



Dealing with Anthracnose in the Pacific Northwest

Posted by [Leslie Price](#)

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[Leslie Price](#)

[Dealing with Anthracnose in the Pacific Northwest](#)

Registered: 5 years ago

Posts: 20

April 28, 2020 10:11PM

In my organic blocks, for Anthracnose, ive been using the old standby Bordeaux mix. Usually 3 apps from fall to spring at 8-8-100 to 10-10-100 depending on the circumstances. Anthracnose pressure is not as high in my organic blocks mostly due to the varieties being grown there. The 2 identified Anthracnose species of major economic concern for this area favor 1 - Cox Orange Pippin type varieties and 2 - Golden Delicious type varieties.

Now my U pick block, on the other hand, with over 200 varieties of consumer popular old world varieties, is loaded with highly susceptible Anthracnose magnets. Since there has been NO research done of any real value on Anthracnose, there isn't even life cycles available, I have been left with fighting this with all kinds of trial and error chemical and mechanical measures. The pressure has been increasing since the early 2000's with sporadic devastating blooms occurring every few years depending on the weather. I use the Bordeaux mix in the U pic block also as I feel it is the only published recommended tool I have. The problem is that Bordeaux is only a preventative measure at best. It dose nothing to kill active spores during the 2 release periods in the fall and spring..... or maybe its all winter in our climate?

Last season I took the drastic measure of spraying Oxidate 5.0 from delayed dormant all through to leaf drop. I mostly sprayed at the maximum allowable rate. Even though Anthracnose isn't listed for apples on the label it is listed for other crops on the label and apples are on the label for scab and other fungi. One has to think a little outside the box when dealing with something like this. So on 4 acres, aprox 2200 trees, I made 18 applications of Oxidate at maximum rate. By the end of the year the difference was notable. The trees looked stressed, leaves a little off colored. Probably could have used a reduced rate. Also was a most notable reduction in new infections to new trees.... like almost none.

The downside of this approach, of coarse, is that it sterilizes your orchard. So this year I have fine tuned the rate of Oxide downward and have added a follow up app of beneficial fungi (Regalia) after each spray.

So really, don't follow me. I'm just fumbling around on my own in absence of leadership on the subject at this point (sort of like our country right now).

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[Karen Brindle](#)

[Re: Dealing with Anthracnose on the Pacific Northwest](#)

Registered: 9 years ago

Posts: 103

April 28, 2020 10:58PM

Thank you for posting this topic! Several years ago we received B-118 rootstock that was obviously infected with lesions. Not a great way to start an orchard, we burned them. . Right or wrong, I have been coating the lesions or even suspected ones with pure neem in winter when I prune. My unscientific theory is that the neem will disrupt the spores from spreading. So far, it seems to be stopping the lesions from growing as well but not significant healing. And, I'm not seeing new outbreaks on the trees I've done this to. It does discolor the bark. I have also tried using spot spray bottle of Cueva but it does not stay on the wood as long as the neem does. I wish we knew the lifecycle timing better to target this nasty when it is most vulnerable! Yes, fumbling indeed.

[Vista Ridge Orchard](#)

Zone 8a in Washington

235 Cider and heritage apple trees, 72 varieties,

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