

IMPACT



Washington County, 485 East Third, Weiser, Idaho 83672; 208-414-0415; Fax: 208-414-0469

Fruit Tree Pest Control

The Situation

Washington County has a small but intensively managed fruit crops industry that produces apples, pears, cherries, and peaches. To help protect this industry, Washington County requires fruit growers and homeowners with fruit trees to control certain pests on their property. The County also established the Orchard Review Board to investigate possible pest outbreaks and inform landowners of control options and requirements. The Washington County Extension Educator is the lead member of the Orchard Review Board.

In 2001 and 2002, Codling Moth infestations from poorly maintained fruit trees began raising pest control costs for fruit producers. Also in 2003, Apple Maggot infestations threatened to expand out of its historic quarantine zone, raising concerns for fruit producers in southern Washington County and Payette County.

Our Response

Acting on reports that some landowners had fruit trees that were infested with Codling Moth, the Orchard Review Board contacted landowners and organized field inspections to verify infestations. After infestations were confirmed, landowners were advised of pest management options and control requirements. The Orchard Review Board would periodically inspect these properties to verify that effectiveness of the control efforts.

The Extension Educator, acting on behalf of the Orchard Review Board, organized public meetings that included expert advice from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. The Extension Educator

also drafted landowner agreements for treatment of Apple Maggot infestations, wrote "Infestation Notices" to landowners, arranged field investigations, advised County Commissioners of noncompliant properties, and informed the public through newsletter articles, brochures, and presentations.



Codling Moth monitor trap showing adult moths.

Program Outcomes

In 2002, the Orchard Review Board brought three properties infested with Codling moth back into compliance. One fruit grower, located near an infested property, reported savings of \$3,000 in undamaged fruit following clean up of the property by the Orchard Review Board.

In 2003, all landowners with Apple Maggot detections responded to Orchard Review Board

requests to treat their properties or remove host plant materials. Apple Maggot infestations have been prevented from spreading southward. Additional monitoring traps were placed in the area by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to closely monitor this insect.

In 2004, no Codling Moth infestations have been reported to the Orchard Review Board for investigation, and Apple Maggot monitoring so far has not shown any spread southward.

The Future

Apple Maggot monitoring and treatment along the southern border of the quarantine zone will continue every year. The Extension Educator, working on behalf of the Orchard Review Board, continue to investigate potential Codling Moth outbreaks and will keep the public informed through public meetings and news articles.

Cooperators

Washington County Extension Office Educator;
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For More Information

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