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## Spray timing

Posted by [Thomas Short](#)

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[Thomas Short](#)

[Spray timing](#)

April 17, 2023 10:40PM

Registered: 1 year ago

Posts: 3

I have 38 apple trees in my small orchard - virtually all unique, no repeats. As a result, they all are in different stages of growth - some near full bloom, some much much earlier.

How do those of you with many varieties manage timing in terms spraying?

I am now the proud owner of a Pak tank, so the process is much more efficient ... but looking for ideas / tips on how to manage the spray program with trees in different stages.

Thanks!

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[Mike Biltonen](#)

[Re: Spray timing](#)

April 18, 2023 02:05AM

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 298

Hi Thomas,

A few questions for you to answer so we can better help.

- what sprays are you considering? Are they specific to an insect or disease, or are they more early season FAK sprays?

- how far apart are the trees phenologically? Days, weeks, ? I know you gave us the stages, but with this year's heat sometimes they'll move quickly in a matter of days.

[Mike Biltonen, Know Your Roots](#)

Zone 5b in New York

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[Craig Bickle](#)

[Re: Spray timing](#)

April 18, 2023 02:34PM

Registered: 2 years ago

Posts: 82

I just do my best to time things out, Thomas. One of my trees, a Zabergau, is always earlier than the rest. It's now in full bloom. Meanwhile, my 3 Dabinetts are just beginning to break bud.

But I did manage to get in the first two "Holistic Sprays of Spring" while the flowers were still closed on every tree. Now I'm contemplating a "Competitive Colonization Boost" when most trees are in full flower and pollinators have had some time to get a head start. This is happening now. So depending on the forecast (dodging the risk of a downpour), I'll likely be spraying by this weekend. And maybe I'll hit the Dabinetts with a CCB spray when they are in flower several weeks from now.

So the timing isn't easy. And I'm currently not dealing with any disease or pest concerns. But the conundrum I find is whether to ease back on the spraying because everything in the orchard looks healthy but risk the chance to prevent a problem I can't see coming before it arrives.

So again, I just do my best. I'm sure it's tricky for all of us.

Craig Bickle

Hap Woods

Zone 6a

East-Central Ohio

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[Thomas Short](#)

[Re: Spray timing](#)

April 18, 2023 06:04PM

Registered: 1 year ago

Posts: 3

Thanks guys!

I am primarily focused on the holistic sprays right now (I always try to get all 4 but almost never due with work, weather, etc - timing is

tough. Having the pak tank and being able to do everything in one load will help greatly).

Craig - what do you use for the CCB?

It is hard for me to tell how far apart they are in terms of time/days; a couple have already bloomed fully and have started to drop petals while some have just barely hit 1/4-1/2" green. We had cold weather here the last couple of days, that may slow things down.

I will try to edit my sig line - I am in central IN, Zone 6a

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[Craig Bickle](#)

[Re: Spray timing](#)

April 18, 2023 08:38PM

Registered: 2 years ago

Posts: 82

Here's the "Competitive Colonization Boost," gleaned for a backpack sprayer quantity from the spray schedule behind the "Secret Tattoo"...

Per backpack tank:

1.33 ounces (40 mL) Karanja oil

20.5 ounces activated effective microbes

.5 (dried) ounce seaweed extract

.66 ounces (20 mL) un sulphured molasses

Above ingredients mixed into enough water to make 4 gallons. I also have about 40 trees, so I can mix enough 4 gallon batches to spray them all with a reasonable amount of effort. Last year, it took 3 tanks. This year, it's taking closer to 4.

I think the idea of the smaller number and amounts of spray inputs is to not damage or interrupt the fertilization stage of the apple development. But rather to colonize with E.M. the flower points which create open disease pathways to the tree's more vulnerable tissues.

Craig Bickle

Hap Woods

Zone 6a

East-Central Ohio

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