



## Bottom of the seventh, the score is Holistic 2 - Conventional 0

Posted by [James Smith](#)

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[James Smith](#)

[Bottom of the seventh, the score is Holistic 2 - Conventional 0](#)

Registered: 2 years ago

Posts: 57

August 04, 2021 04:30AM

Earlier I had posted how my conventional neighbour had filed a complaint with the 'Pest Sheriff' (Pest Control Board) and I was under investigation. Even though I explained what I was doing and let him take a picture of my drum of neem, he said he had to put up a couple of traps and monitor my orchard. If CM population was acceptable at the end of the season he would sign me off. If not, we'd have "further discussions".

A couple of weeks ago I caught one of his 'Pest Deputies' in my orchard. Very nice fellow and we had a pleasant conversation. He said I didn't have any CM and was going to recommend closing the investigation, but they might monitor until the end of the season. Holistic 1 - Conventional 0.

Last night the 'Sheriff' phoned me while I was at my paying job and said he was just leaving my orchard. He said a field man for one of the packing sheds had reported my trees were filled with CM. So he personally came by and inspected. He said I had some stings in the row that runs along the road, not many, and certainly not enough to be a problem. He suggested I remove the fruits. I walked the row when I got home and got about a half of a five gallon bucket of stung fruit. Since the field man who made the complaint claimed to have seen them from the road (my property is posted 'No Trespassing', so it would be illegal for him to enter the orchard) I decided to strip the row that runs along the road.

This morning while tossing apples into the tractor bucket another 'Deputy' showed up. He brought their laptop so he could document. I told him what my practice was and he said he wished more growers would follow suit. The conversation only went uphill from there. He checked out the stings and cut into them, no worms. He said that the worm ingested the CYD-X I mixed in with the core recipe and died shortly after stinging, which is normal. He said my orchard was something to be proud of. I told him I'm a noob, and I had not expected to hit any home runs, but hoped to not strike out. Holistic 2 - Conventional 0

I must say, once I got by the intimidation factor I have found these gentlemen to be pleasant, helpful, and supportive. I welcome them into my orchard at any time.

Much more than I can say for my conventional neighbours and their field men.

Washington Okanogan Valley

Zone 6b

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[Michael Phillips](#)

[Re: Bottom of the seventh, the score is Holistic 2 - Conventional 0](#)

August 06, 2021 02:45PM

**Moderator**

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 621

Now who can resist a baseball analogy? Glad to hear your success in taming codling moth numbers has been met with reasonableness, James. I was thinking yesterday, while spraying the Summer3 app, that calling this point in the season the "bottom of the seventh" was perfect. Apples are sizing, traps are catching apple maggot flies, photosynthesis is fully engaged, and there's yet no sign of Lesser Appleworm (a codling cousin) in the calyx of any fruit I've examined. August is when stamina comes into play... and then we bring in that glorious harvest and finally get paid!

[Lost Nation Orchard](#)

Zone 4b in New Hampshire

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[Charlie Showers](#)

[Re: Bottom of the seventh, the score is Holistic 2 - Conventional 0](#)

February 03, 2022 10:29PM

Registered: 2 years ago

Posts: 18

I have to relate to your story James, I too have many nearby conventional orchardists who tell me (mostly due to long grass in my orchard) that I farm completely hands off and thus disease is rife amongst my trees. Whilst leasing an orchard block from a neighbour and trapping codling moth, the conventional orchardists asked to take a look at a codling moth in the trap as he'd never actually seen one! Fancy that spraying all sorts of neuro toxins for a generation and don't even know what the moth looks like! Whilst I am studying and plotting degree days, checking traps daily to time my bt and grandex sprays....pffft... hands off farming I don't think so!

[Black Barn Farm](#)

Zone 8b in Victoria, Australia

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[Karen Brindle](#)

[Re: Bottom of the seventh, the score is Holistic 2 - Conventional 0](#)

February 27, 2022 08:31AM

James, I enjoy reading your noob adventures and happy to hear of your success!

Registered: 9 years ago  
Posts: 103

[Vista Ridge Orchard](#)

Zone 8a in Washington

235 Cider and heritage apple trees, 72 varieties,

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[Craig Bickle](#)

[Re: Bottom of the seventh, the score is Holistic 2 - Conventional 0](#)

April 04, 2022 06:33PM

This was a great post and thread. Warms my heart to remember Michael chiming in.

Registered: 2 years ago  
Posts: 82

And reminded me, this is the strangest (and maybe best) social media site I've ever used. No upvotes, hearts, or likes, just the pleasure of going back and reading old posts.

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