

Implementation

WSHA Pear IPM Project

A. Brooke Peterson
Washington State Horticultural Association, Yakima, WA

Keywords: Integrated Pest Management, pear psylla, organophosphate, pear

The goal of the Washington State Horticultural Association Pear IPM Project is the widespread implementation of a more environmentally stable and economically viable pear pest management system in Washington State. As a result of cooperative work with the Program for Strategic Pest Management, Del Monte Foods, Snokist Growers, and the Washington State Horticultural Association, the Pear IPM Project received \$500,000 for three years to implement the project's pest management strategies. Funding comes from the Pew Charitable Trusts and the U.S. EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs. The funders would like to see a 60% reduction in organophosphate use over participating acreage over the three years of the project.

The program encourages the use of "softer" pest control techniques. The Pear IPM Project is providing participating growers and pest control advisors with the information, tools, and training to use these "softer" tools to achieve economically and environmentally sound results. A cornerstone to managing pear psylla in many Pear IPM Project orchards is the use of mating disruption for codling moth. This encourages biological control of pear psylla. Acreage goals for adoption are 500, 2,000, and 4,500 acres, respectively, in the first ('98), second and third years, respectively. Acreage in the first year totaled 750 acres. In general, "IPM" (mating disrupted) orchards fared better in 1998 (in a difficult codling moth and pear psylla control year) than conventionally managed orchards.

A major emphasis of the Pear IPM Project in the second and third years will be the education and training of a number of field scouts to assist pest control advisors and growers in monitoring the more intensively managed IPM orchards.