Welcome to Project Happy Apples! The goal of this project is to assist you in managing wormy apples or pears that you have in your backyard fruit trees. We are racing the clock to get this project up and going this season and will do our best to make this simple and easy for you.

The wormy apples are due to the larval stage of the Codling Moth. This is what the codling moth looks like: This photo is enlarged.

Photo: Purdue University

This will be an interesting year for fruit production. Most apple and pear trees are already in bloom. Some of the petal have sustained frost damage (turned brown and maybe fallen off). This type of cold injury could have also damaged the developing flower which will turn into the fruit. So there may be very little fruit production if the damage was significant.

**Action:**

The first codling moth adults for the season have hatched and are starting to fly.....monitor with pheromone traps......no insecticide sprays yet.

Now is the time to purchase a trap/lure product so you can monitor the flight of the moth. Make sure you are buying the pheromone trap/lure. You **DO NOT** want to buy a mating disruption lure as they have been shown not to be effective in small backyard settings. These work well in larger orchards.

The lures are available at several locations around Central Oregon. We have confirmed them to be available for sale at Wilco, Helena, Eastside Gardens, Redmond Greenhouse. They cost approximately $13 and a box usually contains one to two traps and lures. This is all you will need for a small number of trees (10 or less). You place the trap in the center of the tree at eye level (5-6 feet) off the ground. For multiple trees, place them evenly apart as best you can. Again, you will only need one to two traps for 10 or less fruit trees.

Note the date of full petal drop (when all the flower petals are off your apple tree- naturally not due to frost damage). 10 days after this occurs will be the time to apply the first insecticide spray. ( More to come on this next week)

In additions to cultural controls such as sanitation and fruit bagging, we will be recommending the organic insecticide Neem Oil, and either Spinosad (a soil bacterium) or CYD-X (a granulosis virus). **We will be very specific on our instructions of when to apply to protect our bees and other non-target organisms, as this is a priority to us!**

4/29/2015