



## Predicted CA Cutoff Model for McIntosh

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This prediction model was originally used to estimate the latest dates by which McIntosh should be harvested if they are going to be stored under CA conditions. Averaging the last dates for CA cutoff from the earliest inland sites to the latest lake sites is also called the centering date. These equations are in Information Bulletin 221, Cornell Cooperative Extension, *Predicting Harvest Date Windows for Apples*, by David Blanpied & Ken Silsby, [http://rvpadmin.cce.cornell.edu/pdf/submission/pdf198\\_pdf.pdf](http://rvpadmin.cce.cornell.edu/pdf/submission/pdf198_pdf.pdf). The model is based on the temperatures from 3-3 3 days following full bloom.

The season started with the latest green tip in about 40 years. Full bloom was late as well, but above normal spring temperatures in late May and mid-June advanced its progression. The average FB date for this season (in our 4 county region) is May 16, about 5 days later than last season. Above average temps in May to present has advanced maturity, and by most accounts, we are “caught up” and apple size is looking very close to what it should look like in an average year. The model is predicting a September 21 cutoff date, which is the same date as last year, and 2 days earlier than the average from 1986-2017.



Table 1. Predicted Mac CA Cutoff Dates

NEWA Station	18 FB	18 CA Cutoff	17 FB	17 CA Cutoff	FB 'Diff to '17	CA 'Diff to '17
Albion	16-May	19-Sep	11-May	20-Sep	-5	+1
Appleton N	18-May	23-Sep	13-May	22-Sep	-5	+1
Ashwood	17-May	21-Sep	12-May	21-Sep	-5	0
Baldwinsville (Abbott)	15-May	19-Sep	28-Apr	16-Sep	-17	-3
Burt	17-May	22-Sep			N/A	N/A
Butler (Tree Crisp)	16-May	20-Sep	3-May	18-Sep	-13	-2
Fairville (Apple Shed)	16-May	22-Sep	4-May	21-Sep	-12	-1
Geneva (NYSAES)	14-May	19-Sep	3-May	19-Sep	-11	0
Ithaca (Cornell Orchards)	14-May	20-Sep			N/A	N/A
Kendall (Zingler)	17-May	21-Sep	12-May	21-Sep	-5	0
Knowlesville	15-May	20-Sep	10-May	20-Sep	-5	0
LaFayette	14-May	20-Sep	28-Apr	16-Sep	-16	-4

Lyndonville	16-May	20-Sep	8-May	20-Sep	-8	0
Medina	15-May	20-Sep	10-May	19-Sep	-5	-1
Pt. Breeze	18-May	20-Sep	12-May	19-Sep	-6	-1
Sodus (Cherry Lawn)	17-May	22-Sep			N/A	N/A
Sodus	16-May	22-Sep			N/A	N/A
Sodus (Lake)	18-May	22-Sep	14-May	22-Sep	-5	-1
Somerset	17-May	21-Sep	10-May	20-Sep	-7	-1
Waterport (Orchard Dale)	16-May	21-Sep			N/A	N/A
Williamson (Bear Swamp)	16-May	22-Sep	14-May	23-Sep	-2	+1
Williamson (DeMarree)	18-May	23-Sep	15-May	23-Sep	-4	0
Williamson (Mason)	16-May	22-Sep			N/A	N/A
Williamson (Orbaker)	18-May	25-Sep	15-May	24-Sep	-4	-1
<b>AVERAGE (our region only )</b>	<b>16-May</b>	<b>21-Sep</b>	<b>11-May</b>	<b>21-Sep</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>0</b>

Although at this point we seem to be very close to average maturity on early-season apples, if cooler and wetter weather patterns predominate as we approach harvest, maturity will likely be delayed. Alternatively, if the hotter and drier than normal weather continues, maturity will be advanced.

It should be cautioned that this is only a model, a prediction to the overall maturity timing so far. It was done with seedling McIntosh trees over 25 years ago. The proper way of interpreting these

dates is to use them to decide the time frame to start bringing in harvest labor if McIntosh is your first high acreage variety. The LOFP harvest maturity program will again start sometime in August and continue until near the end of the fresh fruit harvest season. The report will include current apple maturity indices, anticipated harvest windows for principle varieties, and weekly internal ethylene analysis for determining preharvest drop of susceptible varieties.

## Continue Training Your Key Hispanic Employees at the Coming 2018 Hispanic Summer Fruit Tour in Wayne County – Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-5:30pm

Mario Miranda Sazo

The CCE LOF team is in the process of organizing the fourth Hispanic Summer Fruit Tour to be held in Wayne County from **1:30pm until 5:30pm on Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. In addition to the traditional horticultural stops to be hosted by Adan Aguilera from VanDeWalle Fruit Farm and Hormisa Bellona and Ignacio “Nacho” Onofre from Teeple Fruit Farm (see pictures), some of the tour activities will continue gathering feedback from Hispanic orchard workers on skills they need to improve within their fruit farm business for greater success and job satisfaction. There will be small group activities to reinforce topics related to supervision and better communication. Because

some orchard workers have expressed some skill deficiency with understanding workplace culture on Western NY fruit farms, there will be specific examples of how to work efficiently. The importance of punctuality, work ethic, and commitment will also be highlighted.

### The need for highly qualified Hispanic employees

Over the past five years, many New York fruit farm operations have undergone significant growth. Orchards that used to employ only a handful of people with low-skill horticultural talent now look for more help to meet this demand. Why does one fruit grower always have highly-efficient labor, while other similar farm operations do not? Why

are some Spanish-speaking crews so efficient, hard-working, motivated, and committed, while other similar crews at other places aren't?

Today, many fruit growers have found that their horticultural or machinery skills don't always translate to Spanish-speaking people skills. Despite their search for horticultural talent to support their recent plantings and new investments, some fruit growers still lack a reliable, skillful, and committed horticultural team to fuel potential growth in the next 5 to 10 years. The competitive challenge for growers is to find, attract, and retain the right people (whether Spanish-speaking employees or not) from within the farm operation, assuming that full-time Spanish-speaking employees are legally employed, satisfied, engaged, and waiting for a new job opportunity inside the farm. Finding and training the right people who can support the development of new business opportunities won't be easy. Assembling the wrong horticultural team and staffing up prematurely could become costly and catastrophic. Innovative fruit companies understand that it is much cheaper to develop a highly skilled and motivated Hispanic fruit team than it is to go out and bring in new people year after year. Empowered employees and orchard managers will perform at their best level, make independent decisions, and find ways to improve orchard operations – including planting, pruning, hand thinning, and harvest.

#### **Training Hispanic Horticultural Teams via CCE LOF**

Creating a high-functioning horticultural team is challenging under any circumstances. But when the team you are trying to build crosses different cultures, how do you meld individuals' talents, cultural expectations, and communication barriers into a super-performing team? For example, if you manage a Spanish-speaking harvest team (where only one or two people can barely communicate in English), you face greater communication challenges than those who lead a Jamaican harvest team (where the majority can speak English). Complicating your communication task is the probability that this growing season you will incorporate the use of some type of new technology or a motorized platform for higher labor efficiency and won't be fully able to explain the benefits of the technology to your Spanish-speaking employees.

In this complicated and rapidly evolving labor situation for fruit growing, you have to take action to capitalize on new opportunities and execute them efficiently. But it is also essential for you and your teams to learn quickly, to keep up with developing events, and stay ahead of the competition. That will happen only if you foster strong working relationships with your most talented Spanish-speaking employees and assemble skilled horticultural teams inside your farm via CCE LOF Hispanic educational training.

#### **Main manager level development stages of orchard workers in WNY fruit farms**

Early this year we conducted several roundtable discussions (with a total attendance of 95 Hispanics) and identified three manager level development stages of orchard workers as part of the Latino Readiness Project (Pereyra and Wayne, unpublished). Many orchard workers do not fall squarely within these development stages, and often carry skills or traits of multiple stages. The following are what we have identified as characteristics of the corresponding stages: (1) **Beginner:** A Hispanic orchard worker that does not speak English and works exclusively in Spanish-speaking teams. Their understanding of the overall business and workplace culture is low. They do not manage younger or less experienced farmworkers. They are often an H-2A employee and therefore limited in their ability to grow into management positions. While in the lowest farm positions, they show personality traits consistent with manager level positions, including decisiveness and initiative, (2) **Intermediate:** A Hispanic orchard worker that has very basic spoken English language skills but strong production skills, often with a comprehensive understanding of one core production component. They often have been working with the same farm for at least two full seasons. They manage some younger or less experienced employees and communicate with a supervisor, and (3) **Advanced:** A Hispanic orchard worker that has an intermediate or higher level of spoken English that allows them to regularly communicate with owners, business partners, and supervisors. They have a strong understanding of multiple core production components, but some of them lack complete understanding of full-farm production systems.

## Featured Hispanic Tour Hosts



**Adan Aguilera** has worked for Scott VanDeWalle of VanDeWalle Fruit Farm for more than 14 years. In the last five years, he has positioned himself as a key and reliable Spanish-speaking employee. He is the kind of person who carries Scott's vision for almost any orchard task with the greatest execution and labor efficiency. Whether it is planting a new orchard, pruning, or hand thinning, he is always willing to lead his co-workers by example. Most, if not all of his orchard work, is proudly done "right" the first time around and there is almost "zero" tolerance for errors. He has become an important Hispanic employee at VanDeWalle Fruit Farm.

Tour participants will visit the most recent VanDeWalle plantings of high value apple cultivars - all established at 2.5ft x 10ft since 2016 (30 acres), 2017 (72 acres) and 2018 (90 acres) – and will learn modern fruit production practices with Adan.



**Hormisa Bellona and Ignacio "Nacho" Onofre** are a married couple who have worked at Teeple Fruit Farm for 14 and 20 years, respectively. They met at Teeple Fruit Farm in 2003 and they have three children. They are the kind of Hispanic employees that fruit growers – if very lucky – would like to find, attract, hire, train, cultivate, and retain for future success at their farms. For several years, Hormisa and Nacho have been considered *advanced Hispanic employees* (see definition above), who regularly attend most of the educational programs offered through CCE LOF (commercial winter fruit

schools, summer tours, NY Expo, IFTA conferences, etc.). Since the early beginnings of the CCE LOF Hispanic educational program in 2011, Hormisa and Nacho have always attended Hispanic schools and tours, offered advice to others, and served as models for younger generations of Hispanics coming to Western NY. They have good people skills, can build confidence and generate enthusiasm, enjoy interacting with other fruit growers and Hispanics, know the horticultural details of orchard tasks, and reliably help to make budgets and deliver results. They also excel at mobilizing and exciting Spanish-speaking workers and are clear about the tasks to be accomplished.

Tour participants and hosts will have a facilitated discussion and training about supervision, communication, and workplace culture at Teeple's facilities. Activity will be guided by Mary Jo Dudley,

Director of Cornell Farmworker Program. For more details about this educational opportunity, please review Mark Your Calendar, page 7.

## **Bifenthrin FIFRA Emergency Exemption (Section 18) approval for Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in selected New York counties**

Tessa R. Grasswitz

The US Environmental Protection Agency has granted New York State a FIFRA Section 18 Specific Emergency Exemption for the use of Bifenture 10DF Insecticide/Miticide (EPA Reg. No. 70506-227), Bifenture EC Agricultural Insecticide (EPA Reg. No. 70506-57), and Brigade WSB (EPA Reg. No. 279-3108) to control brown marmorated stink bug on apples, peaches, and nectarines in Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, Wayne, Columbia, Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties in New York State. (Note that Niagara is a new addition to the authorized counties for 2018).

Please note the following:

- The Section 18 labels restrict use to Columbia, Dutchess, Monroe,

Niagara, Orange, Orleans, Ulster, and Wayne Counties. Use in any other counties is prohibited.

- The exemption is valid through October 15, 2018.
- Bifenture 10DF, Bifenture EC, and Brigade WSB are all restricted-use pesticides.
- Aerial application is prohibited.

Users must have a copy of the appropriate Section 18 exemption in their possession at the time of use. Users must also follow all applicable directions, restrictions, and precautions on the primary product label.

Copies of the approved Section 18 labels are available at the DEC's [NYSPAD](#) product registration website.

## **USDA to Collect Onion, Strawberry & Asparagus Production Data**

Krishna Riza, [Krishna.Rizal@nass.usda.gov](mailto:Krishna.Rizal@nass.usda.gov), 717-787-3904

Harrisburg, PA— During the next several weeks, U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct the New York Onion and Strawberry Grower Inquiry, and the New Jersey Asparagus Grower Inquiry. The agency will survey nearly 200 onion and strawberry operations in New York and about 60 asparagus operations in New Jersey.

NASS conducts the Asparagus Survey annually and the Onion and Strawberry Surveys twice per year; a forecast in August and an end of season production in November. "When growers respond to these surveys, they provide essential information that helps us determine the prospective production and supply of these commodities in the United States for the 2018 crop year," explained King Whetstone, director of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Northeastern Regional Field Office.

NASS gathers the data for these surveys online, by mail, over the phone and through in-person

interviews. Growers provide information on crop acreage, production, and value of sales. NASS will compile and analyze the survey information and publish the results in a series of USDA reports.

"NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state and national level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Whetstone. In closing he says, "We recognize this is a hectic time for farmers and ranchers, but the information they provide helps U.S. agriculture remain viable and capable. I urge them to respond to these surveys and thank them for their cooperation."

All reports are available on the NASS website: <https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications>. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at 1-800-498-1518.

## Mark Your Calendar

<b>Meeting Title</b>	<b>NASGA 2018 Summer Tour</b>
Dates	August 14-15
Time	All Day
Location	Northern California
Cost	Varied
Brief description of meeting	This is the annual summer tour of the North American Strawberry Association (NASGA). See the <a href="#">NASGA home page</a> for membership and tour info.
Registration/Contact information	For full info, see the registration pages on their website at <a href="https://www.nasga.org/n-american-strawberry-growers-summer-tour.htm">https://www.nasga.org/n-american-strawberry-growers-summer-tour.htm</a>

<b>Meeting title</b>	<b>2018 CCE LOF Hispanic Summer Fruit Tour</b>
Date	Saturday August 25
Time	1:30pm-3:00pm (VanDeWalle Fruit Farm, 9095 Ridge Road, North Rose, NY 14516) 3:15pm-5:30pm (Office and storage facilities at Teeple Fruit Farm, 5975 Lake Bluff Rd, North Rose, NY 14516)
Location	Touring 2 farms in Wayne County
Cost	Free, but a preregistration will be required by Wed. August 22 (registration will be online at the CCE LOF website the week of August 6)
Brief description of meeting	There will be a tour of modern high density plantings to understand how the trees were established, trained, and pruned by tour host Adan Aguilera of VanDeWalle Fruit Farm. A discussion and training about supervision, communication, and workplace culture will be conducted with tour hosts Hormisa Bellona and Ignacio "Nacho" Onofre of Teeple Fruit Farm. Activity will be guided by Mary Jo Dudley, Director of Cornell Farmworker Program.
Registration/Contact for information	More details will be provided on the coming issue of <i>Fruit Notes</i> newsletter on August 14 and via <i>Fruit Facts</i> every Wednesday the next few weeks. In the meantime, please contact Mario Miranda Sazo, cell 315-719-1318, <a href="mailto:mrm67@cornell.edu">mrm67@cornell.edu</a>

***For additional information about upcoming events and registrations,***

***visit our website at <http://lof.cce.cornell.edu>***



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## Fruit Specialists



Craig Kahlke | 585-735-5448 | [cjk37@cornell.edu](mailto:cjk37@cornell.edu)

**Team Leader, Fruit Quality Management**

**Areas of Interest:** Fruit Quality and factors that affect fruit quality before, during, and after storage,



Mario Miranda Sazo | 315-719-1318 | [mrm67@cornell.edu](mailto:mrm67@cornell.edu)

**Cultural Practices**

**Crops:** Blueberries, Raspberries / Blackberries, Strawberries, Apples, Apricots, Asian Pears, Cherries, Currants, Gooseberries, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums



Tessa Grasswitz | 585-261-0125 | [tg359@cornell.edu](mailto:tg359@cornell.edu)

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**

**Areas of Interest:** IPM of tree fruit and berry pests, biological control, pollinators, and impact of climate change.

**Crops:** Blueberries, Raspberries / Blackberries, Strawberries, Apples, Apricots, Asian Pears, Cherries, Currants, Gooseberries, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plum



Mark Wiltberger | 315-272-8530 | [mw883@cornell.edu](mailto:mw883@cornell.edu)

**Business Management**

**Crops:** Apples, Cherries, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums

For more information about our program visit us at [lof.cce.cornell.edu](http://lof.cce.cornell.edu)