



Sooty blotch/flyspeck

Posted by [Josh Karp](#)

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[Josh Karp](#)

[Sooty blotch/flyspeck](#)

June 22, 2018 04:48PM

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 18

I have some vars that are susceptible to summer diseases & want to start doin something about it. Not willing to spray sulfur all summer..was thinking about Regalia - this product claims to give 'induced systemic resistance' to trees so they can fight off these diseases. sooty blotch & fly speck are listed on the Regalia label as controllable diseases. Wondering if anyone's used Regalia for this purpose, and also the application timing..was thinking that since SB & FS develop gradually over many rain events, spraying before a rain would be the right approach. I wonder how long the ISR 'lasts' after a spray.

Or, does anyone have other tricks to deal with summer diseases? I've been trying to prune with airflow/drying in mind..but maybe I've just not been pruning out enough.

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 06/22/2018 04:51PM by Josh Karp.

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[Clair Kauffman](#)

[Re: Sooty blotch/flyspeck](#)

June 25, 2018 05:45PM

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 22

Last year I used Regalia to address sooty blotch and fly speck in a block of Fuji, Goldrush, and Pink Lady. I was not pleased with the results, but assume that the problem may be that I was not using a strong enough rate. I sprayed 1 qt/A approximately every 10 days during the typical season for these diseases. I think I'll increase my rate this year, unless others would advise against it as a waste of money. I'd love to hear what others have to say about this.

Clair Kauffman

Zone 6b, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

[Reply](#) [Quote](#)

[Michael Phillips](#)

[Re: Sooty blotch/flyspeck](#)

June 26, 2018 10:58PM

Moderator

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 621

Each pathogen has a strategy by which to gain access to plant tissue and thus cause infection. The "aesthetic fungi" that cause sooty blotch and flyspeck feed on the waxy plant cuticle. What we can do as growers to alter this dynamic is either apply an across-the-board toxin (like [summertime copper](#)) or help the plant create a more robust cuticle where surface niches are filled with friendly organisms. Immune phytochemistry is not directly called into play in such a scenario as the action is taking place on the fruit surface rather than within tissue. A product like Regalia may help boost tree metabolism through an induced systemic response but it's kind of a back door approach to only part of the solution. I'm not surprised by your experience, Clair, though I do wonder why these summer diseases are listed on the product label. Perhaps the extraction chemistry used to get constituents out of knotweed root (the herbal essence of Regalia) contributes an abrasive edge to knock back SBFS fungi?

[Lost Nation Orchard](#)

Zone 4b in New Hampshire

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 06/27/2018 01:50PM by Michael Phillips.

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[Clair Kauffman](#)

[Re: Sooty blotch/flyspeck](#)

June 27, 2018 03:56PM

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 22

I appreciate the feedback!

Clair Kauffman

Zone 6b, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

[Reply](#) [Quote](#)

[Peter Fisher](#)

[Re: Sooty blotch/flyspeck](#)

January 19, 2020 01:49AM

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 82

Just back from a winter retreat. An orchardist here in Iowa uses neem oil and insecticidal soap to control sooty blotch and flyspeck. Anyone else with experience using this combination?

Turkey Creek Orchard
Solon, Iowa (zone 5A)

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[Brandt Schisler](#)

[Re: Sooty blotch/flyspeck](#)

January 29, 2021 06:43AM

Registered: 5 years ago

Posts: 28

I am also interested in any feedback anyone could provide on their success against flyspeck/sooty blotch. We have had issues with it every year, especially with our Goldrush.

Brandt Schisler

Hickory Ridge Orchard

Zone 6b in Missouri

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[Peter Fisher](#)

[Re: Sooty blotch/flyspeck](#)

January 29, 2021 05:27PM

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 82

I ended up using Milstop with considerable success. Start applying it before it becomes visible on the apples.

Turkey Creek Orchard

Solon, Iowa (zone 5A)

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[Brandt Schisler](#)

[Re: Sooty blotch/flyspeck](#)

January 29, 2021 06:30PM

Registered: 5 years ago

Posts: 28

Thank you for the reply Peter. **Thoughts on the effects of potassium bicarbonate on beneficial microbes?** I am reading the label on this product and it says 2-5 lbs an acre. Is that what you found most effective for you? I was thinking if I was to use it I would use it only on my gold rush and direct spray tree canopy. Then follow up with a calcium tea and silica tea a couple days after. I tried just the calcium tea and silica tea by itself last year and still had issues. I have faith in Michael's strategies so perhaps I didn't apply enough, and for a long enough period of time, to see positive results. And perhaps it takes years to establish a healthy enough environment to see positive results as it has only been 20 months since we went completely holistic with our orchard.

Brandt Schisler

Hickory Ridge Orchard

Zone 6b in Missouri

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[Mike Biltonen](#)

[Re: Sooty blotch/flyspeck](#)

January 29, 2021 07:40PM

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 298

One thing I will add here is that infections can occur weeks/months before symptoms, and so preventing infections is critical to preventing symptoms. The post-infection pre-symptomatic sprays are effective as a surface sanitizer. Generally speaking, though, infections can't really begin until ~275 LWH (leaf wetting hours) after 90% petal fall. This can be a matter of days, weeks or even months depending on local conditions. Sprays that are timed not just to prevent expression of symptoms but prevent infections should be timed to ~275 LWH 90% pPF. You can use the NEWA site to do track this for your area using the most local weather station that's plugged into the system.

as an example: [NEWA - North Appleton NY](#)

[Sooty Blotch/Flyspeck Fact Sheet](#)

[Mike Biltonen, Know Your Roots](#)

Zone 5b in New York

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[Brandt Schisler](#)

[Re: Sooty blotch/flyspeck](#)

January 29, 2021 08:08PM

Registered: 5 years ago

Posts: 28

Mike, this is unbelievably good information. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Brandt Schisler

Hickory Ridge Orchard

Zone 6b in Missouri

[Reply](#) [Quote](#)

[Peter Fisher](#)

[Re: Sooty blotch/flyspeck](#)

January 30, 2021 07:08PM

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 82

I have been using the calcium and silica teas for a few years and like you found that this was not enough to make much of a dent in the sooty blotch and fly speck. I started spraying July 27. I did not have the benefit of Mike's information on timing so I was just guessing, based on rain events in July. I don't know about the effects on beneficial microbes but I imagine the thing to do is to follow up the Milstop with a compost tea or EM spray. I can't be much help on spray volume. We have a very small orchard, with a mix of tree sizes.

Turkey Creek Orchard

Solon, Iowa (zone 5A)

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