



**CORNELL
COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION OF
ONEIDA COUNTY**

HOME GROWN FACTS

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Walnut Husk Maggot-Fly

The walnut husk fly and the walnut husk maggot both occur commonly throughout central United States. The walnut husk fly and the husk maggot look alike. They are light brown in color and have two transparent wings with dark cross bars. They are smaller than the house fly. The larvae of both species are legless and pale yellow in color. Full grown larvae are up to 1/2 inch long.



Injury

The walnut husk fly and the walnut husk maggot breed and lay eggs in the husks of nearly mature walnut fruits in early autumn. The larvae burrow into and feed on the husk, producing black, slimy husks that stain and stick to the shell. The maggots can sometimes be seen crawling in the husks.

Husk maggots and husk flies do not penetrate into the nut, so the taste and color of the nutmeat are not affected. However, the slimy nature of the husks reduces their value to commercial nutmeat producers because the husk is difficult to remove. The infested husks also make the nuts unattractive and undesirable to the private walnut grower.

Control

Pick up and remove infested walnuts from the plantation as soon as possible after they fall from the trees. Malathion plus bait can be used for control.



An adult Walnut Husk Maggot fly lays eggs into the ripening husk of a native black walnut.

Black spots show where eggs have been deposited.

Growers can monitor for adult husk maggot flies using yellow sticky board traps. Traps should be placed in walnut orchard trees along scrubby fencerows or near forests where adult maggots may be active in wild walnut trees. Insecticide sprays should be applied when adults are observed on traps and before adult females lay eggs. Control is not possible after the eggs hatch and larvae have burrowed into the husk.

Source: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/hort/news/hortmatt/2004/28hrt04a8.htm>

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_walnut/huskmagg.htm

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READ THE LABEL BEFORE APPLYING ANY PESTICIDE.

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