

Early Spring Ideal For Apple Pest Control

MOORESTOWN, NJ — Tree fruit specialists across the Mid-Atlantic region are encouraging apple growers to consider delayed dormant treatments this spring for managing European red mites, San Jose scale and rosy apple aphids.

The delayed dormant stage, which extends from silver tip to 1/2-inch green, is recommended by most Extension fruit specialists as an optimum time to apply oil, insecticides or a combination of the two.

"In Virginia, delayed dormant sprays are highly recommended for controlling rosy apple aphids, as well as for managing mites and scale," Dr. Doug Pfeiffer, Extension entomologist at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Shenandoah Valley Research Station, says.

Marshall Kuntz, an independent fruit consultant from Adams County, Pennsylvania, notes that delayed dormant treatments are also considered an important pest management practice in that state.

"A lot of growers in this region depend on delayed dormant treatments for mite and scale management, but rosy apple aphid is the most widespread pest," Kuntz says. "You really can't afford to take chances with rosy aphids. They have to be controlled by petal fall or they'll cause problems for the rest of the season."

Pfeiffer notes that most questions about delayed dormant

treatments concern correct timing of sprays and whether to use oil, an insecticide, or a combination of the two for certain pests.

"For mite eggs, oil is the pesticide," Pfeiffer says. "It's also one of the most effective materials available for early season control. For dormant San Jose scale treatments, both oil and an effective insecticide such as Lorsban 4E will provide excellent results."

"With rosy apple aphids, however, an effective insecticide is needed to control the young nymphs which begin hatching during the delayed dormant period. Each Lorsban 4E and Supracide are rated as excellent materials for use at the 1/4-inch to 1/2-inch stage."

Don Baldwin, Dow Chemical technical service and development specialist for fruit crops in the mid-Atlantic region, notes that spring weather often complicates plans for applying delayed dormant treatments. An extra effort to spray before tight cluster, however, can pay dividends during the summer, he says.

Pfeiffer notes that timing of

sprays is critical because shortly after rosy apply aphids eggs hatch the young nymphs crawl down inside the developing buds. Once inside the buds, they are largely shielded from pesticide sprays. Feeding injury from the aphids causes apple leaves to curl, but leaf curling is usually not apparent until around petal fall. Feeding on leaf clusters often results in bunching and stunting of leaves, as well as malformation of the fruit.

Baldwin adds that delayed dormant sprays may also help to ease pressure from scale and mites during the summer months.

"Delayed dormant treatments can significantly reduce the overwintering population and the first generation," he explains. "With fewer numbers of the pests left to reproduce, less pressure from the second or third generations often results."

For best results with delayed dormant treatments, trees should be covered thoroughly, to the point of runoff if possible. Complete coverage of upper limbs and branches is especially important with large trees.

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(Continued from Page D14)

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Cindy	3	5 1	305	20,400	3 9 797
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Ellen	3	3 6	305	23 285	3 1 714
Locust	3	3 6	305	22 731	3 1 712
Galen Hess					
318	3	7 9	305	18 084	3 6 658
Melvin Barb Marks					
Jewel	3	3 8	305	19 574	3 5 684
Janis	3	3 4	305	22 605	3 7 843
April	3	3 4	305	22 276	3 1 694
Ann	3	4 1	305	22 779	2 9 660
Four Co Farm					
Holly34	3	5 6	305	21 730	3 4 735
Ginny60	3	3 4	305	22 533	3 0 677
Olga	3	3 0	277	17 398	3 8 666
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131	3	3 8	305	21 251	3 1 662
Hidden Springs Farm					
Tillie	2	4 6	305	15 449	4 4 683
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60	3	7 2	305	19 793	4 0 782
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McRal Dairy Farm					
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219	3	5 2	281	19 756	3 6 718
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416	3	4 8	222	17 528	3 9 690
476	3	3 4	305	20 836	3 5 739
8296	3	3 1	305	22 705	3 5 795
475	3	3 4	305	23 622	3 6 846
484	3	2 10	305	19 463	3 8 747
491	3	2 10	295	20 291	3 3 673
492	3	2 9	305	22 728	2 9 670
559	3	1 11	305	18 432	3 7 687
William Ruppert					
Alma	3	5 5	305	24 091	2 8 680
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Star	3	5 5	305	21 119	3 9 816

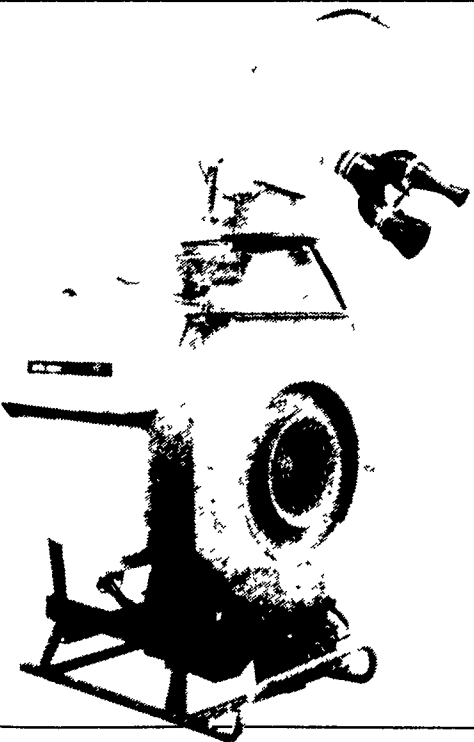


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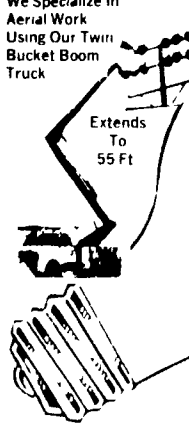
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