CHERRY (*Prunus avium* 'Corum')
Brown Rot Blossom Blight; *Monilinia laxa*

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Comparison of fungicides for management of cherry brown rot, 2013.

Treatments were arranged in a randomized complete block design in a 'Corum' sweet cherry orchard on Mazzard F 12-1 rootstock planted in 1964 on 20 x 40 ft spacing and grafted in 1967. Each treatment consisted of 4 single-tree replicates. Fungicides were applied using a hydraulic handgun sprayer at 110 psi and at a rate of 136 gal water/A. Approximately 5 gal of a spray suspension were applied per 4 trees. Fungicide treatments were applied on 30 Mar (popcorn), 3 Apr (full bloom), and 9 Apr (petal fall). Fungal infection periods were monitored using an Adcon A730 weather station equipped with standard sensors. According to a brown rot blossom blight risk model there were 3 infection risk periods detected; two on 4 Apr and another one on 15 Apr. Dormant oil (Omni Supreme oil at 2 gal/100 gal water) was applied to the entire block on 14 Feb, for Aphid and mite control. MCPA (32 fl oz/A) was applied on 26 Feb and Makaze (generic glyphosate at 32 fl oz/A) plus Surflan (64 fl oz/A) was applied 4 Mar for weed control. No fertilizer was applied during the fruiting season. Incidence of brown rot blossom blight was evaluated on 11 and 22 Apr by examining 250 blossoms arbitrarily selected from the lower portion of each tree. Poor fruit set and bird predation resulted in a lack of sufficient cherries for post harvest experiments, thus pre-harvest fungicides were not applied.

Although spring growing conditions were unusually dry with 3 weeks of warm 80 F weather starting at the end of April, cherry bloom was rainy and relatively warm. First symptoms of brown rot blossom blight were obvious by 8 Apr. The amount of brown rot blossom blight on trees treated with Botector was not significantly different that the amount found on non-treated trees. The amount of brown rot blossom blight on trees treated with CaptEvate was significantly different that the amount found on either non-treated trees or trees treated with Botector. No phytotoxicity was observed on trees treated with either CaptEvate or Botector.

Treatment & Rate/A	Brown Rot Blossom Blight (%)**	
	11 Apr	22 Apr
Non-treated ……..	8.5 a	45.9 a
CaptEvate 68 WDG at 3.75 lb..……	0.6 b	1.3 b
Botector WP at 13.6 oz (10 oz/100 gal)….	9.0 a	37.1 a

**Means followed by the same letter do not differ significantly based on Fisher's protected LSD (P=0.05).