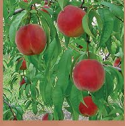




Stone Fruit IPM for Beginners

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Chapter 20

Aphids

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Aphids

Black cherry aphid, *Myzus cerasi* (Fabr.)

Green peach aphid, *Myzus persicae* (Sulzer)

Aphids are small, sap-feeding insects that can multiply rapidly but are considered to be occasional pests of stone fruit. They are more likely to be a problem when pyrethroids or other broad spectrum insecticides used to control other orchard pests have inadvertently knocked out natural predators. Scout for the insects on susceptible plant tissue where they have been a problem in the past. The two most common aphids likely to be found in stone fruit orchards are described below.



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Black cherry aphid, *Myzus cerasi* (Fabr.)

Hosts

Sweet cherries

Time of concern

In spring, on new foliar growth.

Damage, symptoms and pest cycle

This aphid attacks mainly cherries, particularly sweet cherries. Adults and nymphs establish colonies on new foliar growth in the spring, usually on the undersides of the leaves of growing shoots. They feed by sucking sap out of the leaves and tender shoots, causing a curling and stunting of the leaves. Heavy infestations reduce crop quantity and quality on mature trees, limit fruit set the following year and may kill young trees. Honeydew secreted by aphids promotes a black sooty mold on the fruit and foliage.

Adults and nymphs are shiny, black, soft-bodied insects; adults may or may not have wings. Nymphs are smaller but generally similar in appearance to the adults.



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IPM steps for beginners

Protect natural predators. Monitor colonies on growing shoots; applying selective insecticides may occasionally be necessary.



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Green peach aphid, *Myzus persicae* (Sulzer)

Hosts 🍇 🍒 🍑

All stone fruit, but especially peaches.

Time of concern

Spring through early fruit development.

Damage, symptoms and pest cycle

This pest attacks peach and all stone fruit crops and is the main vector of plum pox virus (reported from Ontario, Pennsylvania and Nova Scotia). Adults and nymphs suck the sap from leaf undersides, causing curling and yellowing of foliage. Flowers and fruits may also be fed upon, resulting in distortion and discoloration.



Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

These smooth-looking, pear-shaped insects have long antennae and a pair of cornicles extending from the posterior end of the body. Wingless adults and nymphs are yellowish green, with three darker green lines on the abdomen.



Eugene E. Nelson, Bugwood.org

Damage to plum leaves caused by infestation with green peach aphids.



Scott Bauer, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

Winged adults are similar in color, but with a dark head and thorax.

IPM steps for beginners

Protect natural predators. A dormant oil application can help suppress overwintering egg hatch. Motile forms can be treated with an insecticide as they appear in the spring.



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Green peach aphid on a nectarine.