

Helpful reminders of what's needed to grow healthy and productive trees and plants.

JULY 3, 2017

### 2017 Healthy Growing Reminder #4 – Apple Maggot

So it's time for our next challenge as fruit growers. July 1st is typically the start of the Apple Maggot season.



These are the insects that lay their eggs on your apples and the hatching maggots tunnel out of the growing apple, making your apples all dimply and create the little brown streaks through the flesh.



We have **three** primary methods to try to control apple maggots:

**Physical Barrier:** Bag each apple. I know this sounds like a lot of work and folks are reluctant to try this, but it is very effective and probably the least amount of work in the long run. Basically, you take cheap sandwich bags and ziplock, staple, or zip tie them around each baby apple. Be sure to cut the corners off the bag to let the moisture out. I would recommend 50-100 apples per tree. Pick the biggest apples in full sun. They will grow in this mini green house and be protected from birds and yellow jackets as well. There are also commercial bags available, but I haven't heard they are any better than the baggies.



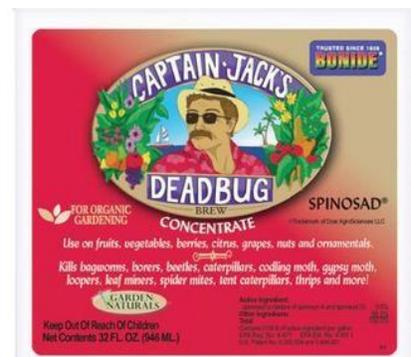
**Trap:** Hang a *Red Delicious* (from the store) in the tree with tanglefoot on it. The apple should be bruised so it can emit ripe apple smell to attract the flies. They'll get stuck and die. Replace the apple or recoat with tanglefoot every week or as necessary. You can also buy plastic red spheres that are made for this, but the Organic farmer I talked to, said they don't work as well and besides, "this is the only good use for a Red Delicious anyway." He would hang one apple every 10 feet all around the outside of his orchard. One or two apples per tree should be plenty for the home gardener. (Note: we bought our Tanglefoot on Amazon)



**Spray Insecticides:** Not our first choice, as if you go this route, you have to make sure you thoroughly spray all the fruit to be effective and you cannot miss a spraying. Commonly used insecticides include esfenvalerate, carbaryl, and spinosad as the active ingredients. The active ingredients on the label are often very small, you have to really look for them. We've circled where to look for them on the labels below.

It's important (actually the law in MN) to follow all label information. Also, alternating insecticides is recommended to help prevent insecticide resistance.

Check the pesticide label for the spray interval, typically given as a range of time, such as "7 to 10 days." Do not spray any more often than indicated.



Good luck. Don't forget to water and keep your trees mulched!!!