San Jose Scale

It's been a concern that our recent insecticide withdrawals and restrictions may have been promoting a return to the pest profiles of the past, with direct fruit pests (internal leps, apple maggot, various bugs) taking precedence over the indirect foliar feeders. San Jose scale is one of those old standbys that already has been responding to some of the regulatory actions of the last few years. The disappearance of products like Penncap-M and Lorsban from our list of summer spray materials has been at least partly responsible for the fact that SJS persists or has returned to pest status in a number of orchards. It's therefore worth pointing out that a 2% oil treatment at half-inch green will control the nymphs, and this is a preferred treatment if no other problem insects need to be controlled. Combining the oil with an insecticide has not been shown to be more effective than using the oil (or insecticide) alone, except sometimes in the case of one newer alternative, Esteem, which has shown good efficacy when mixed with 2% oil at the pre-pink timing.