

First Examinations to date the exactly Time of Infection of Sooty Blotch

Simone Kern

Sooty blotch disease caused by a complex of different fungi. The incidence and severity of these disease are dependent on moisture and temperatur conditions during the summer months. A great problem is to fix the exactly time of infection. If this would be possible the threaten apple orchards could be better controlled by plant protection.

To date the exactly time of a possible infection, the apple fruits were wrapped in plastic films during the growing season. After full flower the fruits were bagged on various dates and kept covered until harvest.

The first symptoms of sooty blotch disease appeared in the apple orchard at 17 July 2000. If the time of infection is dated 2–3 weeks bevor the first symptoms appeared, so the infection could be placed to 26./27. June 2000. Between the 26. 06.2000 and the 17 July 2000 the weather conditions had been favorable for the sooty blotch disease. During this period we bagged fruits on four different termins. After harvest we placed the fruits in a moist chamber for 10 days. During this time it was possible to develop sooty blotch symptoms on the fruit surface. All of those fruits were affected with sooty blotch symptoms. Fruits befor this termin didn't show any symptoms. This would mean, that the first infection in 2000 took place in late June and not earlier.