

winter moth update April 23, 2019

Winter moth eggs started hatching around April many hatched until we received warm weather. By Friday, April 19, about half of eggs monitored in Charlestown, RI had hatched and two days later of eggs had hatched. Things really sped up once temperatures occurred. Now and for the next weeks is a good time to look for winter moth. I've looked in several apple orchards and plantings over the last two days and the only found needing an insecticide spray are URI's and blueberry bushes at East Farm in Kingston. Inside 10 apple flower clusters, every cluster had frass (insect poop) and I found a total of 16 caterpillars. The blueberries were not nearly as infested, finding only 3 out of 10 flower clusters with frass. Since we are over a threshold of 10% infested flower clusters, we are going to spray later this week with a Bt insecticide such as DiPel. About 7-10 days after spraying I'll reassess the population to see if a second spray is needed. Below are pictures that may help you check your apple and blueberry buds. Using a magnifying glass is helpful!



10. Not last week. in about 95% warm couple of caterpillars. blueberry plants I apple trees



Fig 1. Apple bud at tight cluster bud stage.

Fig 2. Peeled tight cluster bud showing black specks of caterpillar frass.





Fig 3. Apple buds with lots of winter moth damage.

Blueberry buds are more difficult to check than apple buds.

Fig 5. Blueberry flower buds.



Fig 6. Peeled blueberry bud with a little bit of frass inside.

