

Biological Control

Biological Control of Pear Psylla in Areawide Organic Insect Pest Management

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*Abstract:* Baseline density and diversity of predatory insects, their spatial distribution, and levels of predation were examined in pear orchards under organic, soft, and conventional pest management. Predator densities were monitored at a large scale as part of the Peshastin Creek Areawide Organic Project and at a smaller scale on transects, and predation levels were monitored with sentinel prey. Preliminary results show that, although there were low predator densities in all programs, predators appear to be more numerous in orchards under organic and soft pest management. In all programs predator density was higher outside the orchards, and the species composition tended to be different inside and outside the orchards. Early data on predation levels suggest that they were affected by distance from untreated native vegetation. The study will be continued in 2005.