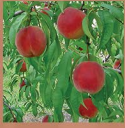




Stone Fruit IPM for Beginners

Developed by the Great Lakes Fruit Workers and funded by a working group grant from the North Central Integrated Pest Management Center



Chapter 31

Tarnished plant bug

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Tarnished plant bug, *Lygus lineolaris* (Palisot de Beauvois)

Hosts

Peaches, nectarines, plums.

Time of concern

In spring and then again as fruit develop.

Damage, symptoms and pest cycle

Attacks most deciduous tree fruits. Pre-bloom stings on woody tissue or the floral peduncle leave a droplet of sap and often cause the abortion of flower buds. Stings at the base of the floral receptacle or on the fruit result in funnel-like depressions; fruit feeding in stone fruits can cause corky scars or catfacing injury.

The adult is brown and the extremities of its wings are translucent with a cream scutellum (triangular plate) on its back. The nymph is pale green; from the third nymphal stage, it has five black points on the back. It usually abandons fruit trees for alternate hosts soon after bloom.

Stinkbugs, other plant bugs and plum curculio can also cause catfacing injury. Catfacing injury develops after fruit is fed upon at an early stage when the fruit continues to grow and distort around the feeding site.



Tarnished plant bug adult.

Scott Bauer, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

IPM steps for beginners

Watch for presence of adults on buds. Eliminating alternate host broadleaf weeds in the orchard can contribute to management efforts, especially legumes, mullein, chickweed and dandelion, as well as pigweed, lambsquarters, plantain, goldenrod and aster.



Catfacing injury on peaches.

Bill Shane, MSU Extension