

## Report to the 2019 BCFGGA Convention

From the

### **Crop Protection Committee**

The best news of the year is that, after detections of Apple Maggot in West Kelowna (2015) and Kelowna(2016), no Apple Maggot were detected in 2017 or 2018 at either site. The West Kelowna site is considered 'free of Apple Maggot', and the Kelowna site may achieve this status after the 2019 season. If that occurs, the current quarantine will continue as if no detections were made.

We wish to thank the many organizations and people who help with Apple Maggot, including Howard Thistlewood and his staff who designed improved trap placement, the CFIA who responded with significant resources, and assistance from SIR with trapping.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs (BMSB) populations continue to grow in urban areas, but so far orchards have been relatively free of the pest. BMSB is not a quarantine pest, as its movement is virtually uncontrollable. A parasitic wasp from Asia has been discovered in the Lower Mainland, and we are hoping that it will be introduced to the Okanagan.

The BC Plant Protection Advisory Committee (BCPPAC) is an inter-governmental group that looks at invasive pests and how to control them. The BCPPAC uses sub-committees to develop specific sector plans. The Tree Fruit Subcommittee of the BCPPAC includes the BC Ministry of Agriculture, BC Tree Fruit Cooperative field services, BCFGGA, Summerland Research and Development Centre (also a governmental group Aggasiz research station), national pest identification specialists. Work is ongoing for pests such as Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, Apple Maggot, Japanese Beetle and other possible pest introductions.

Relatedly, work continues on the Plant and Animal Health Strategy established in 2017, with a new group forming in support of the strategy called the Canadian Plant Health Council. The Canadian Plant Health Council is focusing three initiatives:

- biosecurity,
- emergency response
- surveillance.

The strategy and Council are relatively new, so this is a chance to improve invasive pest management to a more effective level of operation. CHC is looking for people to volunteer to participate in the respective working groups of the Council. Following are some details on expectations:

- Working groups should ideally have at least 5 members, and a project lead for each of the working groups needs to be identified.
- Working groups will be responsible for the following:
  - Refine the project proposals provided by the Council
  - Consult with relevant organizations

- Provide the Council with concrete recommendations for work plan deliverables

If you are interested, please contact the BCFGA.

A recent PMRA review of imidacloprid, known as Admire, is being reconsidered, after initially recommending withdrawal of the product registration.

In 2019 the Mancozeb scab control products (Dithane, Manzate, Ployram, etc) were banned by PMRA. However, some mistakes were discovered in the review and a new expedited review was requested. In response to the re-evaluation, the BCFGA and other Provincial apple growing associations requested new, lengthier pre-harvest intervals and re-entry intervals that would meet the needs of farmers and better ensure the allowable use of the Mancozeb products.

The BCFGA continues to nominate three producer-directors to the Sterile Insect Release Board - David Dobernigg, Amarjit Lalli, and Walter Makepeace. Glen Lucas also attends Board meetings. SIR has several exciting projects underway. SIR is also seeking to improve performance in the areas where there are 'outbreaks' to ensure that they can be better controlled in future. SIR also continues to consider the scope of the program, perhaps by adding other insect pests if growers agree.

The BCFGA sponsors a horticulturist to attend and represent the tree fruit sector at the annual Minor Use Meeting, which seeks to place priorities for pest control through new pesticide label uses at the PMRA and to develop new methods of integrated pest control through the national Pest Management Office.

Finally, the BCFGA has completed the third year of a pilot project on Apple Clearwing Moth. BC Investment Agriculture Foundation provided funding for this project. The project is composed of three parts:

Zone 1, the South Okanagan and Similkameen will see pheromones deployed in areas that are as discrete from other areas as possible. Previous efforts at pheromone control were unsuccessful, but deployed in irregularly in an area. Pheromones will be provided to the selected areas to provide three years of coverage.

Zone 2, the Central Okanagan not including all of Winfield, will see pheromones deployed in all farms. About one-half of the farms received the pheromones in 2016 and 2017, and the final allotment will be this year.

Zone 3, the North Okanagan including part of Winfield, will use a variety of measures to protect trees from ACM.

Bucket traps were deployed in all areas of the valley in 2018, following previous deployments in 2012, 2014, and 2016. The trap captures are being identified and counted by a contractor, with results to be mapped by SIR later this Spring. It is important to note that areas where pheromone Mating Disruption

is in place will not have meaningful trap results - trap counts will be “zero”, as the traps are ‘shut down’ by the pheromone.

All areas are being monitored with trunk surveys for larvae and this information will be cross-referenced with treatment types and also bucket trap results. Both the trap counts will be available in the next few weeks, while the trunk survey in the summer of 2019 will finalize the three year pilot project and give us insight into the use of pheromones for control of ACM populations.

We are continuing to explore the concept of a “sustainability” standard, but recent thinking is that it needs to go beyond minimizing or where possible eliminating pesticide residues, and possibly include water stewardship, biosecurity, participation in the EFP program, and possibly labour management. We will continue to develop the sustainability standard concept and report back to members on the idea.

It is important to note and to thank the efforts of our partners, including the Sterile Insect Release Program, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency, and the Pest Management Centre of Agriculture Canada. The scientists at PARC and the BC Ministry of Agriculture are critical to our pest control objectives.

Although the BCFGAs Crop Protection Committee did not meet this year, you will see that the BCFGAs has been very active in the area of Crop Protection. Two committee meetings are planned for 2019.

If you are interested in serving on the Crop Protection Committee, please contact Glen Lucas or me.

Respectfully submitted,

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Co-Chair, Crop Protection

Crop Protection Committee Members

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