



“Fruit Facts” – Wednesday, March 31 2021

Are you enrolled for this year’s Fruit Facts?

We’re providing a few complementary issues this spring, as a reminder to re-enroll if you would like to. You can re-enroll in with the Fruit Team and for your Fruit Facts subscription at: <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/enrollment.php>.

Are you interested in learning about “carbon farming”?

Orchard & Vineyard owners are invited to attend a virtual presentation to learn more about soil health incentive programs, otherwise known as Payment for Ecosystem Services. These programs pay farmers to use agricultural practices that sequester carbon and other ecosystem services that grow healthy soils and keep nutrients on their land.

When: March 31, 3:00pm. Register at <https://www.senecalake.org/events>

CCE LOF and ENYCH Pruning Video Resources:



- [Precision Pruning Honeycrisp](#) by LOF (NEW RELEASE)
- [Precision Pruning for Early Crop Load Management](#) by ENYCH
- [Pruning Honeycrisp for Annual Production Video](#) by LOF

IPM Notes...Janet van Zoeren

Fire blight. There is still time to get on a copper application to clean up fire blight (and scab, see below) inoculum. Once green tissue is showing, copper (especially copper mixed with oil) applied within two days of a freezing event can cause fruit finish issues. Given the snow in the forecast, it may be better to hold off on copper if green is showing in your orchard. If you had a fire blight outbreak last year, consider applying Prohexadione Calcium (Apogee/Kudos) at pink.

Apple scab. To most accurately predict scab infection events for your own farm, using the NEWA model, you will need to record your McIntosh 50% green tip date – it is probably happening right around now if it hasn’t already. Make sure to make a note of that – once we switch over to the “new NEWA” you will be able to put that into to interface once and it will remember for the rest of that season!

Kerik Cox and his student Katrin Ayer are kindly running the ascospore maturity and spore release model for the region and making the following images and recommendations this year, which I will provide regularly.

March 30 th -31 st	Infection Predicted	Ascospore Maturity	Cumulative Spore Release
NIAGARA COUNTY	 Low	5%	3%
WAYNE COUNTY	 Low	2%	1%

Lake Ontario Region scab recommendation: Trees are just starting to hit green tip, depending on cultivar and location. Make sure that copper green tip applications have been made to protect new tissue and limit primary infection from overwintering inoculum (for both apple scab and fire blight). Upcoming rain events will be accompanied by cooler weather,

hence risk of infection is low. If spring urea applications have not yet been made, be sure to make them at your earliest convenience.

Powdery Mildew. With temperatures already creeping up into the 70s, remember that PM can be active once temps reach 65F. If you had a mildew outbreak last year, note that Luna Tranquility and Merivon are registered for use on PM by green tip, and at the least, consider using a product with efficacy against PM during tight cluster.

Delayed dormant oil sprays should go on by ½” green, but not within two days before or after a cold snap – looking ahead at the snow in the forecast, oil will be “use at your own risk” if you want to get it on yet this year. If you can find a window, a 2-3% dormant or delayed dormant oil will help with **mites** and **San Jose scale**, both of which were fairly prevalent in many orchards last fall. It can also help clean up populations of **pear psylla**.

Stone Fruit. A dormant or delayed dormant treatment with copper can help reduce **bacterial canker** inoculum.

Peach leaf curl control is built upon a single **dormant fungicide application**; it will be much more difficult to play catch-up if you miss this application. Fungicides labeled include chlorothalonil (i.e. Echo), metallic copper (4 - 8 lbs per acre), Ferbam (4.5 lbs per acre), or Ziram (3 ¾ - 8 lbs per acre). Copper products will also provide some suppression of peach bacterial spot.

Any questions about pest management, please call or email me: jev67@cornell.edu, 585 797 8368.

Horticultural Notes...Mario Miranda Sazo

Please send me your pics via text (cell 315-719-1318) and let me know what you are doing: This year I will be sharing via pics the great field work that each of you conduct in the orchard or nursery every year. Last week a few growers began sending me pics of new plantings and nursery trees just dug. We had sunny weather conditions until around Thursday with optimal soil moisture conditions for field work.



Other important reminders:

Don't take/submit soil samples if they are too wet for soil sampling. It is better to wait until the middle/late in May, or, even better, to sample in the Fall (don't sample in the middle of the summer when soils are too dry).

Have you counted, reassessed pruning severity, and conducted final pruning touches for Gala and NY-1? For Honeycrisp you need to wait a bit longer to finish precision pruning. There will be a 3-4 week window from green tip to bloom when it

will be easy to identify and count Honeycrisp flower buds per tree. Then you will be able to prune to the target flower cluster number at that time. Call me if you need any assistance with precision pruning of Honeycrisp or anything else (315-719-1318).

You can still buy a relatively inexpensive weather station (RainWise, Onset) and connect to NEWA in the next few weeks...

Are you familiar with the Apple Pollen Tube Growth Model, Fruit Growth Model, and the Apple Precision Chemical Thinning Model in NEWA? Please contact CCE LOF before bloom!

Plan early spring lime applications for established plantings where necessary and if possible.

Check soil analysis for lime and fertilizer needs, and plan to **establish berms** for stone fruit plantings.

Study last year's leaf analysis and correlate to growth and vigor of each block for coming foliar application of nutrients

What will you be doing to better manage K/Ca levels in young and established 'Honeycrisp' orchards this year?

Are you ready for early Calcium sprays on 'Honeycrisp' this season? Do you have enough product?

Berry Notes...Esther Kibbe

Early Spring Berry Maintenance

This article will approach spring maintenance by activity, rather than berry type. Not all berries or systems will require each activity. Species (crop) specific activities are discussed. New York comprises many micro-climates, and plant development varies tremendously farm-to-farm and season-to-season. Check your own plants for phenological development, any mention of months/dates are averages and estimates.

Dormant Sprays. In **blueberries and caneberries**, 'delayed dormant', as buds just start to swell, is the key time for dormant sprays, if you have had issues with cane disease (Phomopsis, Botrytis). Options include lime sulfur, copper (many options, including organic ones) or sterilants (such as Oxidate, JetAg or Rendition).

Check strawberries for overwintering Twospotted Spider Mites, by looking at the undersides of leaves with a magnifying lens (winter morph will be reddish). If more than 5 per leaflet are found, apply a miticide, such as Agri-Mek, Savey (only 1 application per season), Zeal or Portal, among others.

Fertilization. It's a little too early to actually fertilize, but it doesn't hurt to have a plan and products ready before things get really busy. **Blueberries** should get half of their nitrogen at bud swell (late April- early May) and the remainder at petal fall (late May- early June). The actual rate depends on the age and size of the plants, but mature plants require 40-70 lb N/acre per year. If soil testing shows that the soil pH is creeping up, apply 200 lb/acre of sulfur in the spring. **Caneberries** want all of their nitrogen at bud-break (late April in 2020), mature plants require 50-100 lb N/acre. **Strawberries** in matted row should NOT receive nitrogen in the spring, those in plasticulture might benefit from a little through the drip. For all crops, Phosphorous and Potassium can be applied to all *as recommended in tissue analysis* (taken previous July), if not done in the fall.

Frost Protection. Frost protection with overhead sprinklers or double row covers ("fleece") is highly recommended for strawberry growers. Sprinklers on risers have benefited blueberry growers as well. Late freezes, such as those we had in 2020, can destroy a crop in bloom. This is the time to get your equipment out and test it, making sure your water source(s) and pumps are working as well. Be sure to have thermometers on hand and in place in the field, as the temperature at ground level may be different (lower!) than at your house or barn. Growers using row covers to advance the crop have had best results using sprinklers over the top of the covers.

Every effort has been made to provide correct, complete, and up-to-date pesticide recommendations. Nevertheless, changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly, and human errors are still possible. These recommendations are not a substitute for pesticide labeling. Please read the label before applying any pesticide. Copyright 2019. All rights reserved. No part of this material may be reproduced or redistributed by any means without permission. Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities.

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