

Best Practices for Trunk Injection of Oxytetracycline

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Summary: The tree hydration status is critical for the uptake and distribution of the injected oxytetracycline (OTC) solution. Therefore, ensure that trees are well-watered before performing injections and avoid injecting during drought conditions.

- Injections should be performed after the harvest and in compliance with the 180-day preharvest interval.
- Inject when the leaves are fully expanded to ensure efficient uptake and distribution. Avoid injecting during leaf flushing to prevent leaf deformations.
- Injecting during the main bloom should also be avoided.
- For optimal uptake and distribution, injections are best performed during spring and summer, and

during mid- to late morning when transpiration rates are highest.

- To achieve the best results, inject trees as soon as possible after preparing the OTC solution. This will prevent degradation from heat and UV and preserve the product's efficacy. Degraded OTC is not effective in suppressing bacteria.
- Do not inject right beneath a major scaffold branch because the OTC will then only move into the part of the canopy supported by that branch.
- Year two injections should be performed on the opposite side of year one injections. Subsequent injections should be done between previous injection sites, not right next to them.

- Do not apply wound sealants or other materials on the injection site. If Phytophthora is a problem, a fungicide may be applied.
- Implement good tree care, including proper irrigation and nutrient management to support tree recovery after injection.
- Continue to manage psyllid populations with insecticides. Trunk injection of OTC is no replacement for psyllid control!

Take Home Message:

- Oxytetracycline injections are effective when done correctly.
- Good tree care is important to maximize OTC effects.
- Oxytetracycline injections are no replacement for psyllid control.

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