

Biology/Phenology

Biology and Management of Forktailed Bush Katydid in Peaches

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Abstract: Growth chamber studies established a tentative basal threshold of 59°F for hatching of wintered eggs. Development at 72°F required 61 days (59-64) and at 84°F required 40 days. In the field, egg hatch was noted on March 31 and adults were first found on June 8. Most eggs, laid in leaves, will hatch the following spring, but a portion will hatch producing a second generation that matures to the adult stage. Immature stages of FTBK are easily killed with spinosad (Success®) or phosmet (Imidan®) based on replicated trials. In caged field studies, indoxacarb (Avaunt®) treatments resulted in 100% mortality within 4 days. Adult katydids show a clear preference for nectarines over peaches. Feeding on peaches occurs when there is no choice with nectarines. Based on our studies this preference is visual and not olfactory. This was tested in caged enclosures (2 x 2 x 2 ft) with various varieties of fruit (replicated 3 times) and placed inside. The adult katydid were introduced and left for 48 hours. When fruit was placed in small paper bags and tested similarly, no choice preference was made. Olfactory preference does require further study.