Issue 9 – August 19, 2026

Fruit Crop Report

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Provincial Overview

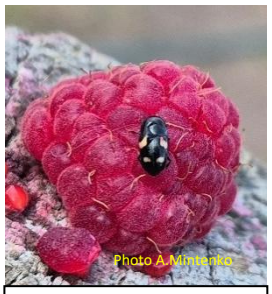

Figure 1: four-spotted sap beetle

Last picking of raspberries happened this week. Four-spotted Sap beetles (*Glischrochilus quadrisignatus*) (Figure 1) have been found in late harvested overripe raspberries and/or in spotted wing drosophila (SWD) infected berries. These beetles are typically not controlled as they are found in unmarketable berries (i.e. overripe/SWD infected berries). Growers are monitoring for cyclamen mite or spider mite leaf damage on new strawberry growth and spraying miticides if widespread throughout the field (see article below). Wild harvesting of chokecherries continues. Harvesting of early season apple cultivars started this week in southern orchards.

Commercial Fruit Crops - Timely Topics

Wild Fruit Crops of Manitoba: The Chokecherry

The chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) is a medium to large multi-stemmed fruiting shrub (1-7m) or a small tree (9-13m). Like the saskatoon, it is a member of the Rose family and is related to domestic cherries, plums, peaches and apricots. It is native to North America, with a range stretching from the Yukon to New Mexico and from B.C. to Newfoundland.

Uses

Throughout North American history, chokecherries have been a traditional source of food for First Nations. Chokecherries contain high levels of functional food properties and today are used most commonly in concentrates, jellies, syrups, sauces, juices and jams.

Harvesting

The majority of chokecherries, for commercial and homeowner use, are harvested from the wild as it is a very common native fruit tree found throughout southern Manitoba. For more information Province of Manitoba | agriculture - Chokecherry Production in Manitoba

Scouting for Strawberry Insect Pests After Renovations

After renovations are complete, mites (two-spotted spider mite or cyclamen mite) may become an issue and potentially hinder plant regeneration after mowing. The heat and humidity of July and early August can be favourable for rapid development of these pests. Spider mites damage leaves causing them to be wrinkled and small. Spider mites will leave small webbing/eggs on the underside of the leaf.

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Figure 2: Cyclamen mite strawberry leaf damage.

Spider mites are about 0.5 mm in length and can be seen with the naked eye or hand lens.

There has been higher suspected incidence of Cyclamen mites in strawberry fields in Manitoba this summer. Adult mites are less than 0.3 mm long and require a hand lens or observational microscope to spot. Cyclamen mite symptoms are crinkled, distorted and stunted leaf growth with short petioles (Figure 2).

Cultural Control Strategies

To reduce mite problems on strawberries:

- Irrigate regularly to avoid water stress
- Eliminate weeds that can act as alternate hosts in and near strawberry plantings
- Cultivate between rows and headlands in the fall to disturb plant litter (over-wintering sites used by the mites).

Chemical Controls

Agri-mek and Magister (miticide/ insecticide) are registered for use on various mites on strawberries. Maximum 2 applications per season for Agri-mek and 1 application per season for Magister. Do not apply Magister during bloom as it is very toxic to pollinators. More specific details on the products are found in the resources below.

References

OMAFRA Crop Protection Hub
Pesticide Label Search Health Canada

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