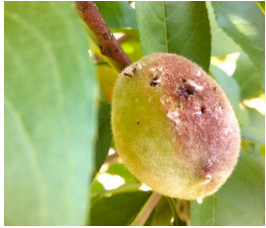




ORIENTAL FRUIT MOTH



The Oriental Fruit Moth (*Grapholita molesta*), also known as OFM or Peach Tip Moth, affects many stone and pome fruits and can cause significant injury to the crop. OFM overwinter as cocooned larva in crevices of tree bark or on the ground. Adult moths are small and gray, emerging around the time that peaches bloom to feed and mate. Females lay 200 eggs on leaves at the tips of branches, usually during the month of May. The first generation of OFM lay eggs on leaves, with hatched larvae boring into young shoot tips and cause wilting known as “flagging”. The next 3-4 generations are produced throughout the summer and into September and October. Later generations feed on developing fruit, with the most common sign being a clear jelly emerging from their entry holes. In many seasons, OFM has been reported by POP partner sites as the number one pest impact on fruit yield.

Month	Tasks	Observations & Dates Completed
Mar - Apr	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hang mating disrupting bands on upper third portion of the tree canopy. Two per tree. Wear gloves. 2. Hang pheromone and sticky traps to monitor moth populations and inform timing of pest management applications such as sprays or mating disruptors. Check traps twice a week. Record findings and clean out once a week. Place 1 trap per 5 acres. 3. If available, bring chickens or ducks through the area for several days to prey on overwintering cocooned OFM. 4. Apply neem oil and/or dormant oil before bud break to smother eggs and reduce overwintering pests. Every 10 days. 5. Consider planting Umbel flowers like fennel, dill, coriander to attract parasitic wasps that prey on OFM. 6. During weekly checks, look for signs of "flagging" on branch tips. Young shoot tips will have a noticeable change in color (usually ranging from yellow to brown), will be wilted and even have dieback. Check inside shoot tips to confirm presence of larvae. Prune out flagged branches and remove them from the orchard. 7. If OFM has been a serious problem in the past, consider applying BT or neem oil every 7-10 days after hatch begins and/or flagging is noted. 	



Month	Tasks	Observations & Dates Completed
May - Jun	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thin fruit sets of peaches, plums and apricots. Peaches should be thinned 8" apart (4" if you have squirrel-friends!), apples and pears to 5", and plums and apricots to 3" apart. For more on thinning, check out the POP blog. 2. While thinning, be on the lookout for any damaged fruit with signs of entry, usually with clear jelly oozing. Remove and dispose of it immediately. 3. Continue emergency pruning of flagged branch tips and removing any dropped or damaged fruit. 4. If persistent pest issue continues, consider a Bt or neem oil spray application every 7-10 day as issue persists. 5. Consider beneficial insect release of trichogramma wasp and/or lacewings in the orchard. 	
Jul - Sep	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If persistent pest issue continues, consider a Bt or neem oil spray application every 7-10 day as issue persists. 2. Continue removing any dropped or damaged fruit. 	
Oct - Dec	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove any dropped, mummified fruit on orchard floor or remaining on trees. 2. Remove any disruptor bands placed on trees. 	

Resources Used:

[Monthly Orchard Task List](#) — [Oriental Fruit Moth Alert](#) — [Pheromone Mating Disruptors for Orchard Pests](#)
[BT Orchard Sprays](#) — [Tree Fruit Insect Pest: Oriental Fruit Moth \(Penn State Extension\)](#)