

Whatcom County Horticultural Pest & Disease Board (WCHPDB)

Thursday February 16, 2017

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Location

Lynden, WA

Whatcom County Lynden Library

216 4th St, Lynden, WA 98264

<https://goo.gl/maps/Bm5xXjXNiNz>

Agenda

- Call to order
- Roll call and determination of a quorum
- Public comment
- Approval of minutes from December meeting
- New business
 - Presentation by Dr. Debbie Inglis, Plant Pathologist WSU Mt. Vernon NWREC
 - Website discussion
 - Other outreach materials
 - Fair outreach activities
 - Further schedule
- Announcements
- Adjourn

Staff contact information

Chris Benedict

Washington State University Extension

360-778-5809

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Whatcom County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board
c/o WSU Extension – Whatcom County
1000 N. Forest , Suite 201
Bellingham, WA 98225

Apple Wood Farms
Goodwin Road
Everson, WA 982__
August 7, 2005

Re: 2004 Apple Maggot catch

Dear Mr. Orchard Owner:

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), through their trapping program, found apple, **crab-apple and /or hawthorn tree(s)** to be infested with the APPLE MAGGOT (*Rhagoletis pomonella*) within .5 mile of your orchard. The WSDA and the Whatcom County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board are working together to prevent the movement and infestation of the Apple Maggot in our county. As you know all commercial orchards, (those shipping to a non quarantined county) have an inspection process in place and are responding accordingly, to address this pest. As an owner of an apple orchard selling locally or within the Western part of our state, you too have a responsibility to respond to this pest. According to RCW 15.080.030, *“It is the duty of every owner, shipper, consignee, or other person in charge of fruits, vegetables, or nursery stock, and the owner, lessee or occupant of horticultural premises, to use sufficient methods of prevention to keep said properties free from infection by pests or disease”*. It is your responsibility to ensure you are producing and selling clean fruit, or you will be contributing to the problem that may drive the apple industry out of Whatcom County.

The Whatcom County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board would like your help. Please contact _____ to explain how you are addressing this problem. You may consider a trapping program for your orchard, an inspection plan, a program to pick up dropped fruit and dispose of properly, or a spray program (organic or conventional). We will be glad to help you any way we can.

Please contact Craig MacConnell, for more information, at the WSU Extension: 676-6736 or by email: cbrmac@wsu.edu.

Please respond with your intentions

Name: _____

Property Address: _____

_____ I am trapping my orchard

_____ I will remove my tree(s).

_____ I will do the following to control this pest. _____

For further information contact the WSU Extension office at (360) 676-6736.

Thank you for help in this matter.

The Whatcom County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board
c/o WSU Extension – Whatcom County
1000 N. Forest, Suite 201.
Bellingham, WA 98225

For your own benefit, and that of your neighbors, it is the duty of the landowner(s) to control these harmful pests on their property. It is your responsibility as an owner of one apple tree or an orchard, to manage that crop in a way that will not negatively impact others who wish to grow good fruit. Apple Maggot does not go away in one year. Their ability to remain in the soil makes them a pest for 3-5 years. Only your diligence will help.

We have enclosed a brochure for easy reference. Please read all the enclosed material in order to be an informed tree owner. *If you will have fruit this coming apple season, it is important to pick up and properly dispose of (not in compost piles) all fallen apples immediately and continue to do so, daily, until all the fruit is gone. We suggest that you pick up the fruit daily and place in a plastic bag to be placed with your garbage pick up. If you do not plan to use your fruit, we strongly recommend that you immediately strip your tree of all fruit and arrange to have your tree(s) removed as soon as possible. **It is also imperative that you do not share your fruit with your neighbors or put infested fruit in your compost pile.*** Doing so will cause the Apple Maggot infestation to spread to new areas.

You have three options at your disposal to eliminate the presence of this destructive pest from your property. These options are as follows:

1. You may hire a commercial spray company to spray your tree 6 times (every two weeks) between mid-June and mid-September;
2. You may opt to remove the tree(s); or,
3. You may handle the spraying and care of the tree yourself using over the counter products which can be purchased at hardware or garden stores.

Note: In Options One and Three, you must pick up and properly dispose of (not in compost piles) all fallen apples immediately and continue to do so, daily, until all the fruit is gone.

If you choose Option One, any commercial spray company listed in the yellow pages can help you. However, you need to be specific in your instructions to spray your tree as a fruit tree for the APPLE MAGGOT. We have worked specifically with "Haines Tree and Spray," (contact Linda Haines 733-6680). They will be happy to answer any of your questions. There are several other licensed pest control operators listed in the yellow pages.

Option 2, removing the tree, is sometimes the best option. Inventory the use of your tree(s) by asking yourself the following questions: How much of the fruit do I actually use? How much time am I now putting into the care of my tree(s) and how much time will I have to put in the future? Am I willing to take the extra steps necessary to protect my neighbor's trees from infestation? Am I willing to pick up dropped fruit every day to prevent the next generation of APPLE MAGGOTS from taking hold? Would I prefer an ornamental tree in its place to enjoy without the added expense and responsibility? Many times an old tree has outgrown its usefulness and it becomes time to replace it. Replacement may be the best option for you.

If you choose Option Three, and elect to handle the spraying and care of the tree yourself, you will need to be very diligent to learn how to use your pesticides with extreme care in order to ensure that you do not injure yourself, your loved ones, or your neighbors, including their animals and/or pets. It is imperative that you follow all label precautions to protect yourself and others around you. It is a violation of the law to disregard label instructions. If pesticides are spilled on skin or clothing, immediately remove the clothing and wash the skin thoroughly. Pesticides must be stored in their original containers and kept out of reach of children, pets, and animals. In order to be effective, the spray equipment must be capable of thoroughly covering the entire tree in accordance with the spray manufacturer's instructions. Accordingly, home spray equipment may be inadequate for larger trees. For more information on care of your trees, contact the WSU Cooperative Extension Office at: (360) 676-6736.

Whichever option you choose, you must take action to eliminate the infestation on your property this season. However, keep in mind that the life cycle of the APPLE MAGGOT enables it to remain in the soil in the pupa stage from 3 to 5 years. So, if your decision is to not remove your tree(s), please realize that you are making a long-term (up to 5 years) commitment to properly care for your tree(s) and to eliminate the infestation on your property.

As a courtesy, BelleWood Acres is willing to answer any further questions you may have. Please call them at (360) 398-9187. They will do their best to help you.

Sincerely,

Chairman

March 28, 2001 Meeting Notes:

New Business:

1. Lawrence Benner had the only Whatcom County commercial orchard that was threatened in the 2000 apple season. The catch was in his neighbor's tree. The Pest Board contacted the owner by letter following up with a phone contact. The tree has since been taken down. Lawrence's orchard will continue to be "threatened" until he has completed two years of no catches within the one half mile border.

2. John Belisle wrote, on behalf of the Board, requesting that Whatcom County Council continue to fund the Pest Board in the amount of \$5000.00. The Council granted the request. See attached letters.

4. The New Jersey Strain of the Blueberry Scorch was discussed at length. . This virus poses a definite threat to the blueberry industry in Whatcom. It is easily spread by the blueberry aphid. Once infected in a plant, it can remain dormant for several years, not being detectable by visual means. However, the infected plant is a source of contaminate throughout its entire life. Because of the increase in new plantings with the use of uncertified plants, contamination of existing crops is high. Bob Martin, a virologist from the USDA Small Fruit Center in Corvallis, WA will be in Whatcom in May to speak to growers at the IPM Berry Breakfast and to do some testing in the county. It was decided that the members of the Pest Board should attend this meeting on May 2nd at 7:00am at Dutch Mothers restaurant.

Steve made the motion to nominate the New Jersey Strain of the Blueberry Scorch for consideration of a listed horticultural pest and disease on Appendix A of our "Rules and Regulations". The motion was seconded by Roger. The motion carried. Further review of scientific research and information will take place along with discussion with state and county leaders on this topic.

Help

Whatcom County Horticultural Pest & Disease Board needs to contact you concerning horticultural pests that may be homesteaded on your property. Please call us. We want to answer any questions and arrange a visit with you on your property.

Whatcom County Horticultural Pest & Disease Board needs your help. Infestation by apple maggot, a new and dangerous pest, can result in complete destruction of your fruit. The apple maggot will have a serious economic impact on the homeowner, our fruit industry, and the state of Washington.

We visited your property on _____ to inspect, or trap for horticulture pests.

On-premises Inspector:

Phone:

Date/Time of first attempt to enter premises:

Date/Time of second attempt to enter premises:

please contact:

John Belisle, Chair

Whatcom County Horticultural Pest & Disease Board

398-9187

(over)

Apple maggot is the pest responsible for our visit. Read further to acquaint yourself with this horticultural pest.

Apple Maggot -- Apple maggot is a destructive fly that feeds primarily on apple, crabapple and hawthorn. Natural enemies do not control the apple maggot. It is thought to have been introduced to the Northwest from backyard fruit brought in from infested areas of the eastern United States. Apple maggot was first found in the Pacific Northwest in Portland, OR in 1979. It has since been traveling north in western Washington to Whatcom County's border. To protect homeowner and commercial fruit grown in Whatcom County, we need to work together to keep our county free of the apple maggot.

Apple Maggot is spread mainly by movement of non-commercial fruit. It is important not to transport fruit from home orchards. **Do not** dispose of infested or diseased fruit by burying fruit or composting fruit in mulch piles. Because apple maggot overwinters in the ground, disposing of infested fruit this way only ensures the spread of the insects. The easiest way to dispose of infested fruit is to put it in a plastic trash bag and dispose of it with your garbage pick up.

Please do not transport home grown fruit.

The Trap Traps are set by specially trained trappers. The trap left on your property is yellow in color, has a sticky surface and includes an ammonium carbonate (smelling salts-ammonia) lure to attract adult apple maggot flies. The ammonium carbonate is slightly toxic and can cause eye irritation if rubbed into the eyes. Please do not disturb the trap and lure.

PLEASE CALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS

John Belisle, Chair
Whatcom County Horticultural Pest & Disease Board
398-9187

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

COMPLAINT FORM

WHATCOM COUNTY HORTICULTURAL PEST AND DISEASE BOARD

WSLT Cooperative Extension Office

1000N. Forest Ave.

Bellingham, WA 98225

676-6736

Dear Board Members:

I own or lease property in Whatcom County and would like to register a complaint with the Whatcom County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board against property owned by _____ and located _____

The tree appears to be infested with the apple maggot (*Rhagoletis pomonella*).

Please give a description of the particular setting (age or size of the tree, location on the property, etc.)

I desire (check one) non-disclosure disclosure of my identity.

ONLY SIGNED COMPLAINTS WILL BE INVESTIGATED

Please print:

Name: _____

Address:

Phone:

Date:

SIGNED

cc: Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney

Form 1