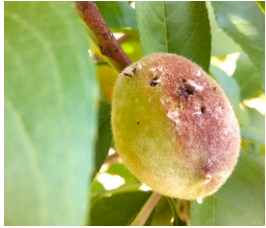




ORIENTAL FRUIT MOTH



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. Adult moths are small and gray and larvae are about 0.5 inches long and appear white with a black head before gradually turning pink with a brown head. The first generation of OFM cause damage when they bore into young shoot tips and cause wilting known as “flagging”. Successive 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
Jan - Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove and destroy any remaining fruit "mummies" on tree or on orchard floor to reduce sites for overwintering. 	
Mar - Apr	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Apply neem oil and/or dormant oil before bud break to smother eggs and reduce overwintering pests. Every 10 days. Using a garden tool such as a hoe, cultivate soil under tree up to 4 inches to kill overwintering larva. (This is also a good time to run any avian allies such as chickens or ducks through the orchard for pest control!) 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. Consider planting Umbel flowers like fennel, dill, coriander to attract parasitic wasps that prey on OFM. If desired, apply mating disrupting spray or hang mating disruptor bands on sturdy branch on upper third portion of the tree canopy. You can read more about pheromone mating disruptors on the POP Website. 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. 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 \(Penn State Extension\)](#)