

Oblique-Banded Leaf Roller (OBLR)

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OBLR has become an occasional pest in some almond and stonefruit orchards. Last year we conducted a trial in an almond orchard to determine the best materials and treatment timing. We tested dormant applications of Pounce[®] (a pyrethroid), Supracide[®] (an organophosphate), Success[®], and oil alone. In March, we tested petal fall applications of Success[®], Bt and Confirm[®]. An April spray of Success[®] was also tested. All materials were applied with a commercial air-blast spray rig in 100 gallons per acre.

Results showed that all materials significantly reduced OBLR. **The petal fall timing (early March) was the best, no matter which material was used.** Dormant sprays reduced OBLR, but petal fall sprays were better. Materials such as Success[®], Confirm[®] or Bt can be included in a grower's regularly scheduled fungicide spray to control OBLR and Peach Twig Borer. This should fit very well into normal cultural practices as more and more growers move away from dormant applied insecticides. In addition, waiting until spring to spray allows the grower an opportunity to scout an orchard for OBLR larvae during bloom to determine if treatment is warranted.