agrovista
fruit

Post harvest pest and disease control

for top and stone fruit of new orchards

growing through ***innovation***

It is very important to minimise the build-up of pest and disease at the end of the season. Pests and pathogen inoculum that overwinter will make control more challenging for the next season and increase the risk of crop damage.

Agrovista Fruit agronomists are happy to help monitor and advise on the best approach for the farm.

Scab control

All **apple and pear orchards which had scab** during the growing season should receive at least one **application of a protectant fungicide post-harvest** in order to prevent the build-up of inoculum for next year. If the weather conditions are favourable for scab development, the senescing leaves become susceptible to infection, as the cuticle gradually cracks with age.

Even, if very low levels of leaf scab are present post-harvest, scab can build up to high levels by leaf-fall causing problems.

Curative fungicides should not be applied during the autumn period, as the fungus is going through its sexual stage and there is a risk that resistant strains may develop as DNA re-combines.

We recommend applying **Delan pro, Dithianon or Captan. The addition of an adjuvant specifically designed to aid spray retention and spreading would improve the persistence of the fungicide.** It is likely that extension growth will have ceased post-harvest and so adjuvant will ensure that the spray application is retained on the leaf for as long as possible – you should discuss the options with your Agrovista agronomist.

Depending upon the scab risk and prevalence, weather and the length of time between harvest and leaf fall, subsequent applications may be required.

Application rates

Delan Pro 2.5l/ha
Dithianon 0.5kg/ha
Captan 2kg/ha

3 applications of urea should be made during the leaf-fall period to orchards with low risk for Canker: first at the beginning of leaf fall, second at 50% leaf fall and a third at 100% leaf fall using a herbicide sprayer to direct the spray onto the leaf litter on the ground.

Urea applications accelerate the decomposition of the leaf litter and reduce the amount of scab inoculum available for next season.

However, applications of urea during leaf fall to the trees can delay the healing of leaf scars and increase the potential for canker infection.

Inhibited/Methylane Urea can be used, in order to adhere to Red Tractor standards,and applying the correct concentration is important: 50l urea/1000l.

This should be applied at a volume which is enough to wet the leaves, but not run-off.

Sweeping

Removal or mechanical degradation of leaf litter and fallen fruit from the orchard are two of the best ways to reduce the scab inoculum in the orchard.

We highly recommend using machines to sweep the litter from under the tree into the alley where it can be pulverised. This operation can be performed from leaf fall until the end of February and can be achieved in a single pass with a pulveriser. It is important that the leaves are macerated as finely as possible.

A combination of fungicide applications, urea applications and sweeping will significantly reduce the amount of inoculum in the orchard for next season.

Canker control

In apple and pear **orchards with significant canker infection risk, fungicides** for control have to be **applied and timed according to Fruit Insight Neonectria canker model.**

Tebuconazole applications should be applied when **infection risk is highest during leaf fall**, as only one application is legally allowed per season (and not 3 as previously possible).

Captan applications provide suitable control during lower infections risk intervals.

Applications of some phosphites offer some fungal control and give a boost to the natural defence mechanisms and so, reduce the susceptibility to diseases. You should discuss with your local Agrovista agronomist about the suitable options for applications.

At the time of printing, copper fungicides do not hold approval on apples or pears for applications.

Apple powdery mildew

If **trees are actively growing** during the post-harvest period, it is important to **apply mildew protection if the infection risk is significant,** until growth stops. Otherwise, primary mildew can develop and affect the terminal buds.

Agrovista recommends applying penconazole (as a protectant) when Fruit Insight shows significant infection risk. Karma or potassium bicarbonate applications (as eradicants) should be made if lesions are present.

Anthonomus pyri (pear bud weevil)

Pear orchards with a history of pear bud weevil should be **monitored carefully post harvest** and an insecticide application for control should be made immediately at the first sign of activity.

Pear sucker

Pear orchards should be **checked regularly** between harvest and leaf fall for this pest. Agrovista recommends applying Flipper if large numbers of nymphs are present. If sucker populations are allowed to build up during this period, the resulting sooty mould will seriously affect the quality of fruit bud for next season. Making repeated applications of EpsoTop together with an organosilicone surfactant will also help contain the negative effect of the honeydew.

Bacterial canker in plum, apricot and cherry

Applications of some phosphites improve the nutrient balance of trees, give a boost to the natural defence mechanisms and so, reduce the susceptibility to diseases. Do not hesitate to discuss with your local Agrovista agronomist about the best options for applications.

At the time of printing, there are no approvals for copper fungicide applications on stone fruit crops.

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