



Tree Fruit News

US-EPA Worker Protection Standard Compliance Resources Now Available Online

Dan Donahue and Anna Wallis, ENYCHP

To the right is an announcement of a new web resource developed by officials at the US-EPA in collaboration with extension professionals at University of California – Davis and the Oregon State University. Most of the new Worker Protection Standard provisions will become effective on January 1, 2017. Revisions to the old WPS standards are significant, and will require a substantial expenditure of grower time and money to implement. The NYS DEC has been conducting WPS compliance workshops (“mock inspections”) around the State. Workshops have been held in the Hudson Valley and Capital District. The next DEC event is scheduled for Peru, NY on July 26th. Attendance has been good to date, growers and other industry professionals who have responsibilities that include pesticides are strongly encouraged to attend one of these events. Cornell Cooperative Extension will continue to provide information and educational opportunities to assist growers in implementing the new WPS requirements. In the meantime, please take the time now, before harvest, to study the new regulations and develop a plan to implement them in your farm business.

Temperature and Rain 6/23/16 - 7/18/16				
Locations	Avg Temp (F)	Max Temp (F)	Min Temp (F)	Total Rain (in)
Chazy	69.8	86.7	50.5	2.93
Peru	70.3	89	51.3	1.8
Crown Point	70.1	89.8	48.9	0.4
Clifton Park	72.6	92	49.9	3.61
Hudson	73.2	95.4	51	4.77
Highland HVRL	73.4	89.8	54.7	3.07
Marlboro	72.3	89.9	54.7	4.88
Riverhead	75.3	92.3	57.3	2.29



Greetings! The Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative (PERC) has several exciting announcements today, including a web-based inventory of WPS training resources, now online.

Visit and search the WPS inventory <http://pesticideresources.org/wps/inventory.html>

The inventory includes the *first video approved by EPA* for training workers under the new regulation (2015), in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). It's available with and without closed-captioning. Congratulations and thanks to U.S. EPA, Region 10 for coordinating the effort and sharing the files with us. For now, you can download the files and burn your own DVDs, or watch it online with your workers. Plans are in progress to distribute DVDs.

Also included:

- Medical evaluation forms (.docx) in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- A [presentation](#) about WPS for organic growers
WPS overview presentations: [long version](#) (50 min) and [short version](#) (25 min)
- A sample WPS training verification [card](#) ... and more

Also on the PERC website:

- AEZ demonstration [videos](#) that you can use in presentations
- All WPS [definitions](#)

Sign up for one of our [email lists](#) to get notified when new resources become available. For example, we're working on a 2-page [Quick Reference Guide](#) for the WPS. It's coming soon. Be among the first to know!

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Now is the Right Time to Collect Foliage Samples in the Hudson Valley for Nutrient Testing, Champlain Valley Soon to Follow.

Dan Donahue and Anna Wallis, ENYCHP

Sixty days past petal fall would be appropriate for collecting foliage samples for nutrient analysis. Foliar analysis provides a more accurate estimation of your orchard's nutritional status than soil analysis. This reason for this is that fruit trees are perennial crops with deep root systems. Testing the top 8" of soil does not fully describe what nutrients the tree actually takes up in sufficient quantity. Foliar analysis shows how effectively the tree is moving essential nutrients from the root zone to the leaf tissue.

Here are links to two analytical laboratories which will conduct an accurate analysis, and make nutrient recommendations based on a database of research results:

- [Dairy One Laboratories](#)
- [A&L Laboratories \(recently renamed "Waypoint Analytical"\)](#)

Please choose a lab and review the sampling protocol, paperwork, and submittal instructions carefully. There will be a charge for each sample processed. Be sure to specify the crop (i. e. apples, etc.) and for apples, the variety. Dairy One will also want to know the soil type in the orchard. The USGS offers a web-based application which will help you identify the predominant soil type in your orchard if you don't already have a soil map on paper or a soil survey book. Please [click here to access the USDA-](#)

Food Safety for PYO operations

Erik-John Schellenberg, Cornell ENYCHP GAPS Post-Harvest Resource Educator

Training staff and laborers to understand and implement food safety procedures can be a difficult task in and of itself, but what about PYO operations? Here are some things to consider when assessing the risks associated with PYO and some suggestions for how to mitigate them.



1. Many PYO customers like to bring their dogs with them into the strawberry patch or orchard. The risk of pets (dogs, cats, ferrets, parrots, raccoon, etc.) comes from feces. A dog in a strawberry patch is very high risk because the fruit is on the ground and dogs generally are not trained to go off into the woods to do their business. A dog in an orchard presents a lower risk, but there remains a risk of stepping on dog feces, then stepping on a ladder, then touching the ladder and then touching fruit. It is a good idea to post signage that prohibits all pets from entering the production areas including field and greenhouse growing areas as well as any packing, storage or washing facilities.
2. You cannot assume that customers have washed their hands before entering your picking areas. Patrons may travel significant distances in the car to pick and they may have contaminated hands. It is essential to provide handwashing stations at the entrance of the picking area with a sign encouraging everyone to wash their hands. Include wording to explain that your farm cares about food safety and that workers are always

required to wash their hands. Customers are asked that they do the same to ensure a high quality product. Having a hand sanitizer available is not enough in and of itself.

1. When training laborers, you know to keep break and work areas separate. Eating, drinking, and smoking should always be done away from areas where fresh produce is being handled. This can be very difficult to enforce in PYO situations, but it is a good idea to add a statement to your sign that goes something like "Please no eating, drinking, or smoking in the picking areas. Picnic tables are provided next to the barn."
2. Traceability is difficult in PYO operations, but you can at least record the date and the blocks that are being picked and a rough guess at the number of customers. Larger operations might want to try a rough count of patrons based on parking or by using a clicker at the register. Knowing the volume of product sold from PYO on a given day and where it was picked from is the most important information so if you can think of any easy ways to estimate and record this information, you should.
3. You should write up a visitor policy that takes these things and any other concerns you have into account. This can be kept on file with your food safety plan, and your sign by the entrance of the u-pick field can provide customers with the pertinent information at a glance.

Tips to Help Avoid Being Scammed on the Internet

Dan Donahue, CCE ENYCHP

Not exactly a tree fruit production issue, but how to hold on to more of your hard-earned money is always a topic worth discussing. These days we use the internet, and email, on a daily basis to maintain social contacts and conduct business. Technology can help us be amazingly productive, but there are potential risks to our wallets that we all must constantly remind ourselves about. Two years ago, I printed an alert about a USDA FSA telephone scam. I was reminded of all the scams seen during my years in the farm equipment business. What follows are a few observations:

Telephone Scams: The latest scam out there is the infamous call from the IRS informing the recipient that he/she owes the government for back taxes, and offers a convenient way to pay up. The IRS **will never make an initial contact with you by telephone**, it will always be by letter on official stationery. These scammers are targeting the elderly, so you may have family members who are in the sights of these thieves.

Email Scams: Some scam offers you might find in your inbox are so obvious as to be funny, like that \$10,000 in unclaimed bank funds willed to you by a long lost relative in some foreign country. Other scams are more sophisticated, and appear realistic at first, or second, glance, look for the following clues (this is not a complete list):

- “The deal is too good to be true” Common sense tells you that it probably is, walk away.
- “I’m write you with poor grammer” If you receive and email solicitation that looks and sounds like it was written by a third grader, unless it was written by a third grader, or by someone you actually know to have less than well-developed writing skills, then delete it, nothing but potential trouble.
- “Western Union (or a bank etc.) has money for you; please click on the link below” Never click on the provided link. If it is a scam, clicking on the link might download a small malware program which will record you keystrokes the next time you log into your online banking account. Shortly after that, you may find your bank account lightened by several thousand dollars. Using that downloaded malware program (a keystroke logger). Internet thieves will use this malware to steal your logon information, then use it to steal your bank balance.
- Look at the manner in which you are addressed, and the formality of the words chosen. Overseas scammers often learned proper “British” English, and is easily differentiated from “American” English.

□ If you do not recognize the sender, or the subject line appears unusual or inappropriate, be suspicious and definitely do not click on any links or downloads.

□ Email is completely insecure. Never provide your social security number, or a credit card number, in an email. Legitimate online vendors will provide a secure, encrypted portal for the entry of your payment information. Your web browser will indicate that it is in secure mode by displaying a “padlock” icon.

□ Do not accept payment (say a gift basket purchased from your farm stand) from a customer offering to send you a credit card number via email. If over the phone, ask for, and record the CCV code on the back of the card. Federal law requires all credit card information, if stored, be stored in a locked room, with limited access, and not left at any time in a place where it could be observed by the general public. Storage of credit card information in a password secured database on a computer with limited access is generally acceptable.

Internet Scams:

□ Allow me to repeat; that beautiful tractor offered on the online auction for \$0.30 on the dollar just seems too good to be true, it likely is. Internet thieves will obtain the serial number of a machine, take photos of it, or a similar unit, and post the machine as if they were really the owners, but they are not. Once you wire them money, you are out.

□ When purchasing online, never wire transfer funds directly to the seller. Legitimate online auction sites will warn you to follow their approved payment methods. PayPal is a popular third party secure payment site, but there are others available.

It bears repeating, there is no “cents” like common sense.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 26th:

Worker Protection Standard Implementation: DEC Region 5 Mock Inspection in Peru

Growers will be required to implement most of the many changes made by the US-EPA to the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) by January 1st 2017. As an educational service to assist in the implementation of the new regulations by NYS fruit and vegetable producers, NYS DEC will be sponsoring "Mock Inspections" around the State this summer. This will be the third mock inspection in the region, focused on DEC Region 5 (including Clinton, Essex, Saratoga, Washington, Warren counties), although growers from all regions are welcome to attend.

Date: Tuesday July 26th, 2016

Location: Forrence Orchards, 2731 Rt 22, Peru, NY 12972

Time: Registration will start at 9:30 am, the program will start promptly at 10:00 am and finish by Noon.

*Vegetable producers are also encouraged to attend.

***NYS DEC credits will be available, and there is no charge to attend. Please make this a priority and start preparing early for the January 2017 deadline.*

Wednesday, August 3:

Agricultural Assistance Wayne County Fruit Grower Tour

Registration and 1st stop at MackQuinLe Farms, Norris Rd/Rt 104, North Rose, NY (GPS: N 43.204284, W 76.933619)

Sponsored by agr.assistance, this large, informative and entertaining tour is in its 18th year, and will feature presentations on Gala production (orchard fertility & PGR use), fire blight control, weed control, crop nutrient and biostimulant programs for new apple plantings and processing apple varieties, apple scab alerts, plus much more. Door prizes, lunch, some droll humor, a BBQ/clambake dinner with a live band, growers and industry representatives from NY and surrounding states — always a great way to spend a midsummer day. Free attendance.

Contact Lindsay LaMora (585) 734-8904

Monday, August 15 :

NYS IPM Climate Conference

<https://app.certain.com/profile/web/index.cfm?PKwebID=0x86588823de&varPage=>

With all the talk about climate change you might be wondering how it will affect food production, pests, and even landscapes - and what you can do about it. The Second Annual NYS Integrated Pest Management conference can help! Climate, Weather, Data: Protecting Our Crops and Landscapes will be held August 15, 2016 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office in Voorheesville, NY.

Registration information, a map, and the draft agenda can be found at the Climate, Weather, Data website <https://app.certain.com/profile/web/index.cfm?PKwebID=0x86588823de&varPage=>

If you have questions, please contact Amanda Grace at arw245@cornell.edu or 315 787-2208.

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