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YARD 'N' GARDEN



EXTENSION
HORTICULTURISTS

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THE APPLE MAGGOT

To control apple maggots, all foliage and fruit surfaces must be covered with a suitable insecticide from the time the maggot flies emerge until they're no longer present in the orchard.

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The maggot flies lay their eggs during July and August. In early stages of injury, it's necessary to cut the apple open to see the maggot tunnels. In later stages you can see the brown tunnels through the apple skin. Affected apples usually break down completely in storage and should be used at once.

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During the first 2 weeks in July, listen to farm radio programs and watch your local newspapers for announcements that flies have started to emerge. Or, contact your county agricultural agent.

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A thorough spray program helps control the apple maggot. You must kill the fly before the eggs are laid. Use either Diazinon or Sevin, applied at 7 to 10 day intervals. Early maturing varieties need a minimum of four sprayings. Five to eight sprayings may be required for late varieties.

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In addition to a complete spray program, good orchard sanitation and prompt destruction of all dropped apples help control the apple maggot. Keep weeds and brush controlled to reduce the number of places where flies rest and find protection.

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