

Biology/Phenology

Timing of Thrips Oviposition on Apple: Preliminary Results

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*Abstract:* These results are the first of a multi-year investigation into the timing of thrips oviposition in apple fruit. The precise timing of oviposition has been a matter of controversy in the literature for the past 80 years. We modified a staining method to aid in detecting eggs in apple fruit before, during, and after bloom. A few eggs were detected in fruit during bloom; however, the majority was laid 2-3 wk after full bloom (11 mm fruit stage), when adults were no longer abundant in flower clusters. In a companion experiment, thrips were excluded from flower clusters at different times with applications of Carzol. Sprays reduced pansy spot on fruit until 2-3 wk after full bloom, after which they were not effective. The most effective treatment was applied just prior to peak egg occurrence, or 6 mm fruit stage. *Campylomma verbasci* nymphs occurred in the same experimental block, and data were taken on the nymph mortality and damage by this species also. While sprays applied after petal fall reduce thrips damage (pansy spot), they did not reduce damage from *C. verbasci* if applied after bloom.