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TO: Tree Farm Advisors

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Dormant Treatments for Walnut Blight Control

Not for Publication

A number of people have been inquiring about the possibility of dormant treatments with copper for the control of walnut blight. We now know that the causal bacterium, *Xanthomonas juglandis* resides and overwinters within the buds and catkins and thus the application of surface materials may have limited effectiveness. It is, however, possible to reduce the total overwintering population of the bacteria with dormant applications of copper. In field trials this treatment, in conjunction with early season copper sprays, gave good control and significantly increased nut yield (by reducing blight) when compared to the untreated check. Dormant treatments, as yet, have not proven to be statistically better than early season sprays alone. It should be emphasized that our data on dormant spraying is encouraging but incomplete and will require at least another year's testing before any recommendation can be made with confidence. We encourage those of you who are planning walnut blight plots for next season to include dormant treatments and evaluate them yourselves in your specific areas and keep us informed of your results. At this time the only recommendations that can be made are: 1) coppers are still the materials of choice for blight control; 2) copper sprays at catkin elongation and during pistillate bloom consistently give the best control of walnut blight.

WALNUT
BLIGHT