

# Moth Mania 2



Select lepidopteran pests  
in red raspberry and  
blueberry

Beverly Gerdeman, G. Hollis Spitler  
and Charles Coslor  
WSU NWREC  
Mount Vernon, WA 98221



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
 MOUNT VERNON  
NORTHWESTERN WASHINGTON RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER

# Problem Background

- OBLR can cause both direct damage to blueberries.
- Increasing grower reports of OBLR contaminants 2017 - 2019.
- Reports of difficulty or inability to control leafrollers 2019.



# Leafrollers and Fruitworms

## Export Concern

- Quarantine pests for S. Korea
- EU is changing guidelines on fruitworm with possible further restrictions.



# Leafrollers and Other Direct Pests and Harvest Contaminants of Red Raspberry and Blueberry

## Tortricidae

Orange Tortrix (*Argyrotaenia franciscana*) – caneberries, blueberry

Obliquebanded Leafroller (*Choristoneura rosaceana*) - caneberries, blueberry

Cherry Fruitworm (*Grapholita packardii*) - blueberry

## Noctuidae

Spotted Cutworm (*Xestia c-nigrum*) – caneberries (occasionally blueberry)

Winter cutworm (*Noctua pronuba*) – caneberries (occasionally blueberry)

# Primary Leafrollers

## Skagit and Whatcom Counties



Obliquebanded Leafroller  
*Choristoneura rosaceana*



Orange Tortrix  
*Argyrotaenia franciscana*



# Leafroller Life Cycle

Eggs hatch and larvae overwinter in cracks, crevices and debris.



Overwintering larvae emerge & feed on buds and new leaves.

Larvae pupate in the leaves and adults emerge ~late April – May



Adults lay overlapping greenish eggs on upper surface of leaves.



Fall & Winter

Spring & Summer

Summer generation pupates and lays eggs.



Summer generation can directly damage berries and are harvest contaminants.



# Tortricid Damage to Blueberries



Monitoring – visual damage  
Use OT and OBLR pheromone traps



Scout for worms at bud break  
~Mid-March 'Duke'



# Tortricid Harvest Contaminants





# Leafrollers in Red Raspberry

Most larvae emerged 2-3 weeks after  
first bud swell

April

Prebloom spray  
protects pollinators.





## OT and OBLR in raspberry

- Direct berry damage possible
- Harvest contaminant

Monitor new growth for web nests

Utilize pheromone traps



# Leafroller Management



OBLR



OT



## Eggs and Larvae

Treated with IGR (e.g. Confirm, Esteem, Intrepid) *check registrations and MRLs*  
Affect larvae feeding on eggshells

## Larvae

Spinosad shows similar results to pre-bloom OP  
Bt - ~3 applications in a very specific window.  
Daily max temps above 60 - 65F

Newer reduced risk insecticides show good efficacy against larvae  
(e.g. Delegate, Altacor) *check registrations and MRLs*



Ops- azinphos-methyl, chlorpyrifos  
Pyrethroids – cypermethrin, deltamethrin, esfenvalerate  
indoxacarb, IGRs - methoxyfenozide, tebufenozide, phosalone

indoxacarb, IGRs - methoxyfenozide, tebufenozide, phosalone



Requesting funding in 2020 to mass rear OBLR and perform Resistance Bioassays

# 2019 OBLR Mating Disruption Field Trial in Blueberry



## Treatment

- Lures – 200/acre for 26 acres
- Traps – perimeter and interior
- 2 Controls



Pheromones twist-tied to blueberry branches.

Isomate OBLR/PLR Plus label  
Registered for conventional and organic use.



# OBLR Mating Disruption in Blueberry - Evaluation



## Visual Observations

- Count leafrolls
- leaf feeding damage
- Egg masses
- Pupae/pupal cases

## Pheromone Traps

- Treated - 10 interior, 10 perimeter
- UTC - 5 interior, 5 perimeter

## Virgin Moths

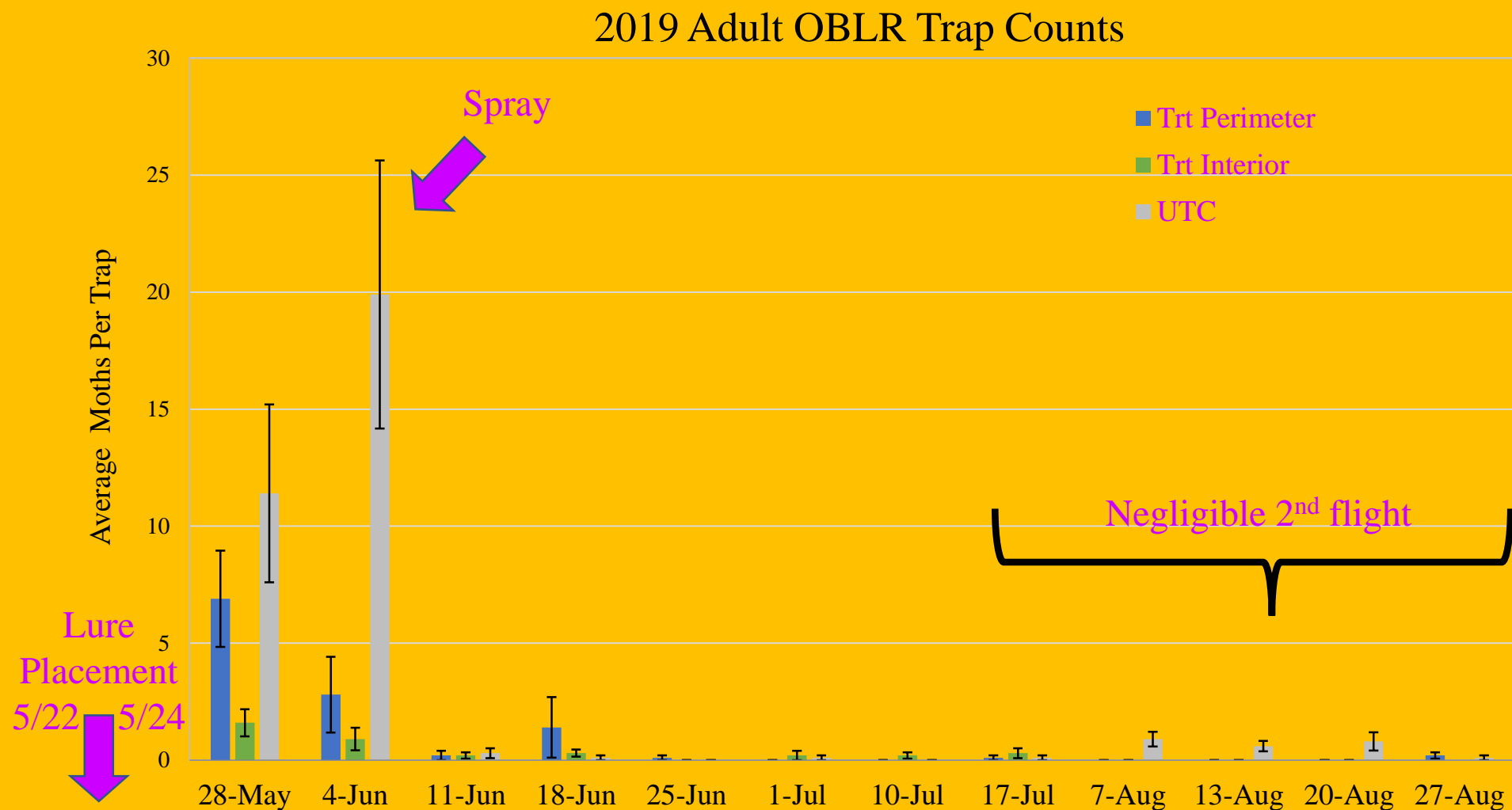
- Set out virgin moths reared from field-collected pupae.
- Collect moths 3 days later and dissect for presence of spermatophore in females.

## Harvest

- Ride the harvester
- Observe worms/pupae/webbed berries on the belt



# OBLR Mating Disruption in Blueberry - Results



# Summary - 2019

## Mating Disruption

- Achieved trap shut down in the interior traps.
- Moths in the perimeter traps were higher (statistically significant) than interior.
- No worms found in treated field or on harvester following lure application unlike UTC
- Second generation flight negligible.

# OBLR Mating Disruption - PROS

1. Compatible with beneficials
2. One-time application, Season-long treatment (200/acre)
3. Could add an additional IPM tactic for managing OBLR
4. No Resistance
5. Acceptable management tool for leafrollers in other crops

# Mating Disruption – CONS

1. Hand applied
2. Costly?
3. Supplemental - not stand-alone management tool
4. OBLR strong flier
5. OBLR – high fecundity



# OBLR Mating Disruption Future Direction

1. Pacific Biocontrol has provided prototype puffers at rate 1/acre
2. Straight chain pheromones are EUP exempt up to 250 acres.
3. Release pheromone puffs at 15 minute intervals 5pm - 4am.

## Mating Disruption – Questions

1. Puffers - not a machine harvest concern in tree fruit.
2. Require removal prior to harvesting and replaced afterwards?
3. With industry commitment, prototypes anticipated for trial in 2021.

# Cherry Fruitworm Life Cycle – only pest of Blueberry

Single eggs laid in/near calyx.  
Mid-May to early June  
Bc Ministry of Ag



Pupation – following May. Adults  
emerge late May - early June. Peak mid-  
June. Remain until mid-late July

Overwinter on host bushes. In cherry bore into  
pruning stubs and plug entrance with silk.

Single CFW generation in  
blueberry

Young larvae  
white with black head  
bore into fruit – 3 weeks



Mid – late July – mature larvae exit hole  
and search for overwintering site.

Mature larvae - pink with brown head



# Cherry Fruitworm Damage



Premature ripening



Berries fill with frass – doesn't web berries unlike cranberry fruitworm



Larvae travel between touching berries



# Managing and Monitoring Cherry Fruitworm

Weedy, un-kept fields –  
prone to CFW



Search for CFW larvae at  
petal fall

**Use - False codling moth, *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* lures not CFW lures.**

In BC – sprays recommended around June 10.  
Cranberry Fruitworm – so far only damage to cranberries in BC



# Cutworms

Noctuidae

*Xestia c-nigrum* – Spotted cutworm

*Noctua pronuba* – Winter cutworm

Primarily – harvest contaminant

Reports for red raspberry only



*Xestia c-nigrum*



*Noctua pronuba*



# Cutworm damage

Look for Foliar feeding damage low to ground





# Spotted Cutworm - *Xestia c-nigrum*



Cutworms – greater problem in fields with sod or mulch than clean culture

Overwinter – eggs, larvae\*, pupae, adults

\* Most destructive – feed and damage buds



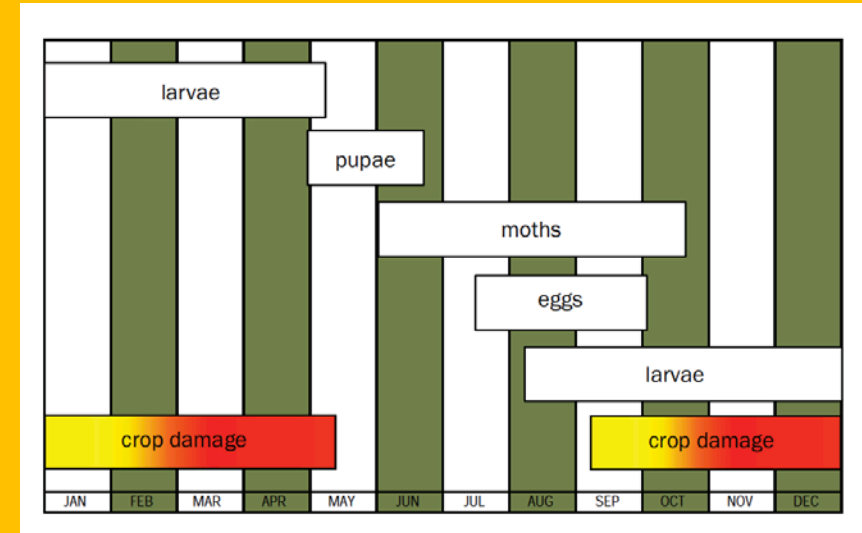
© Dick Wilson



# Winter cutworm – *Noctua pronuba*



Dashed black lines on dorsum



Red and yellow  
peak larval damage

*U. Idaho - extension*

Possess bright yellow underwings

Larvae actively feed during winter months – can damage spring buds

# Thank You

This work is/was supported by the USDA National Institute of  
Food and Agriculture Project WNP00543  
Washington Blueberry Commission  
Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration  
Don Thomson and Pacific Biocontrol

Application of a pesticide to a crop or site that is not on the label is a violation of pesticide law and may subject the applicator to civil penalties up to \$7,500. In addition, such an application may also result in illegal residues that could subject the crop to seizure or embargo action by WSDA and/or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. It is your responsibility to check the label before using the product to ensure lawful use and obtain all necessary permits in advance.