



Codling Moths

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LIFE CYCLE & APPLICATION TIMING

Codling moths spend the winter in the bark of a tree or in the soil near the base. Adults emerge in spring as the temperatures warm, usually around the time that apple trees are blooming, quickly mate and lay eggs. After eggs hatch, larvae enter the fruit and cause the common "there's a worm in my apple" situation. There can be multiple generations each growing season and timing spray applications is crucial for control.

Traps are generally set out at the time of flowering, or prior, to monitor male moth populations to determine the biofix, which is the timing of the initial emergence. This is marked by finding two moths in the trap on two consecutive nights (typically mid-late May for Helena). Usually eggs are laid a week after biofix and hatch one to two weeks after that, but it is entirely dependent on weather conditions. To optimize spraying efficacy, follow the degree days method of predicting the activity timing of the moths, outlined [here](#). (CSU publication listed below)

Continue to monitor traps for the second generation, keeping in mind hatch times may be quicker due to warmer temperatures. Pheromone traps should be replaced every four weeks.

CONTROL

Spinosad (Captain Jacks) can be applied at 10-14 day intervals during times of egg hatch.

After exiting the fruit, larvae move down the tree to the rough bark in search of a place to pupate. Corrugated cardboard, or burlap, can be wrapped around the smooth portion of trunk for the larvae to use in place of the bark or soil. Monitor frequently and manually remove larvae, or replace the band completely to cut down on adult populations.

OTHER RESOURCES

http://agresearch.montana.edu/warc/guides/apple_pest_codling_moth.html

<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/insect/05613.pdf>