CONTROL OF PLUM POCKET DISEASE IN NOVA SCOTIA

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The disease known as plum pockets, bladder plums or mock plums, caused by the fungus Taphrina communis* (Sadeb.) Giesenh., occurs each year in Nova Scotia on Japanese varieties of plum, Prunus salicina Lindl. It is occasionally found on varieties of P. domestica L. Plum pockets are also found on the wild hosts, P. pensylvanica L.f. and P. virginiana L., but on these hosts are caused by T. cerasi (Fckl.) Sadeb. and T. confusa (Atk.) Giesenh., respectively.

The standard recommendation for the control of plum pockets has been a dormant application of Bordeaux. As an orchard fungicide this material has been largely displaced by the more easily handled organic materials.

Over a three-year period single tree plots of the Burbank variety of Japanese plum were used to compare several fungicides with Bordeaux 8-8-100 for the control of plum pockets. Disease control was considered adequate only whkn the plots were completely free of plum pockets.

Complete control was obtained with a full dormant application of Erad (phenylmercury acetate, 10%), 1/2 pt./100 gal., or thiram (tetramethylthiuram disulphide, 65%), 2 lb./100 gal, , but not with Bordeaux 8-8-100. The disease was controlled with dormant spring sprays of thiram or Bordeaux,, at the above rates, but not with captan (N-(trichloromethylthio)-4-cyclohexene-1,2-dicarboximide, 50%), 2 lb./100 gal, , dichlone (2,3 dichloro-1,4-naphthoquinone, 50%), 1/2 lb./100 gal.,dodine (n-dodecylguanidine acetate, 65%), 3/4 lb./100 gal,, Kolo-100 (sulphur 27.8% t dichlone 3.5%), 4 1/2 lb./100 gal., thioneb (polyethylene thiram sulphides, 50%), 2 lb./100 gal., or zineb (zinc ethylene bisdithiocarbamate, 65%), 2 lb./100 gal.

Thiram, as a dormant spray applied either in the fall or spring, is now recommended for the control of the plum pocket disease in Nova Scotia.

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* Species determined by the late Dr. A.J. Mix.

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