



Skagit County Government

Horticultural Pest Board
Doug Karr, Coordinator

HOW TO USE APPLE MAGGOT TRAPS

Detection

The most effective method of detecting apple maggot flies is with a yellow rectangular sticky trap and lure (bait). These traps are available through seed supply catalogs or other gardening supply companies. They are also available through the Skagit County Horticultural Pest Control Coordinator, 11768 Westar Lane, Suite A Burlington, WA 98233.

Use of traps can tell you whether or not you have apple maggots in your tree. If you catch a fly that looks like an apple maggot, remove the fly very carefully and take it to the Pest Control Coordinator for identification. Careful removal, without damaging the insect, is very important for accurate diagnosis. The snowberry maggot has a wing pattern exactly like the apple maggot; therefore, microscopic examination is necessary to distinguish between the two.

If the fly is diagnosed as an apple maggot, control measures should be started immediately (refer to Extension fact sheet: "Help Save Skagit Apples"). Insecticide sprays should be repeated at least every two weeks through September. There is no need to spray unless you have found an apple maggot.

Continue monitoring with the yellow trap throughout the summer. Yellow sticky traps and lures need to be replaced every 2 weeks.

Trap placement

Traps should be hung during the last week in June. One trap per tree should be placed in apples, crabapples, or hawthorn. Early maturing apple cultivars such as Transparent and Gravenstein are particularly attractive to flies.

Hang apple maggot traps on the south side of trees where fruit will appear. Place them about five or six feet off the ground, in the outer third of the tree canopy. Traps hung below the fruit-producing zone or hidden deep in the interior of the tree are of little value (Fig. 1). Position traps with their edges toward the trunk of the tree (Fig. 2), allowing maximum exposure of their broad surfaces within the canopy. Trim back foliage and fruit within 12 inches of the trap, but allow as much foliage and fruit as possible beyond this distance (Fig. 3). Tightly secure traps to branches so they do not swing in the wind (Fig. 4).

Skagit County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board

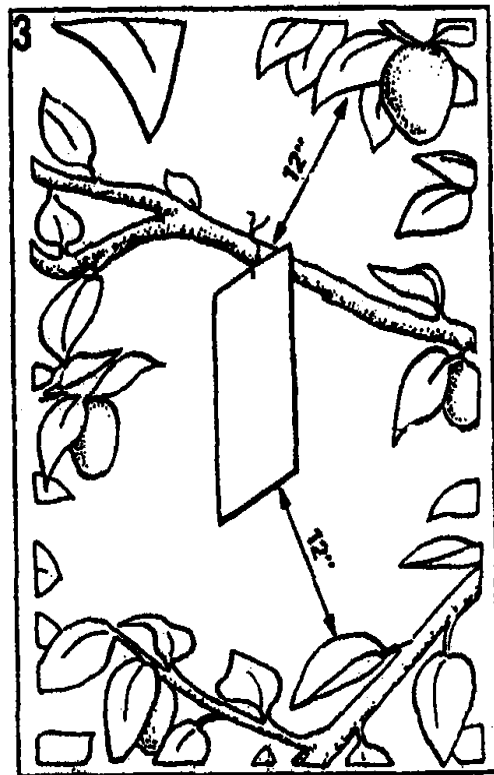
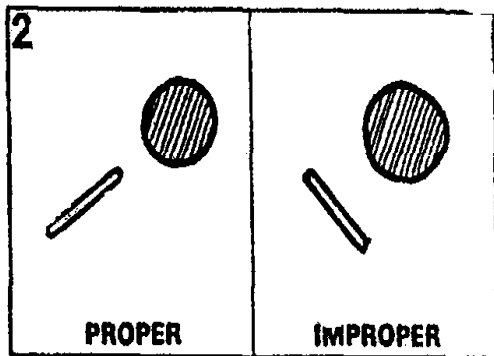
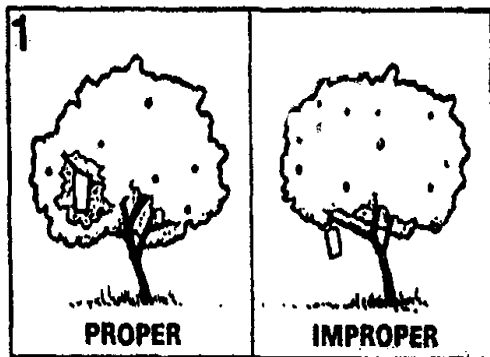
11768 Westar Lane, Suite A, WA 98233 Phone (360) 428-4270 Fax (360)428-4263

Control

The yellow card traps are best used for monitoring for apple maggot.

For questions about apple maggot, contact the Skagit County Horticultural Pest Control Coordinator, 360/428-4270 or 360/708-2362 (cell).

*Prepared by Skagit County Horticultural
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