Powdery mildew, a fungus disease, is rarely of major concern on peach, but infrequently it does cause some economic loss where weather conditions are favorable for infection. The disease is favored by dry, warm weather with sufficient moisture in the form of fog or dew to permit germination of the spores. The causal fungus attacks young shoots, leaves, and fruit. The young leaves may become entirely coated with a thick layer of the fungus mycelium and are curled and narrow as they develop. The white, powder layer may extend over the entire terminal portion of the growing shoot. Symptoms first appear on the fruit in the form of white round spots which increase in size until a large portion of the surface of the fruit is involved. The white powdery appearance is caused by great numbers of spores produced in chains from the mycelium on the leaf or fruit surface. These spores are produced early in the season and cause secondary infection. Older leaves and fruit are fairly resistant to infection. The method or methods by which the fungus overwinters is not clearly understood.

RECOMMENDED CONTROL

SULFUR: Use 6.0 lbs. of 95% wettable sulfur per 100 gals. or 6 tablespoons for each gallon of spray. Apply 250 to 350 gal per acre or 3 to 5 gal per tree, depending on tree size, in the petal-fall, shuck-fall, and early cover sprays. Additional applications are rarely needed. In orchards where mildew has been a problem, sulfur should be used instead of captan for the petal-fall, shuck-fall, and early cover sprays.

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OR

BENOMYL (BENLATE): Use 0.5 lb Benlate 50% WP per 100 gals of spray. Apply during early petal-fall, early shuck-fall and again 2-weeks later. Benlate provides an excellent control of powdery mildew. Two to 3 applications of Benlate will suppress established powdery mildew and in most cases, provide a good transition from diseased to healthy tissue. Do not graze Benlate treated areas. The residue tolerance for benomyl is 15 ppm.

Trade and brand names are used only for the purpose of information and the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service does not guarantee nor warrant the standard of the product, nor does it imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others which may also be suitable.

KEYS TO PROPER USE OF PESTICIDES

1. Read the label on each pesticide container before each use. Follow instructions to the letter; heed all cautions and warnings, and note precautions about residues.

2. Keep pesticides in the containers in which you bought them. Put them where children or animals cannot get to them, preferably under lock and away from food, feed, seed, or other material that may become harmful if contaminated.

3. Dispose of empty containers in the manner specified on the label.

SEE YOUR DOCTOR IF SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS OCCUR DURING OR AFTER USE OF PESTICIDES.