

EVALUATION OF BACILLUS THURINGIENSIS VAR. KURSTAKI
FOR THE CONTROL OF THE OVERWINTERING GENERATION OF
PEACH TWIG BORER

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OBJECTIVES:

To evaluate *Bacillus Thuringiensis* (B.T) for the control of peach twig borer.

PROCEDURE:

Trial 1: On 72 pairs of trees, compare the treatment of 3 lbs/A of B.T. applied 3 times (petal fall, 1 week later, two weeks later) against untreated trees for the incidence of shoot strikes in three year old French Prunes. Shoot strikes evaluated two weeks after last treatment.

Trial 2: On 15 trees, compare 1 1/2 lbs/A B.T. 3 lbs/A B.T. each applied 3 times (petal fall, one week later, and two weeks later), Dormant Parathion and oil, and untreated trees for the incidence of shoot strikes in two and three year old French Prunes. Shoot strikes evaluated two weeks after last treatment.

RESULTS:

Trial 1; B.T. significantly reduced the number of shoot strikes per tree, cutting the number in half as compared to the untreated trees (see Table).

Trial 2; Both rates of B.T. and the dormant O.P. controlled peach twig borer. The incidence of shoot strikes was significantly lower than the untreated check (see Table).

CONCLUSION:

B.T. shows promise as an organic method of controlling peach twig borers. More work is needed on precise treatment timing, rates of material and the need for multiple applications.

Treatment	Peach Twig Borer Strikes per Tree
Trial 1: B.T.-3X, 3lbs/A	.4 a
Untreated	.8 b
Trial 2: B.T.-3X, 1 1/2lbs/A	.07 A
B.T.-3X, 3lbs/A	.07 A
Dormant Parathion & Oil-1X	.07 A
Untreated	.40 B