKANE, Wash. — The Soil Conservation Society of America presented its Hugh Hammond Bennett Award to R. Geoffrey Downes, retired director of conservation and permanent head of the Victoria Ministry of Conservation, Eaglemont, Victoria, Australia, last Thursday evening.

Society President Robert C. Baum of Salem, Oregon, presented the award to Downes at a banquet concluding the conservation organization's 36th annual meeting held here this week.

The Hugh Hammond Bennett

Award, named after the "Father of U.S. Soil Conservation" and a founder of the Society, is SCSEA's most prestigious award. It is given to no more than one individual each year in recognition of distinguished service and international accomplishments in the conservation of land and water resources. The recipient may be a member or nonmember of the Society.

Downes was cited for his professional concern for natural resources management and land and water conservation throughout his career.



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