

Preventing Ripe Fruit Rot in Peaches

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The pouring rain we experienced on June 28th prompted me to send out this email on preventing ripe fruit rot. These heavy rains lasted for more than 8 hrs at 65°F – more than enough time to allow for germination of conidia of fruit rot pathogens and penetration of their germ tubes (i.e., hyphae) into fruit! With this unusually late, heavy rainfall for June coupled with May's rainfall, you are probably not asking yourself if I should spray, but rather, when, how often, and what fungicides should I use to prevent ripe fruit rot in peaches this season.

When to Spray

Since we had cool weather 30 days after bloom, we are predicting harvest to start later than normal and even a couple days later than in 2010, another late harvest year. The Loadel variety could still be three weeks or more from harvest. Peach fruit become more susceptible to infection by the fruit rot fungi *Monilinia* and *Botrytis* once color break has occurred. However, with all the rainfall this season, quiescent or latent infections may have occurred on uninjured green fruit which will develop into rot as the fruit ripens. We are recommending that peach growers plan to spray at least one and probably two preharvest fungicide applications on **all** varieties this summer to prevent rot as fruit ripen.



Some of you applied fungicides before the rain on Tuesday. You will want to monitor your orchard for green rot infections and be prepared to spray again two weeks before harvest if necessary.

Those who have not yet applied a fungicide should plan to do so within the next few days on Loadels if harvest is within three weeks. For later ripening varieties, plan on applying the first treatment 2-3 weeks before harvest unless you find green rot now. If you find green rot, apply a fungicide as soon as possible. Scout your orchards for infection after application keeping in mind that sprays will not protect injured fruit that are also more susceptible. If it is really humid or we have rain again, another spray one week before harvest may become necessary. Many of the DMI fungicides have 14 days of coverage. Make sure to check the preharvest interval and with the canner before application in case they have further restrictions on the fungicides you select.

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Fungicides to Use

A summary of fungicides registered in California for managing brown rot of peach fruit is shown in Table 1. If you are planning two to three applications be sure to rotate between fungicide FRAC groups.

Table 1. Efficacy ratings of fungicides for managing brown rot of peach fruit.

Fungicide	Resistance Risk (FRAC#) ¹	Post-Infection Activity	Brown rot Fruit
Bumper/Tilt	high (3)	++++	++++
Elite/Orius/Tebuzol	high (3)	++++	++++
Indar	high (3)	++++	++++
Quash	high (3)	++++	++++
Adament	medium (3/11)	++++	+++
Inspire Super	high (3/9)	++++	++++
Pristine	medium (7/11)	+	++++
Quadris Top	medium (3/11)	++++	++++
Quilt Xcel	medium (3/11)	++++	++++
Scala ³	high (9)	+++	+++ ³
Vanguard ³	high (9)	+++	+++ ³

Rating: +++++ = excellent and consistent, +++ = good and reliable, ++ = moderate and variable, + = limited and/or erratic,

¹ – FRAC or Fungicide Resistance Action Committee code numbers representing distinct modes of action.

² – Pristine is primarily a contact fungicide and should be used to prevent disease or before infection periods.

³ - AP fungicide (FRAC Group 9) is less effective under high summer temperatures and humidity.

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