COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF KERN

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PEST UPDATE

Sally Fox, who has been interning with Pete Goodell and me, has prepared the enclosed graphs for Navel orangeworm (NOW) and Peach twig borer (PTB). She has also assisted in preparing this update.

As can be seen from the graphed information, activity of both NOW and PTB has been very erratic so far this season.

ALMONDS:

The NOW egg laying pattern shows two separate peaks almost four weeks apart. The peaks were of equal magnitude. Controlling NOW chemically is very difficult in this sort of situation.

In talking with other pest control advisors, some have seen both peaks while others, only the second peak in May. We are not really sure why this occurs but I think it is due to the location of mummy nuts (ground vs. in the tree). The difference in egg laying activity between blocks dramatizes the importance of monitoring individual blocks as a unit. It also demonstrates how the graphed records might help in analyzing problems in controlling pests in different blocks.

Currently we are at a low point in NOW activity in the Wasco block. The next period of activity is expected near hullsplit. Mario indicated that the nut development is right on schedule. This means hullsplit should occur very close to the first week in July.

The same bimodal activity is occurring with PTB. The second flight peak of the overwintering generation in Wasco occurred in late May. However, based on the 400 to 500 degree day timing for sprays after first moth, good control should still occur. We are just now seeing flight of second generation PTB in Arvin.

Pacific mites are beginning to show up. Some areas are showing webbing in the lower parts of the tree. The work done with 1 and 2 lb. rates of Omite can be effective if predator mites are present. If there are no predator mites I would not recommend lower than label rates. Also, since the optimum timing for PTB and NOW is passed, I would not include materials with a miticide at this time.

It is a good time to begin looking for ant activity in almond orchards. From observations last year, hullsplit sprays for NOW were less than effective in controlling ants. Also, the new regulations allowing materials registered on a crop to be used on an unnamed pest should be considered when deciding on how to chemically control ants. Mario's newsletter will cover this in more depth.

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We just noted the second flight of San Jose Scale in the Wasco block. Perhomone traps should be nut now.

CITRUS:

We are also seeing California red scale males in citrus. Pheromone traps should be placed at this time. These traps can aid in determining timing of the June and July treatment. This flight is the second male flight of the season.

Work done by Dr. Dan Moreno shows the number of scales caught per day in traps during the final or fourth flight is a fairly good indicator of the need to apply a spray. This won't help us this year but can give an indication for next June's treatment need. The fourth flight should occur in September. We will keep you informed as to when it is expected and threshold levels for the final flight.

Thrips populations have been much lower this year compared to last year. Additionally our observations show that control has also been much better this year.

Walt

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WJB:PBG:jh