WALNUT BLIGHT CONTROL STUDIES

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A Bordeaux rate trial was conducted on Ashley walnuts in an effort to continue gathering information on optimum Bordeaux rates, compare Bordeaux rates with some standard fixed coppers and to evaluate different spray schedules.

Bordeaux rates applied at 2 week intervals containing a minimum of 16 lbs. copper and 10 pounds of lime per acre resulted in statistically significantly less blight (37% blight) than treatments containing less copper and lime. There was no statistically significant increase in protection from using rates higher than 16 lbs. copper on 10 lbs. lime/acre. However, doubling the rate to 32 lbs. copper and 20 lbs. lime resulted in fewer blighted nuts in this trial (28% blight).

At full label rates the fixed copper: Copper Count N and Kocide were equal to a Bordeaux rate of 16 lbs. copper and 10 lbs. lime applied per acre. A half rate of Kocide (52% blight) was statistically equal to a 12 lb. copper, 7.5 lb. lime Bordeaux rate (48% blight).

Spraying on a fixed 2 week schedule (37% blight) was statistically equal to spraying on a 2 week schedule + after each rain (31% blight). The 2 week schedule had 5 sprays while the 2 week schedule + after rain had 9 sprays.

The best treatment in this trial was spraying every week for a total of 10 sprays from catkin elongation through early nut stage (May 17) with a 16 lb. copper and 10 lb. lime rate of Bordeaux per acre (18% blight). This was statistically significant from all other treatments.

The untreated check in this trial averaged 81% blight.