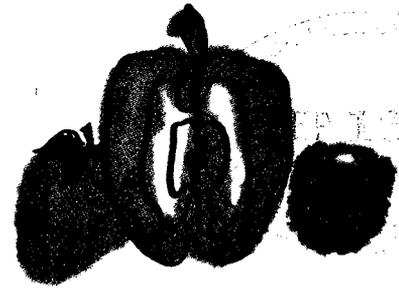


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# FRUIT GROWERS' LETTER



By Leonard B. Hertz, Extension Horticulturist

September 1969

## STOP-DROP SPRAYS FOR APPLES

With apple harvesting in full swing, every grower should utilize "stop-drop sprays" early to avoid early drop. Two chemicals are presently available. These are 2, 4, 5-TP and NAA. The longer lasting 2, 4, 5-TP is generally suggested if it will take a longer period of time to pick a large crop. NAA on the other hand is effective for a relatively short time, usually not more than 2 weeks.

In Minnesota, the maximum strength for using 2, 4, 5-TP is 20 p. p. m. ; 10 p. p. m. are recommended for Golden Delicious and Delicious. Apply 2, 4, 5-TP 2 or 3 weeks prior to the expected harvesting date. It should have an effective action for about 4 weeks.

NAA can be applied 4 to 5 days before dropping to begin. On late maturing varieties, 15 to 20 p. p. m. may be needed.

Remember, fruit maturity may be hastened by stop-drop sprays, but never delayed. For additional information, obtain Special Report 6, "Weed, Insect, and Disease Control Guide for Commercial Fruit Growers," by writing the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

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## SUMMER ORCHARD TOUR

On Friday, August 8, members of the Minnesota Fruit Growers Association and the Wisconsin Apple and Horticultural Council toured the Peninsula Experiment Station, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. This station is in the heart of Wisconsin's apple and cherry industry, and research is fruit oriented.

Research in progress included weed control under apple trees. Four herbicide treatments were observed, Casaron, Simazine, Karmex, and Terbacil. Early season weed control with all treatments appeared excellent, but at this date only Simazine and Casaron were still giving adequate control.

Dr. Charles Koval discussed the spray program on apples for insect and mite control. He particularly encouraged the growers to use Superior Oils during "delayed dormancy" for mite control. It was interesting to note that a block of apple trees which had not received miticides or insecticides for several years were basically free of mites, although moderate numbers of Curculio were evident. It has, of course, been known for some time that most insecticides control the mite predators as well as injurious insects. Unfortunately if the insecticides are removed from the spray program the number of predators as well as injurious insects increases rapidly. Additional research is certainly needed in the area, to develop spray programs which will have only minimal affect on insect and mite predators.

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in the afternoon, with the help of Dr. Frank Gilbert, Station Superintendent, we observed apple varieties, including Minnesota's recent introduction Honeygold and Wisconsin's recent release, Viking. Although neither variety was as yet mature, their yield and fruit quality appeared to be good.

Those Minnesota fruit growers who attended the summer orchard tour felt that it was a huge success. The "Wisconsin people" are to be complimented on a job well done.

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### AERIAL APPLICATION OF FUNGICIDES

With increasing costs of disease control in commercial apple orchards, a recent report from the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, New York should be noted. Research workers there have reported that aerial applications of a number of standard fungicides at very high concentrations but very low dosages (2-5 gal. per acre) provided satisfactory commercial control of apple scab in growers' orchards. Maneb, Captan, and Cyrex were equally satisfactory under environmental conditions that were highly favorable for disease development. Applications with fixed-wing aircraft were slightly superior to those made with a helicopter.

In addition, New York has recently released for grower trial two apple selections with resistance to the apple scab disease and to mildew.

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### FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

The 1969 Minnesota State Fair has ended for another season. Although attendance was somewhat below expectations, the fair as a whole was a success. The weather and the fine displays and exhibits were generously received by the majority of people who visited this annual event.

As in past years, segments of Minnesota's apple industry participated in exhibits concerning this important part of fruit production. Mr. Mike Zins, fruit wing superintendent, Horticulture Department staff, and a limited number of fruit growers should be complimented for their diligent effort to make the "fruit wing" a success.

It is however, unfortunate that participation by all apple growers could not be realized. Considering their need and desire to promote Minnesota apples for Minnesota consumers, grower involvement in this event was certainly minimal (some exceptions were evident). Is this promotional effort at the fair worth dollars and cents to Minnesota growers? I feel that it is and others agree with me. Finally, how long can we maintain the "fruit wing" if the industries involvement remains status quo?

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Trade names are sometimes used in this publication to clearly describe products. The use of a trade name does not imply endorsement by the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service, nor does omission of other trade names imply nonapproval.

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