

Survival of the Brown Rot Fungus in Prune Mummies

(ONFIT) was used to determine the proportion of latent infection of brown rot in harvested fruit. The percentage of fruit with latent infection in 2000 was about 1%.

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NIC report bm rot

An experiment was conducted in the prune orchard at Nickels Farm. In October 1999, we selected a tree in the orchard and placed about 200 prune mummies under this tree halfway buried in the soil. Prior to placing in the field, the mummies were infected by *Monilinia fructicola*, the causal pathogen of brown rot. In order to determine the proportion of mummies in which the pathogen survived, 30 mummies were collected every 3 weeks from October 1999 through March 2000, surface-sterilized, and 5 flesh pieces per mummy were used to isolate *M. fructicola* on acidified PDA medium. This prune orchard in the Nickels Farm is one of the ten locations where we conducted similar experiments.

In general, *M. fructicola* populations declined in mummies from soil over the winter (less than 10% of mummies had alive *M. fructicola* after February) and showed similar trends in all orchards used. In July 2000, we randomly collected about 300 fresh fruit from trees surrounding the tree under which mummies were placed the previous winter. The fruit were brought to the laboratory and an Over-Night Freezing Incubation Technique

