

Apple: Codling moth



Use IPM (Integrated Pest Management) for successful plant problem management.

Biology

The gray wings of adult codling moths are marked with dark brown bands near the wingtips. Wingspan is 1/2" to 3/4". Adult females lay eggs on leaves or fruit. The larvae burrow into fruits, usually through the blossom end, where they eat the core and seeds. The fruit appears dirty brown or rotted in the center when cut open. Mature larvae are cream-colored to pinkish-white with brown heads and about 3/4" long. The larvae tunnel out of the fruit and make cocoons under bark or in the ground beneath the tree. They overwinter in the cocoons and pupate in the spring. Adults typically emerge around May-June. There can be two generations per year.

Management Options

Select Non-chemical Management Options as Your First Choice!!

- Pheromone-baited traps can be used to reduce populations of male moths.
- Remove brush, debris, and culled fruit from orchards.
- Remove loose bark to eliminate possible hiding places for cocoons.
- Some naturally-occurring parasites may help control codling moth populations. Avoid use of broad-spectrum insecticides which may kill beneficial insects.
- Wrap trunk with corrugated cardboard or burlap to trap migrating larvae. Periodic removal of these tree wraps to destroy cocooning larvae can help a lot.



More information on using pesticides....

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Apply about 10 days after full petal fall (all petals are off) or 17 to 21 days after full bloom. Follow label directions. Esfenvalerate, carbaryl and malathion are toxic to bees. Do not apply products containing these ingredients on or near blooming plants. To minimize risk to bees, apply in the evening after bees have stopped foraging for the day.

If you choose to use a pesticide, some examples of products that are legal in Washington are listed below.

Always read and follow all label directions.

- Bonide Complete Fruit Tree Spray
- Eliminator Ant, Flea & Tick Killer II Conc
- Eliminator Ant, Flea & Tick Killer II R-T-Spray
- Ortho BugBGon Max Lawn & Garden Insect Killer RTS
- Surround At Home Crop Protectant
- This list may not include all products registered for this use.