

S. McKay
CCE - Columbia County

Borer Control Alternatives in Young Apple Trees

Introduction: Concern over losses of young apple and peach trees due to girdling and weakening of trunks by various species of borers and winter damage was the motivation for completing this project. Several parameters of the use of whitewash are being considered in an attempt to refine recommendations for growers and commercial nurseries. Whitewash has previously been shown to be beneficial, but it is not used as widely as would be ideal. Tree nurseries feel that losses could be reduced by more regular use of whitewash, so the tree dipping reps were included as a commercial option for whitewash application.

Objectives:

1. Is white latex paint effective in controlling borers in 1-3 year old peach and apple trees? If not, which species succeed in ovipositing and causing damage? (Plant trees in April, 1999, and evaluate treatments in October/November, 1999)
2. What is the most effective and efficient method of whitewash application at planting, and does whole-tree dipping cause any negative effects on the tree? What is the most effective and efficient method of applying white latex paint for follow-up applications in Fall or Summer? (Plant trees in April, 1999, and evaluate treatments in October/November, 1999)
3. How does the effectiveness of recommended Lorsban trunk drenches compare to other borer control methods tested? (Plant trees in April, 1999, and evaluate treatments in October/November, 1999)
4. What additional benefits such as freeze damage prevention can be realized by white latex paint? (Plant trees in April, 1999, and evaluate treatments in January/February, 2000)

For a printed copy of the entire report, please contact the NYS IPM office at:

IPM House
630 W. North St.
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station
Geneva NY 14456
315-878-2353