



A partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in these five counties: Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, Oswego & Wayne

Fruit Notes

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH-BASED KNOWLEDGE

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lake Ontario Fruit Program

Volume 20 Issue 18

December 16, 2020

Season's Greetings!

2020 was a year for the ages. A year none of us will forget, but certainly want to. While the pandemic continues to make people's lives very difficult as we head into 2021, there is optimism on the horizon with the shipping of the first COVID-19 vaccines. 2021 WILL be better! One thing I've personally taken from the mess that has been this year is how blessed I am to have what I have, and to find ways to help those less fortunate. In addition, I'm very proud of the work "over and above" that each of my team members has performed to keep the program running on all cylinders. The entire Lake Ontario Team wishes you and your families a safe and joyful holiday season. We look forward to serving you into 2021 and beyond, and thank you for your continued support!

Plan to Attend Our 2021 Cornell Tree Fruit Conference in February!

We are excited to be partnering with our counterparts in Eastern NY, the CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program (CCE-ENYCHP) for this 3-day virtual conference! Mike Basedow is the specialist who works with commercial tree fruit growers in the Champlain Valley, while Dan Donahue works with the stakeholders in the Hudson Valley. They've been planning this virtual conference along with myself, Mario, Janet, Mark, and our technicians and admin staff for a few months. While we will all miss the networking and sharing of meals with old friends, we are thankful that we have the technology to conduct what looks to be a strong educational program! If you haven't already, please Mark Your Calendars for Feb 2-4.

We have 12 sessions over the 3 full days of the conference (2 AM/2 PM per day). Time will be built in for both AM/PM breaks (15-30 minutes each, and ~1 hr for lunch).

Cornell's 2021 Tree Fruit Conference Session Layout

Session Number & Title	Session Approximate Time	DEC Credits?
1: Insect Pest Management	Tuesday, February 2nd, 8:00-9:50 AM	Yes
2: Phytopathology	Tuesday, February 2nd, 10:10 AM-12:00 PM	Yes
3: Weed Management	Tuesday, February 2nd, 1:05-3:00 PM	Yes
4: Fruit Quality-Postharvest	Tuesday, February 2nd, 3:15-5:00 PM	No
5: Precision Bloom Thinning & The Pollen Tube Growth Model	Wednesday, February 3rd, 8:00 - 9:45 AM	No
6: Horticulture, Orchard Canopy Management for Maximizing Fruit Quality & Adoption of Computer Vision Technology	Wednesday, February 3rd, 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM	No
7: Business Management I: Economics of Fruit Production	Wednesday, February 3rd, 1:15-2:45 PM	No
8: Business Management II - Impact of COVID-19 on Fruit Industry	Wednesday, February 3rd, 3:15-4:55 PM	No



9: Extreme Weather Adaptability	Thursday, February 4th, 8:00 - 9:50 AM	No
10: Market/Regulatory/Labor Updates plus New Apple Varieties	Thursday, February 4, 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM	No
11: Honeycrisp Management I	Thursday, February 4th, 1:15-2:45 PM	No
12: Honeycrisp Management II	Thursday, February 4th, 3:15-4:45 PM	No

With no restrictions due to speakers not having to travel to our virtual conference, we've secured a lot of knowledgeable, dynamic speakers from out of state. We have faculty and staff presenting from Michigan State, Oregon State, Penn State, and Washington State, along with the "usual suspects" from Cornell, along with some speakers from CU that we've never had before. In addition, we have 2 sessions with grower panels that represent all major fruit-growing regions of NY, along with Ontario.

After the holidays, please check our landing page at:
<http://blogs.cornell.edu/nystreefruitconference/>

There you'll find all the detailed information, including full session descriptions, registration, sponsorship, and what you need to know to receive DEC credits.

Registration will be \$85 per person for enrollees of either CCE-LOF or CCE-ENYCHP, \$95 for non enrollees. This will be for access to all 3 conference days. We are not offering a price for 1-2 days. Haven't re-enrolled for LOF? Please see the next article in this newsletter.

Full sponsorship details will follow shortly. We are looking at levels from \$250-\$1,000 from single session sponsors to conference sponsors. Those vendors who wish can send 30 second pre-recorded videos that will be played at the beginning of a session.

Reminder to Re-Enroll in the Lake Ontario Fruit Program Now!

By now most (if not all) of our partner counties have sent out their enrollment forms for 2021. If you haven't gotten yours, or it always gets lost (the dog ate it?) you can go to the [Enrollment portion of our website here](#) and

print the form and mail in to Kim at Orleans CCE with a check. Then you'll be all set to save \$10pp on our conference and knowing you won't miss any important information from our team.

Reminder COVID-19 Testing is Readily Available to Your Workers And Supplies Still Available

Farm owners and farm employees can get tested for COVID-19 in the LOF region. Oak Orchard Health and Finger Lakes Health continue to do testing of asymptomatic people.

West of Rochester sign up at the Oak Orchard website (Niagara, Orleans, western Monroe counties): <https://www.oakorchardhealth.org/>
 East of Rochester sign up at the Finger Lakes Community Health website (eastern Monroe, Wayne, Oswego counties): <https://localcommunityhealth.com/>

Additionally, the voluntary New York State on-farm farmworker testing initiative (*NYS Agricultural Seasonal Worker COVID-19 Testing Initiative*) is still available in the five counties it is taking place in (this includes Orleans and Wayne County in the LOF region). [Sign up here](#)

The Frequently Asked Questions document for the NYS mobile testing initiative is here. This

document has a link to the registration page to register your farm for on-farm testing: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/08/agworkertestingfaqeng.pdf> In addition, many of our partner counties still have hand sanitizer and masks available and should have the ability to get more should you require it. Contact your local CCE Association for more info.

A Decade of SWD – Webinar Recap

Janet van Zoeren

On December 8th, a nation-wide team of scientists presented a webinar, organized by Dr. Hannah Burrack from NC State, on the past ten years research findings related to spotted wing drosophila (SWD) management. The entire 1.5-hour webinar recording can be viewed by anyone – you can access it on the <https://swdmanagement.org/> webpage or on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/Rk-e13Gov24>. Some of the key takeaway messages I found most of interest are described below.

Dr. Greg Loeb from Cornell University presented on the seasonal phenology of SWD. As we've emphasized, and you have probably seen in your own operations, SWD doesn't arrive in traps or orchards early in the spring. They generally show up in our region around mid-June, and populations continue to build through to harvest. Dr. Loeb presented findings from several preliminary studies looking at the best timing for the most efficacious insecticides, which show that best control comes from **using the best materials early in the season (when populations are low, and you can best delay the population spike), and rotating to softer products later, closer to harvest**. Remember that you can find an updated insecticide efficacy chart on the [Cornell Fruit Resources SWD](#) webpage.

Dr. Phil Fanning from the University of Maine presented preliminary data on the use of a

feeding stimulant – to see if adding something “tasty” to an insecticide application would encourage SWD adults to feed more, and increase the efficacy of the insecticide. Although these were found to work moderately well in the lab for some insecticides (especially acetamiprid), preliminary results show it to not be effective in the field, at this time.

Dr. Kent Daane from the University of California presented information on the potential for classical biological control (bringing natural enemies from SWD's native range to introduce in the USA). This is, of course, a complex decision to make, since we want to be very careful not to introduce a new species that may cause problems of its own! However, native natural enemies seem to be very ineffective at controlling SWD, so classical biocontrol would be the best option, if it can be done safely.

At this point, there are **two candidate parasitoid wasps that have been thoroughly researched and have been shown to not cause “non-target” effects** on other native flies or insects. If all goes well, they could move into the permitting stage in 2021, and be available for release in the next year or two!

Dr. Ash Sial from the University of Georgia summarized the most effective cultural control practices:

1. The **ideal harvest frequency has been found to be 2-day intervals**, in order to maximize control while minimizing unnecessary time spent harvesting.
2. Increased pruning and use of drip irrigation can make your planting less attractive to SWD.
3. Mulch that creates a complete physical barrier (i.e. weed fabric or mylar) reduces SWD pupation.
4. Exclusion mesh with <1mm holes has a very high initial cost, but can lead to 100% control when done well.

Dr. Cesar Rodriguez-Saona from Rutgers University discussed Attract and Kill technologies, which show potential in research trials, but still need more data before they

would be ready to be implemented. Dr. Vaughn Walton discussed Sterile Insect Technique, which is still in the field research stage, and would have a long development and regulatory process to go through before it could be available for commercial use. Finally, **I'm excited to announce that Dr. Larry Gut, from Michigan State University, will be presenting on his SWD research at our upcoming Winter Tree Fruit Conference on February 2nd!** Dr. Gut specializes in tree fruit entomology, and he will be discussing a **degree day model for SWD infestation** that his lab has been developing, to help track more specifically the best timing for utilizing your best chemistries to control SWD, among other SWD management recommendations. I hope you'll be able to attend!

Cornell Small Farms Program New Season of Online Courses-Enroll Now!

CSFP's new season of online courses is nearly done, and now's the time to register for their upcoming block three courses which begin in the new year. Upcoming courses include their new offering on social media and online marketing, farm business courses, and production courses covering beekeeping, mushrooms, sheep and more.

Our suite of online courses is offered on a user-friendly platform, which grants registrants permanent access to their course content. Also, courses have tiered pricing based on household size and income, to make the courses more affordable and equitable for everyone.

Registration is open for [all courses](#), with live content starting in January 2021 for our third block of courses.

Upcoming courses: [Exploring Markets and Profits](#), [Holistic Financial Planning](#), [Introduction to Beekeeping](#), [Season Extension with High Tunnels](#), [Introduction to Tree Fruit Production](#), [Sheep Production](#), [Social Media &](#)

[Online Marketing](#); [Vegetable Production II](#); [Woodland Mushroom Cultivation](#), [Writing a Business Plan](#)

The Cornell Small Farm Program offers more than 20 online courses to help farmers improve their technical and business skills. Experienced farmers and extension educators guide students through course content, including weekly live webinars, videos, and resources.

The bulk of the course happens on your own time, with discussions, readings, and assignments in Teachable, our online course platform. To add to the experience, webinars will be woven into the interface of the course for a dedicated time slot each year to allow you to meet on a weekly basis to learn from presenters and ask questions in real time. If you miss one, they are always recorded and posted for later viewing.

You can browse all of our [course offerings](#) on their website.

Mark Your Calendars

Meeting Title	How to Obtain a Pesticide Applicator License Webinar
Dates	Monday, January 11, 2021
Time	1-3 PM
Location	Online, via Zoom
Brief Description of Meeting	Thinking about becoming a certified pesticide applicator in New York? This online program will cover the basics of who needs a pesticide license, license types, examination procedures, and important information to know for the test. We will incorporate interactive practice questions and activities within the program to test participant knowledge in preparation for the exam.
Cost	This is a program sponsored by CCE-ENYCHP. \$5 for ENY enrollees, \$10 for all others
Registration/Contact	Please Pre-Register soon, space is limited: https://enych.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1492 Contact Elisabeth Hodgdon with questions and/or assistance using Zoom technology: eh528@cornell.edu or 518-650-5323
Meeting Title	CCE's NY Virtual Tree Fruit Conference sponsored by the CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program and the CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Program
Dates	Feb 2-4, 2021
Time	We have 12 sessions over the 3 full days of the conference (2 AM/2 PM per day). Time will be built in for both AM/PM breaks (15-30 minutes each, and ~1 hr for lunch)
Location	Virtual (Zoom, through the Teachable platform)
Cost	\$85 for enrollees, \$95 for non-enrollees
Brief Description of Meeting	See full article in this issue. For 2021, this will replace CCE-LOF's Winter Fruit Schools and CCE-ENYCHP's Fruit & Vegetable Conference, along with LOF's participation in the Empire Producer's Expo. DEC Credits available in 3 sessions! More to follow in the coming weeks!
Registration/Contact	After the holidays, please check our landing page at: http://blogs.cornell.edu/nystreefruitconference/ There you'll find all the detailed information, including full session descriptions, registration, sponsorship, and what you need to know to receive DEC credits.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Lake Ontario Fruit Program

12690 Rt. 31

Albion, NY 14411

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Fruit Specialists



Craig Kahlke | 585-735-5448 | cjk37@cornell.edu
Team Leader, Fruit Quality Management

Areas of Interest: Fruit Quality and factors that affect fruit quality before, during, and after storage,
Crops: Blueberries, Raspberries / Blackberries, Strawberries, Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plums



Mario Miranda Sazo | 315-719-1318 | mrm67@cornell.edu
Cultural Practices

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



Janet van Zoeren | 585-797-8368 | jev67@cornell.edu
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Areas of Interest: IPM of tree fruit and berry pests, biological control, and pollinators.
Crops: Blueberries, Raspberries / Blackberries, Strawberries, Apples, Apricots, Asian Pears, Cherries, Currants, Nectarines, Peaches, Pears, Plum



Mark Wiltberger | 315-272-8530 | 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