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Sharing Spray Plans

Posted by [Josh Willis](#)

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[Josh Willis](#)

[Sharing Spray Plans](#)

January 06, 2023 10:32PM

Registered: 6 years ago

Posts: 134

I wanted to tentatively introduce the idea of sharing each other's spray plans on the forum as a reference, both as a way to share best practices and to know more of the context for our conversations in various forum threads.

In my mind, this could be something posted in a grower's profile, for reference. Or there could be a dedicated thread, with each person posting just post listing their spray plan, what's working, what's not, and any adjustments made throughout the year, etc.

Ideally, format would be standardized, so that we can compare apples to apples so to speak. Rates, dates, purpose, effectiveness, other nuances. With room for more qualitative descriptions, of course.

Either way, the idea would be that we might understand the bigger picture when someone posts a comment, observation, or question that is more granular.

It's a small beginning of an idea, so those are just some initial thoughts.

Of course, it may not make sense for several reasons.

-Many people's spray plans are inspired by Michael's writing and suggestions, and I'm very aware that there may be important considerations for his family so far as granting wider access to Michael's writings without buying his books or becoming a HON member and thus getting access to HON's full resources, i.e., the Secret Tattoo. I would in no way want to infringe on those things if they are a consideration.

-It could be more work than people want to do. I'm thinking of this in the less busy days of winter. I didn't log onto HON for most of the growing season!

-It also just may not be that useful to people!

Anyways, just wanted to put the thought out there to see what you all think.

Earthworks

Zone 7a in West-Central MD

Non-commercial, ~100 fruit trees, dwarf to MM106

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[Craig Bickle](#)

[Re: Sharing Spray Plans](#)

January 09, 2023 08:36PM

Registered: 2 years ago

Posts: 82

I love this idea, Josh! In fact, as I was doing my weekly check-in on posts here I had the very same idea. Now that I have a few seasons of applying holistic sprays noted on my calendar, I'd be happy to share my what, when, and why's.

But I'll too wait until others chime in with comments and any possible problems we're unaware of. Regardless, thanks for the suggestion.

Craig Bickle

Hap Woods

Zone 6a

East-Central Ohio

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[Mike Biltonen](#)

[Re: Sharing Spray Plans](#)

January 10, 2023 05:57PM

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 298

I would caution against putting too much credence in one person's spray program vs another - at least when it comes to practical applications. It'll be interesting to see what others are doing, but also dangerous to simply utilize them as recipes. Each person's situation is

different. I personally will not be sharing my "spray program" but will be chiming in on specific approaches we are taking towards one pest or situation to another. I posted earlier on PC. Another that we are diving into are borers and specifically round-headed apple borer. More to come.....I'll be interested to see what others are doing or how they choose to present/share their spray programs.

[Mike Biltonen, Know Your Roots](#)

Zone 5b in New York

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[Josh Willis](#)

[Re: Sharing Spray Plans](#)


August 30, 2023 05:17PM

Registered: 6 years ago

Posts: 134

Thanks, Craig and Mike, for your responses. I was waiting to hear from others, if they wanted, before I wrote back.

Mike, I think you bring up good concerns, of course! I agree that we should not share programs that are blindly copied and pasted. I was thinking more of a "rubric" that is a starting point for growers to understand each other's approach, and to give context to our individual posts on forum topics.

In anycase, there doesn't seem to be a groundswell of interest in this one. 

Earthworks

Zone 7a in West-Central MD

Non-commercial, ~100 fruit trees, dwarf to MM106

[Reply Quote](#)

[Mike Biltonen](#)

[Re: Sharing Spray Plans](#)

August 31, 2023 03:59PM

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 298

All I can say is that my thoughts and ideas change almost every year, though I do have a basic approach I use that could be a starting point. Rather than release that now, I will work on it this fall and winter based on my observations and experiences this year. Hopefully ready by the Roundtable, def by the beginning of next season. It would be great if others could chime in with either their spray records or thoughts on foundational approaches to spraying.

[Mike Biltonen, Know Your Roots](#)

Zone 5b in New York

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[Craig Bickle](#)

[Re: Sharing Spray Plans](#)

September 03, 2023 05:36PM

Registered: 2 years ago

Posts: 82

I'm still up for adding my own modest contributions to the dataset. Maybe next spring then?

I'm mindful of Mike's caution about producing something that comes off as too prescriptive. Everyone's situation is different and in orcharding there certainly cannot be a one-size-fits-all approach. But I've also learned from my diligent study of cider-making from every source I can get my hands on, that the multitude of approaches out there can be helpful in informing my own experiments and subsequent experience.

Personally, I still feel like a novice in the tree-health management area. But maybe my somewhat rudimentary spray plan will be in ways I can't predict helpful to others. Because I'm definitely hopeful that more info from others' practices will spark some ideas heretofore unthought by me!

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