

Biology/Phenology

Old and new pest problems on tree fruits in the Mid-Columbia area

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*Abstract:* New pest problems are emerging and some old ones are gaining in importance as pest control programs on tree fruits are undergoing major changes and organophosphate and other broad-spectrum insecticides are being replaced. Codling moth has again risen to the top as the major pest of apples and pears. The reasons for the growing codling moth problem are not entirely clear yet but may be due to a combination of factors including changing seasonal emergence patterns, inadequate control programs and possibly resistance. Pear psylla, once the most feared pest of pears, has become more manageable thanks to improved biological control. On the other hand, a number of species have become more noticeable in recent years including pear thrips, a potentially very destructive pest just before bloom on pears, apples and cherries. In the "new pest category" is the snail case bagworm which caused heavy leaf damage in 2002 in a high-density apple orchard but did not infest an adjacent cherry block. Tentiform leafminer has diminished as a problem on cherries while obliquebanded leafroller larvae continue to pose a threat, particularly as contaminants in harvested fruit. A major outbreak of twospotted spider mites was observed in 2002 in an old cherry orchard and was likely related to use of disruptive sprays. Western flower thrips has caused some minor scarring from egg-laying punctures on cherries and has also been implicated as the cause of silvery surface blemishes close to harvest (first seen during the 2002 season). Additional cherry problems observed during the last two years have been redhumped caterpillar, shothole borers in orchards with stressed trees and poor sanitation and, for the second year in a row, cherry lacebug.