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IN YOUR GARDEN APPLE MAGGOT

Have an apple tree with lumpy apples last year? Then you probably failed to control the insect called Apple Maggot, according to James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Horticulturist in Cook County.

Eggs are laid by adults just beneath the skin of the apple and larvae of this insect feed in the apples during the months of late June, July, August, and early September. Wherever the maggot bores through the apple, it leaves a depression or dimple. In severe infestations, much of the apple may be affected during the period of time it is growing, resulting in a very lumpy apple. Close inspection will also show that small brown lines occur immediately under the skin and in the flesh of the apple through which the maggot tunneled. The fruit may still be edible for cooking even though it does not look very appealing.

The adult of the apple maggot is a fly which feeds on sugary moisture on leaves of the tree. Consequently, the adult can often be killed before egg laying takes place. Control the adult with a multipurpose fruit spray or home orchard fruit spray. While the first application should be made as soon as the flowers fall off and repeated every 10-14 days, it is particularly important to maintain good coverage in late July and early August when maximum egg laying takes place. Be sure to thoroughly cover all foliage and fruit to the point of runoff. This will take several gallons of spray per tree. If it rains within 24 to 48 hours after application, you may have to re-spray for best results, applications to be made every two weeks until 14 days before harvest. The fruit sprays break down into non-toxic, degradable compounds 10-14 days after application.

**James A. Fizzell, Sr. Ext. Advisor
Horticulture, University of IL**

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