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Winter 2019 ENYCHP Tree Fruit Virtual Advisory Committee: Summary of Results

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Why do we need a "Virtual Advisory Committee"?

The Cornell Cooperative Extension Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program (CCE-ENYCHP) strives to provide tree fruit producers throughout eastern New York with stimulating educational programming and address serious production issues by conducting top-quality applied research. Educational programming development and the selection of applied research projects is driven by the expertise and vision of the regional extension specialists with valuable and essential input from the tree fruit production community.

Traditionally, formal cooperative extension producer advisory committees are established to provide advice and direction to regional cooperative extension programs and extension specialists on the topic of program development. These standing committees have declared members who serve specified terms and meet from one to four times annually. An excellent example of this formal system is the Lake Ontario Fruit Program (LOF) advisory committee. Established in the mid-1980's to advise the newly-formed WNY Lake Ontario regional fruit program, the committee meets quarterly, receives a presentation from one of the four regional specialists on the LOF team, and makes recommendations for programming objectives to implement by that specialist over the next year. The LOF advisory committee has been remarkably stable and effective over many years. I have personal experience with the LOF Advisory Committee, as I was a grower representative for Ontario County and served as Advisory Committee Chair for a term during the mid-90's.

In contrast to WNY, Cornell Cooperative Extension has never successfully established a standing advisory committee structure for tree fruit extension in eastern New York. There may be any number of reasons for this, one being that the ENYCHP regional extension program was only established recently (2013), and another may be the presence of the

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Cornell Hudson Valley Laboratory in Ulster County, with its own board of directors, reducing the perceived need for a duplicate source of producer input. Times have changed since 2013. We now have a multi-county regional tree fruit extension program whose territory stretches from the New Jersey border north to the Canadian border, employing two regional extension tree fruit specialists along with support from a regional farm business specialist. Attempts have been made from 2015 – 2018 to hold an annual formal advisory committee meeting for the tree fruit industry, several formats have been tried, but with little success in the Hudson Valley. The producer participation in the northern half of our region has been proportionally better, but we still welcome further input.

It has been said that the only constant in life is change. For this writer, if an idea doesn't work out after several attempts, it's time to move in another direction. If the idea of a physical, structured advisory committee that meets on a regular basis is something that is just not going to work in ENY, then let's identify an alternative that will. CCE-ENYCHP team members Mike Basedow, Sarah Elone and I brainstormed and developed a "Virtual Advisory Committee" format with the objective of being inclusive, providing useful program direction while at the same time requiring a minimal amount of producer effort, and zero travel/meeting time. A secondary objective was to provide our ENYCHP members with a summary report of our previous year's programming.

How does the "Virtual Advisory Committee" Work?

ENYCHP tree fruit programming is distributed amongst two subregions of ENY, "Albany and south" and "north of Albany". A web-based Cornell Qualtrics survey was developed to present seven programming questions, and a two-page bulleted program report tailored to each subregion. Upon clicking on the survey link, the respondent was first asked to describe their position in their organization, and the county where they conduct most of their business. Based on their answer to the location question, the respondent was directed automatically to the appropriate subregion program report. After reading the program report, the respondent was asked seven questions relating to programming priorities and outreach methodologies. The Virtual Advisory Committee (VAC) survey was introduced to ENYCHP members via E-Alert in mid-February, shortly before the start of the 2019 ENYCHP Fruit and Vegetable Conference and remained open through March. Participation in the VAC was promoted during the conference and subsequently in multiple E-Alerts.

Results and Discussion:
VAC Results Overview

Thirty-two people started the survey, and 21 stayed with it to completion. Most completed the survey within 15 minutes. Initial response was slow, but the rate picked up as March progressed, perhaps due to the continuous promotion throughout the period. Those that failed to complete the survey appeared to stop after answering the first two questions and reaching the report. We considered the inclusion of the report to be a valuable and essential piece of background information to facilitate the respondent's recollection of ENYCHP programming over the previous year. As much as we'd like to believe that everything we do in extension is memorable, there is a lot of "noise" out there with many organizations conducting meetings and sending emails, confusion about "who is sending what" is the norm, not the exception. The 21 completed surveys appear at first glance to be an underwhelming response but consider, this is a far greater level of participation than we ever saw in our previous physical advisory meetings, with the added bonus of much more specific input from a wider base. Perhaps this increased willingness to provide input was due to the anonymity of the survey format, as some meeting attendees are reticent to speak out in public when amongst peers. ENYCHP members who wished to provide direct input and not remain anonymous were encouraged in E-Alerts to contact one of the specialists directly via telephone or email and arrange for an orchard visit if desired. Specialists received a single private email response during the survey period and that feedback was greatly appreciated.

Specific Questions and Responses

1. *Which statement best describes your role on the farm?*

Thirteen owners, one "next gen" family member, three farm managers, and four others responded.

2. *What county is the majority of your farm business located in?*

Columbia County provided the most responses, with six (6), follow by Ulster County (3), Orange, Albany and Clinton Counties with one (1) each. An in-person advisory meeting was held in Clinton County on February 11th, and was attended by three additional farms.

We received no responses from Dutchess, Greene, Rensselaer, and Saratoga counties. For those participants who identified a sub-region instead of a county, five (5) identified with the

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south, and one (1) with the north.

These results generally reflect advisory committee participation trends observed over the last several years. Although Ulster County hosts the largest number of tree fruit producers in ENY, and one of the largest tree fruit counties in the state, participation of producers in the advisory process is extraordinarily low. Our experience with low Ulster County turnout was a prime driver towards identifying an alternative process that would increase participation. Unfortunately, this goal was not achieved in this first year of the VAC. CCE-ENYCHP is not unique in these results as HVRL/F.A.R.M. has also experienced disappointing attendance at annual meetings. The lack of Ulster County producer participation if a source of frustration for college faculty and extension staff, and we are all open to suggestions on how to facilitate broad producer input. On the brighter side, Columbia County participation was strong, and greatly appreciated. Continued promotion of the VAC is planned, with higher levels of participation anticipated in future years as producers become more aware of this relatively painless opportunity to provide program input.

3. *For the Eastern NY programs that you attended in 2018, please rate how applicable they were for your farm business.*

2018 ENYCHP Fruit & Vegetable Conference: Of the 21 respondents. Twelve attended the 2018 ENYCHP Fruit & Vegetable Conference held at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY. Nine did not respond to the event question, suggesting that they did not attend. Of those who attended, two found the program extremely useful, six very useful, three moderately useful, and one respondent was disappointed, not finding the Conference to be useful at all. We don't have any data from the prior Kingston and Lake George fruit schools with which to compare. CCE interpretation was that the Conference was a success, the buzz was positive, and we decided to continue the event for 2019. Conference evaluation surveys and the "buzz" from anecdotal comments suggest to ENYCHP staff that the 2019 conference was also a success. The regional specialists realize that some producers were, and still are, unwilling to travel the extra distance to attend a central meeting in Albany and we are confident that over time, the perceived quality of the educational experience will convince more to make the trip.

2018 NEWA Workshop: Of the 21 respondents. Eleven attended the 2018 ENYCHP NEWA Workshop held at the Albany County CCE office. Ten did not respond to the event question, suggesting that they did not attend. Almost all attendees rated the program to be very or extremely useful.

2018 Special Permit Training (SPT): Of the 21 respondents, twelve attended one of the three SPT events held throughout ENY. Nine did not respond to the event question, suggesting that they did not attend. Almost all attendees rated the program to be very or extremely useful. SPT is our second most widely attended educational program in ENY, with slightly over 200 participants in one Spanish-language and three English sessions.

2018 Grower Petal Fall/Thinning Meetings: Of the 21 respondents, fourteen attended one of the four 2018 ENYCHP Petal Fall/Thinning meetings held throughout the ENY region. Twelve considered the content useful, while two respondents did not. We would like to extend our appreciation to Win Cowgill for doing a great job for helping us out the last three seasons and are anticipating Dr. Terence Robinson's return to our program for 2019.

2018 Packing House *Listeria* Workshop: Of the 21 respondents, nine attended the workshop held in Highland, NY. Most considered the program useful, while two did not.

4. *How important are ENYCHP Tree Fruit E-Alerts to you?*

Out of 21 responses, twenty found the E-Alert content and format to be useful.

5. *How important is our monthly in-season ENYCHP newsletter Tree Fruit News to you?*

Out of 21 responses, twenty found the content of *Tree Fruit News* to be useful.

6. *How important is our monthly winter ENYCHP newsletter The Produce Pages to you?*

Out of 21 responses, sixteen found at least some content of *The Produce Pages* to be useful, and three did not.

7. *How important is the ENYCHP program website to you?*

Out of 21 responses, fourteen found at least some content on our program website to be useful, and four did not. Admittedly, our ENYCHP can be a challenge to navigate. The website is a standardized CCE format, and it is our hope that it will be revamped at some point in the future to better serve our members.

8. *How important are our Facebook and Instagram pages to you?*

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Out of 21 responses, seven found at least some content of our social media content to be useful, and twelve did not. No surprise here, as our emphasis has traditionally been on the extension of research-based technical information to the industry, a challenging fit for this type of social media. E-Alerts always contain a calendar of upcoming events, which adequately covers an area where social media can be especially useful. Your suggestions on how we can make our Facebook and Instagram pages more relevant to tree fruit producers would be greatly appreciated.

9. *How do you feel about the following methods of receiving educational information?*

The following program delivery methods were presented, and results summarized:

Shorter, focused workshops or field days on a single topic (1-3 hours): In general, our respondents expressed a preference for this type of meeting. SPT, the Listeria workshop, and PF/Thinning meetings fit in this category and were well attended. Other "focused" workshops in recent years have experience disappointing attendance, perhaps due to a lack of interest in the content, or poor timing. In the Hudson Valley, educational meetings scheduled in June, July and August have struggled for attendees.

Multi-day conferences: Our respondents strongly favor the larger meetings. It is interesting to note that ENY tree fruit growers are very comfortable with formal, classroom-style education, perhaps to a greater extent than what we observe in other commodities.

Instructional videos: Not quite as favored as the more traditional educational forms, but still popular, and expected to increase in demand.

Webinars: A thoroughly modern approach to educational outreach popular with those who are also comfortable with instructional videos and other digital media.

The written word presented in traditional fashion: The monthly newsletter format (*Tree Fruit News*) is still popular, as are the much more frequently produced, concise email messages (*ENYCHP TF E-Alerts*). These days we distribute these electronically and in the case of *E-Alerts* attempt to be mobile device friendly, but the reality is that it is an old-school method of outreach, and still both effective and popular.

Direct contact with the regional specialist: Direct interaction with an extension specialist via email, telephone, or orchard visit is still the most popular method of communication.

Podcasts: While six of our respondents expressed little interest in this very modern interpretation of the traditional radio broadcast, a majority did express some interest. ENYCHP specialists Liz Higgins and Ethan Grundberg have begun to incorporate podcasting into their educational programming, and the ENYCHP team as a whole has been developing our in-house production expertise. Expect to see wider implementation in the future.

Local orchard tours: Local orchard tours have been a fixture of LOF regional programming in WNY for many years, but not so much in ENY. The last HV orchard tour for producers was conducted in coordination with the International Fruit Tree Association meeting held in Boston during the winter of 2013. 76% of respondents indicated an interest in attending a local orchard tour, with 62% willing to host a tour visit. With these results in mind, I'll consider organizing a Hudson Valley orchard tour for interested producers in 2020, and Mike Basedow will be looking into holding focused field days in the Champlain Valley. Your ideas and suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

10. *What are your programming priorities? (ranked from highest priority to lowest)*

Regarding the "number", "0" indicates no change, "2" would suggest a substantial increase in programming is desired, "-2" would suggest that a substantial decrease is warranted.

- Integrated Pest Management	"+1.10"
- Farm Labor	"+0.90"
- New Varieties	"+0.80"
- Mineral Nutrition Issues	"+0.70"
- Post Harvest & Handling	"+0.67"
- Crop Load Management	"+0.60"
- Equipment & Infrastructure	"+0.52"
- Farm Business Management	"+0.52"
- Planting Systems Issues	"+0.43"
- Produce Marketing	"+0.43"
- Legal & Compliance Issues	"+0.40"
- Establishing a New Enterprise	"+0.24"

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Certain results detailed above are surprising. Pest management is always a critical issue for tree fruit producers and industry professionals. Its interesting that our respondents would like to see more programming in this area. Currently, when we look at the bigger picture of how scarce research and extension resources are being allocated in ENY, a majority of the Cornell's research and extension efforts in ENY are already focused on IPM issues. Are producers looking for an increase in effort from Cornell because the private consultant industry is not as well developed in ENY, especially the Hudson Valley, compared to other regions? Producers and industry representatives should consider reaching out to CCE and HVRL specialists to provide us some additional guidance to identify the gaps in coverage. Farm labor issues are also a top concern, as is the question of how to choose which varieties to plant, and how are they managed. While "Establishing a New Enterprise" was ranked last by our respondents, CCE actually receives a substantial, and increasing number of requests for help in this area as existing farms change ownership, consider new ventures such as hard cider, and new orchard ventures are established from the ground-up.

11. *How would you prioritize these applied research topics? (1 = top priority)*

Integrated Pest Management	3.4
Chemical Thinning & Return Bloom	3.4
Tree Fruit Nutrition	3.4
New Variety Evaluation	3.7
PGR's for Tree & Harvest Management	4.5
Planting System Evaluation & Management	4.6
Fruit Quality & Storage Issues	5.0

Our respondents emphasized the need for continued integrated pest management research, improvement of our chemical thinning technologies, staying on top of tree nutrition for improved growth, and to identify and better understand new varieties suitable for ENY.

12. *Would you like to receive a text alert to notify you that an E-Alert has been sent?*

48% of respondents would find a text notification announcing an E-Alert release to be useful

Thanks to all who participated in our first Virtual Advisory Committee. If you decided to pass on the opportunity this year, please consider participating in the 2020 VAC next winter. Your continued input will result in better and more focused Cornell Cooperative Extension programming for ENY. Please feel free to email or call either Mike or myself with additional input. ■

Mating Disruption in Eastern New York

Michael Basedow, Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Mating disruption is a biological control tactic that can be utilized alongside chemical controls in an integrated pest management (IPM) program in New York apple orchards. Disruption works by inundating the orchard block with the female sex pheromone of the insect species being controlled. With such a high concentration of pheromone present, the males of the species cannot successfully locate and reproduce with the females. This disruption reduces egg laying, larval development, and subsequent pest damage. Currently, commercial mating disruption exists for a few key apple pests, including some lepidopteran moths and dogwood borer. It is most effective in large orchard blocks (greater than 5 acres) where there is less orchard edge to harbor a mated population that could then spill over to the orchard block. In this article, I'll review mating disruption tactics for codling moth, oriental fruit moth, and dogwood borer.

PHOTO: treefruit.wsu.edu/crop-protection/opm/codling-moth

Codling Moth

Codling moth (CM) mating disruption can be costly to implement, and is unlikely to fully replace the use of chemical inputs. However, when used in combination with well-timed insecticide applications, disruption can reduce the overall amount of chemical controls applied within the orchard over time. Though costly to implement, disruption can be economically viable in situations where growers have large, contiguous blocks of high yielding, high-value varieties, that annually have 5 to 10

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percent fruit damage when sprayed using a conventional insecticide program.

To effectively use mating disruption for codling moth, pheromone products should be set in the orchard prior to the first generation flight. There are many products available for CM mating disruption, and dispensers designed to treat both CM and oriental fruit moth (OFM) can be used in orchards that are also under severe OFM pressure.

One of the barriers to implementing mating disruption is the number of dispensers that need to be set out in the orchard. For CM, some hand-applied dispensers need to be deployed at a rate of at least 200 per acre. However, there are now newer hand-applied dispensers, such as the Cidetrak CMDA + OFM Meso, which can be deployed at a rate of about 30 dispensers per acre. In Pennsylvania field trials, similar levels of disruption were observed between the Meso product and the dispensers that are deployed at higher densities. Another dispenser, the Tangler CM, consists of two pheromone cartridges attached by a cotton string. The cartridges are then thrown or shot with a compressed air gun into the trees. This system also reduces the amount of time and labor needed to hang pheromones, and is currently being sold to fruit growers in Michigan and Wisconsin. Some dispensers provide season long disruption, however some may only last for a portion of the season, and may need to be replaced to provide season-long control.

Codling Moth
http://www.tsusinvasives.org/home/database/cydia-pomonella

Aerosol puffer dispensers can be deployed at a rate of one to two units per acre. However, these dispensers should be used in combination with one or two rows of hand-deployed dispensers along the orchard border. The puffer units require a greater initial investment, but require less time to deploy and can be reused for multiple seasons. There are also some sprayable formulations of pheromones, but results with these microencapsulated products have not provided consistent results.

Mating disruption will not effectively control codling moth alone, and management will still require well-timed insecticide sprays. In the first year, continue making applications following the standard biofix models. Expect to make two to three spray applications in the first generation, and one to two in the second. Continue monitoring CM populations throughout the season with pheromone traps, using the higher strength CM-DA combo lures, which have greater CM sensitivity.

If you had good control in the first season, you should be able to reduce your first and second generation sprays to two and one, respectively, in the second season. By the third season you may be able to reduce sprays to one per generation.

Oriental Fruit Moth

Oriental fruit moth can be successfully controlled through mating disruption when combined with well-timed insecticide sprays. Similar to CM, OFM disruption is best in large contiguous orchard blocks. OFM disruption can be done using either hand-deployed dispensers, puffers, or sprayable products. These should be set out prior to the first OFM flight. Hand-deployed dispenser rates vary from 100 per acre, down to as few as 18 per acre for the Meso products. If you plan on disrupting both CM and OFM, you can deploy the combo dispensers, but you will need to use the higher rate recommended for CM disruption. Some dispensers will last the entire season, while others may need to be reapplied, so check the product label.

Oriental Fruit Moth
http://www.tsusinvasives.org/home/database/grapholita-molesta

Aerosol puffer systems are generally deployed at one to two puffers per acre, and combo CM/OFM aerosol formulations are also available. Sprayables can be used, though they will

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require multiple applications per generation to maintain thorough pheromone concentrations within the orchard.

In the first season of mating disruption, at least one insecticide application should be made for the first generation. Moths should continue to be monitored with lure baited traps, and additional sprays may be warranted for later generations if moths continue to be caught. Place monitoring traps in the interior and along the edge of the block. Hang at least one trap for every five acres, and also consider hanging traps upwind of the disrupted orchard to determine population levels surrounding the orchard. Treatment thresholds are generally 30 moths per week during the first generation, and 10 per week for subsequent generations. It is also critical to scout for OFM damage in trees along the orchard perimeter to determine if the orchard is effectively under disruption, or if additional insecticide treatments are necessary. Plan to scout 20 terminals on 20 trees along the orchard edge for damage.

Following the first year, it is still beneficial to continue insecticide treatments for the first generation larvae. Continue monitoring following generations, particularly the later generations when disruption lures may be losing efficacy.

Dogwood Borer

There are mating disruption products for controlling dogwood borer (DWB). Products include twist tie dispensers, such as the Isomate DWB, which are applied at a rate of 150 dispensers per acre. Like the lepidopteran controls, these need to be applied prior to the adult flight. When tested by Dr. Art Agnello and David Kain et al. in Western NY, mating disruption units effectively shut down trap captures of adult males. Mating disruption also significantly decreased DWB trunk injury compared to unsprayed control trees in the orchards, but disruption alone did not provide the level of control achieved by trunk applications of chlorpyrifos. Insecticide treated trees had 12%, 9%, and 25% of the level of injury compared to trees that were controlled with mating disruption alone during the three years of the study.

While disruption was less effective than chemical treatment, even after three years of use, disruption provided some control compared to the unsprayed trees, and can be incorporated as a management tactic where it may not be possible to apply a chemical control every year.

Dogwood Borer
https://roadsendnaturalist.com/tag/dogwood-borer-moth/

Some Final Takeaways

- Mating disruption can be costly to implement, but may provide benefits where you have large blocks of high-value varieties, where insecticide applications are currently not providing adequate control.
- New dispenser technologies are reducing the amount of labor necessary to establish mating disruption.
- Chemical control will still likely be necessary in disrupted orchards, but disruption may allow you to reduce applications over time.
- Mating disruption can be used as a marketing tool, as a talking point for your customer if you do direct retail marketing.

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Proper Disposal of Pesticide Containers

Daniel J. Donahue, Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Tree fruit producers generate substantial quantities of empty pesticide containers over the course of the growing season. Back in the "old days", paper bags found their way into a burn barrel, and plastic jugs into a landfill. Neither option is viable today, so what to do? Landfall disposal is still an option for some types of pesticide containers, and recycling is available for others, but first, here's what's legal in New York State:

Burning of paper pesticide bags: Illegal under all circumstances in New York State. Yes, it's true, organic agricultural wastes may be burned on-site where they are grown or generated including brush and wood produced by clearing fields and other activities. The fire must be located on contiguous agricultural land larger than 5 acres, and the materials capable of being fully burned within 24 hours. However, pesticides and pesticide containers are not defined as "agricultural wastes", therefore, the burning of pesticides, empty pesticide containers of any sort, plastics or other non-organic material is prohibited.

Disposal of plastic pesticide containers in landfills: While not specifically illegal, the disposal of even properly rinsed plastic pesticide jugs in landfills, or through the conventional recycling channel used for household plastics is strongly discouraged. The good news is that specialty plastics recycling companies make it their business to recycle plastic pesticide containers (more on this later). Disposal in a landfill is unnecessary and would be an environmentally unfriendly choice. As for recycling, household plastics often end up reconstituted into new products associated with food transport and storage, so including even well-cleaned former pesticide containers in the recycle stream is not a good idea. Landfill operators are likely to reject your delivery of empty 2 ½'s, and it's their option to do so.

What can you learn from the pesticide label?

The product label defines the legal use and disposal of the specific pesticide. Here is an example of the disposal instructions found on the label for Aprovia™ fungicide by Syngenta Crop Protection LLC:

Container Handling [less than or equal to 5 gallons]
Non-refillable container. Do not reuse or refill this container. Triple rinse container (or equivalent) promptly after emptying. Triple rinse as follows: Empty the remaining contents into application equipment or a mix tank. Fill the container 1/4 full with water and recap. Shake for 10 seconds. Pour rinsate into application equipment or a mix tank or store rinsate for late use and disposal. Drain for 10 seconds after the flow begins to drip. Repeat this procedure two more times. Then offer for recycling if available or puncture and dispose of in a sanitary landfill, or by incineration, or by other procedures approved by state and local authorities.

Note the detailed instructions for rinsing. While these container handling instructions may well be appropriate for many other pesticides, please read each pesticide label for specific instructions. Instructions for the final disposition of the cleaned container are rather vague, hence "local" knowledge is essential in order to properly complete the disposal process and comply with state and local best practices and regulations. A complete label database of all pesticides registered for use in New York State can be found on the NYS DEC website at http://www.dec.ny.gov/nyspad.

How to dispose of empty pesticide containers in a manner that's both legal and environmentally friendly:

1. Triple-rinse all emptied pesticide containers with clean water, dumping the rinsate back into the spray tank at the time of your application. This way, the small amounts of pesticide in the rinse water will be properly applied to the crop as it was intended. If you wait until the end of your spray session, what will you do with the contaminated rinsate? Proper disposal then becomes more complicated and expensive.

2. During the triple-rinse process, also remove the traces of pesticide residue that may have accumulated on the outsides of the container or bag. It is not necessary to remove stains, only the physical pesticide residue.

3. Once rinsing and exterior cleaning is complete, remove the paper labels from plastic containers destined for recycling. It is not necessary to remove the glue, only the paper.

4. **Paper bags** (including those that are plastic-lined): Compact the cleaned bags to save storage space, store them in large plastic (biodegradable) leaf bags, label as "cleaned pesticide bags" so that everyone who may come in contact knows what they are, and eventually deliver to the landfill.

5. **Plastic containers**: Once cleaned and de-labelled, punch holes in the bottom to prevent future use, and store in a safe and secure location until it's time to transport them to the pesticide container recycling location.

How to recycle used plastic pesticide containers

The Agricultural Container Recycling Council - ACRC, is an industry funded not-for-profit organization that safely collects and recycles agricultural crop protection, animal health and specialty pest control product containers. Thousands of

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farmers and pesticide applicators nationwide participate in ACRC recycling programs. ACRC is fully funded by member companies and affiliates that formulate, produce, package, and distribute crop protection and other pesticide products. For more information on this program, visit the ACRC's website at acrecycle.org/Where_and_How_to_Recycle.

Agricultural chemical distributors active in Eastern New York State who offer no-cost plastic pesticide container recycling services to their customers include Crop Production Services, Helena Chemical, and Winfield Solutions. Third-party specialty waste recycling companies are contracted once or twice per season to conduct the recycling. The plastic grinder and storage unit is often integrated into a semi-trailer rig, with either the ag distributor or the grower transporting the empty containers to the recycling location at the appropriate time.

Representatives from CPS, Helena, and Winfield all strongly emphasized the importance of delivering properly processed, clean containers with all labeling removed. The recycler is not obligated to accept improperly prepared containers.

Container Recycling Eligibility Requirements

Product containers that can be accepted for recycling through the Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC) sponsored programs must meet these criteria:

Eligible:

Rigid high-density polyethylene (HDPE), 55 gallons and smaller, that previously held products utilized in the following markets:

- ✓ **Crop Protection** – Containers that held EPA registered crop protection products labeled for agricultural uses. Containers that previously held non- registered products such as adjuvants, crop oils and surfactants are also eligible for recycling.
- ✓ **Specialty Pesticides and Fertilizers** – Containers that held EPA registered products labeled for professional Structural Pest Control, Animal Health, Turf and Ornamental, Vegetation Management, Nursery and Greenhouse, Forestry, Aquatics, and Public Health uses are eligible for recycling, Containers that previously held non-registered products such as adjuvants, crop oils and surfactants are also eligible for pick up.
- ✓ **Pest Control Operators, Structural Pest Control** – Containers that held EPA registered products labeled for professional application.
- ✓ **Properly triple-rinsed** - Before containers (jugs and drums) can be accepted for recycling, they must be rinsed of all residues after use. Only dry, residue-free rinsed containers are accepted at collection sites.

Not Eligible:

- ✓ Any container constructed of anything other than HDPE, rotationally molded containers, mini-bulk, intermediate bulk containers (IBC), and totes.
- ✓ Consumer Home & Garden, Pest Control and Swimming Pool Maintenance – Containers that previously held products labeled for consumer use in households, lawn and garden, and swimming pool uses are not eligible for recycling in the ACRC program.
- ✓ Jugs and drums not properly prepared.

Container Preparation Checklist

Properly preparing containers for recycling is essential. Please be sure to follow this checklist before your ACRC Contractor arrives for pickup, or you deliver to the recycling site. ■

PHOTO: smnewsnet.com/archives/84866/mda-collects-32-tons-of-empty-pesticide-containers/

USDA H2A Visa Checklist – A big step forward in making the program accessible

USDA just released its new **H2A Visa Checklist Tool**, an online resource to help guide farmers through the process of applying for the H2A Visa program. This new farmers.gov H-2A Visa Checklist brings program requirements, fees, forms, and important dates into one location. Answer just a few questions, select the start date for your workers, and get a "to-do checklist" built around your H-2A hiring needs. Then, print or download the checklist as a reference. If you'd prefer to keep it simple, just download calendar reminders from the checklist to your personal device – PC or mobile, your choice. The website is available at https://www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a/h2a-checklist.

USDA also developed an H2A information page with overall information about the program and key resources at: https://www.farmers.gov/manage/h2a .

Fire Blight Survey 2019

Kerik Cox's lab will be conducting a fire blight survey again this year, investigating streptomycin resistance and strain distribution across NY State and New England.

In the event fire blight does show up in your orchard, please send a sample to our lab!

You may take a sample yourself as outlined in the sample form on **page 11**, or you may wish to contact Dan Donahue or Mike Basedow to come and help you collect the sample.

It is imperative that we receive living (green) cambium tissue from the canker margin (i.e. where the necrotic and healthy tissue meet). Otherwise, the pathogen cannot be isolated. Samples should be sent as soon as possible after being removed from the tree, and kept cool if possible.

Samples submitted without the form will not be processed!

Instructions for sampling

It is only possible to isolate the bacteria (Erwinia amylovora) from fresh, active lesions, where healthy tissue meets the diseased tissue, i.e. the lesion margin.

It is impossible to isolate fire blight bacteria from dead, dried out tissue.

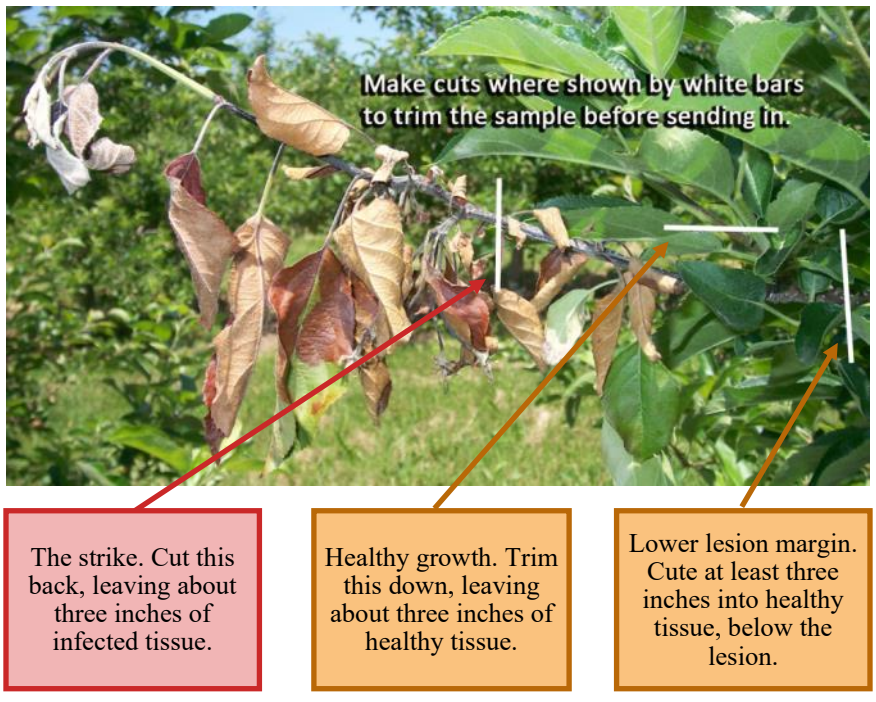
The Lesion Margin

Collect samples that include about 3 inches of healthy tissue beyond the infected tissue, and include about 3 inches of infected tissue. Do not submit all the dead branch of the strike, this is often too long and can be cut back, as described, to 3 inches of infected tissue above 3 inches of healthy tissue.

If possible, refrigerate infected trees and strikes.

Protect samples from drying out prior to submitting them.

Do not collect entire branches or trees unless symptoms are unusual.



Where is Strep-Resistant Fire Blight in New York & New England?

Submit fire blight infected trees and strikes for testing

Call one of the following to help you collect samples and take data on the situation:

Kerik Cox, 315-787-2401, kdc33@cornell.edu, NYSAES (Receiving lab)
Dan Donahue, 518-322-7812, djd13@cornell.edu, CCE ENYCHP, Hudson Valley Lab
Mike Basedow, 518-410-6823, mrb254@cornell.edu, CCE ENYCHP, Champlain Valley

SAMPLE INFORMATION (*samples without information will not be processed*)

Date collected_____

Collector's name_____

Grower name & farm_____

Street address_____

City, State_____ Zip Code_____

County_____

Blossom and shoot blight management applications in 2019

Date Material

_____

_____

_____

_____

GPS coordinates of the sample collected_____

Part of the tree infected is: (circle)

blossom cluster current shoot young wood trunk

Length of strike (ft. in.)_____

Variety_____

Rootstock_____

Age of tree/year planted_____

If a newly planted tree, from what nursery? _____

Upcoming Events

FSMA/PSA Grower Food Safety Training Course and Food Safety Plan Writing Workshop

April 23 & 24, 2019 - 8:30am-5:00pm
CCE Greene County, 6055 Route 23, Acra, NY 12405

Day 1: FSMA/PSA Grower Food Safety Training Course
A grower training course developed by the Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) that meets the regulatory requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. This one-day training is a requirement for farms growing more than $25,000 worth of fruits and vegetables.

Day 2: Food Safety Plan Writing Workshop
A hands-on workshop that will help growers write a Food Safety plan that will allow the farm to be certified through the Good Agricultural Practice program (GAP). This fay of the training is optional, but you must have completed a FSMA/PSA training to attend this portion of the two-day course.

The NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets is underwriting the cost of the training manuals and the course certificates for all NYS residents that attend the FSMA/PSA Training (Day 1). If you are NOT a NYS resident, you will be charged an additional $50/manual and $35/certificate on the day of the course.

Registration is $35 per person, $50 to attend both days
Please register online by April 16th at bit.ly/AprilFSMAPSA

Cornell Organic Symposium

April 24, 2019 - 1:00pm-5:00pm
G10 Biotech Cornell University, 215 Tower Rd, Ithaca, NY 14853

This symposium will have a weed management theme and feature weed ecologist Chuck Mohler as keynote speaker. Similar to last year, the Symposium will include a poster session.

For questions and disability accommodations (ie: sign language interpreters, alternative formats), please contact Jenn Thomas-Murphy at jnt3@cornell.edu or 607-255-2177, as soon as possible.

This is a free event. Register at bit.ly/CornellOrganicSymposium

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Last Monday Grant Webinar for Fruit and Vegetable Growers

April 29, 2019 - 12:00pm-1:00pm
Webinar

Monthly webinar to disseminate information on available grants relevant to fruit and vegetable farmers in Eastern New York.

To register, visit: bit.ly/AprilGrantWebinar

For more information, contact Liz Higgins at emh56@cornell.edu.

Tree Fruit Specialists

Daniel J. Donahue
Phone: 518-691-7117
Email: djd13@cornell.edu

Mike Basedow
Phone: 518-410-6823
Email: mrb524@cornell.edu

Business Specialist

Liz Higgins
Phone: 518-949-3722
Email: emh56@cornell.edu

ENYCHP Office

Chelsea Truehart
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