



**“Fruit Facts” – Tuesday, April 6 2021**

**Are you enrolled???**

This will be the *final* complementary issue for this spring! If you have not yet done so, please re-enroll NOW if you would like to continue to receive Fruit Facts: <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/enrollment.php>.

**Asana XL (DuPont, EPA Reg. 352-515) Registration in NYS Withdrawn**

DuPont will not be re-registering the insecticide Asana (esfenvalerate, EPA reg. 352-515) in New York State.

All uses **have been cancelled** as of midnight two days ago (March 31st, 2021), meaning it is now illegal to distribute, apply or purchase Asana in the state. Existing stocks may not be used and must be disposed of in an acceptable manner.

However, note that Valent BioSciences product under the same name - Asana XL (EPA reg. 59639-209) is still registered and available for use in NYS.

**Wayne Co Respirator Fit Test – April 26/27**

Cornell Cooperative Extension Wayne and the Wayne County Farm Bureau are collaborating again to offer in person respirator fit test training on Monday and Tuesday April 26 and 27th at the Pultneyville Lodge. Slots are limited this year and each slot can only accommodate 1 farm, due to COVID. All sanitation procedures will be followed. Masks are required upon entry. Cost is \$90 / person.



Register by calling Beth Claypool at the CCE Office at 315-331-8415 ext. 102. Space is limited, so get in touch now!

**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**

**Apple scab.** Buds are pushing fast, but this week’s cooler weather and lower humidity presents low scab risk.

April 7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Infection Predicted	Ascospore Maturity	Predicted Spore Release
NIAGARA COUNTY	 None	4%	0%
WAYNE COUNTY	 None	2%	0%

**West of Rochester:** This week forecast is for cooler weather during the predicted light rainfall at the end of the week, therefore no infection is predicted this week. Maintain desired fungicide coverage at your discretion.

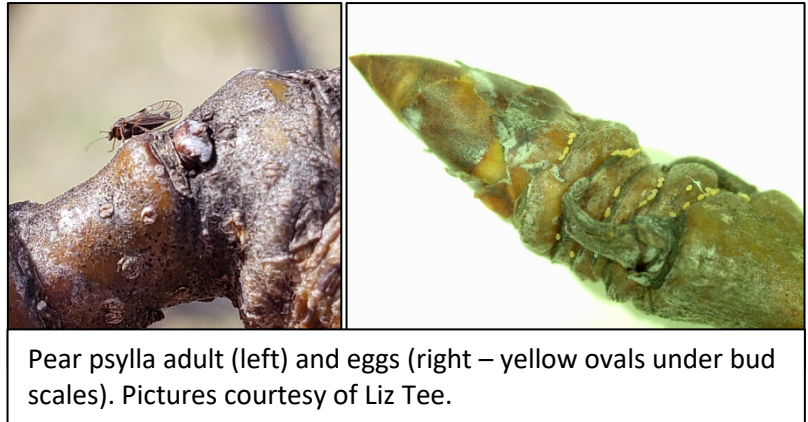
**East of Rochester:** Trees are just starting to hit green tip, depending on cultivar and location. Make sure that copper green tip applications have been made to protect new tissue and limit primary infection from overwintering inoculum (for both apple scab and fire blight). If spring urea applications have not yet been made, be sure to make them at your earliest convenience. No infections are predicted for the week.

**Copper and oil.** There is still time to clean up overwintering scab and fire blight inoculum using a copper application at ~green tip. Late this week should have some good spray windows – depending on your microclimate temperatures likely dipped below freezing last night, so we recommend you wait until Friday to apply copper (especially mixed with oil) to avoid fruit finish issues.

**Powdery Mildew.** It seems to be shaping up to be a bad year for mildew this year. If you have blocks with a history of mildew, be ready for an application at tight cluster. Luna Sensation or Merivon (FRAC 11+7), Fontelis (7) and Flint Extra are registered for PM at TC. There are other options available – see the Recommends for a full listing.

**Pear Psylla** have been spotted in Niagara Co and in the Hudson Valley. Scout terminal buds for ovipositing adults or eggs (see images). If you find psylla adults or eggs, you can manage from now till bloom using an oil or Surround (Kaolin clay) application to delay egg laying, followed up by either an insect growth regulator (i.e. Esteem) or a pyrethroid or neonicotinoid (apply those well before bloom to avoid pollinators contacting the residue). Read more about early spring pear psylla biology and management in Peter Jentsch's 2016 article:

<https://blogs.cornell.edu/jentsch/2016/03/11/psylla-on-the-wing-march-11th-2016/>.



Pear psylla adult (left) and eggs (right – yellow ovals under bud scales). Pictures courtesy of Liz Tee.

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

## ***Horticultural Notes...Mario Miranda Sazo***

Please send me your pics or videos via text (cell 315-719-1318) or email ([mrm67@cornell.edu](mailto:mrm67@cornell.edu)) and let me know what you and/or your employees are Doing/Seeing/Inventing: This year I will be sharing via pics or videos the great field work that each of you conduct in the orchard or nursery every year. Last week I received the below pics of a crew planting NY-1 “grow-through” trees produced by Lamont with a tractor equipped with GPS. This week we will have almost ideal soil conditions for more tree planting and orchard work.



Multileader hedging via YouTube (posted by a WNY fruit grower just one day ago...)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4\\_Aglu5PNe0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_Aglu5PNe0)

**Don't forget to record 50% green tip date (Exact Date No Excuses! , this season) for improved precision chemical thinning results at your farm:** Mature Gala blocks located in inland sites should have reached 50% GT last week. Blocks located in lake sites should be at the 50% GT or more today. In addition to Gala, you'll also need this date for each mature block of Honeycrisp and Fuji to maximize precision of the NEWA Apple Carbohydrate Thinning Model or MaluSim. We estimate that mature Honeycrisp blocks along the lake will be reaching 50% or more GT today or by the end of this week with the warm weather. For best results, we want to make sure that Western NY growers will enter the most accurate 50% GT date to run

the model. With different varieties, rootstocks, soil textures, topography, or distances from the lake, the 50% GT date might vary quite a bit, so close observations are important. Growers may need to run the model more than once for different farms or blocks to improve PRECISION this year. More about chemical thinning later in the season!

**Topping of rootstocks in the on-farm nursery:** Topping of rootstocks should be done in the on-farm nursery this week at the latest. Do not wait any longer for the portion of the rootstock above the inserted bud to be removed. Soil temperature conditions play an important role for root growth in the on-farm nursery (apple root development starts around 16°C or 60.8°F). Also, any sucker growth that occurs on the rootstock should be removed by rubbing it off as it appears. This may be necessary 1-2 times before the growth from the inserted buds dominate.

**Preparing to graft in the orchard:** Tree tops should be removed and ready for spring grafting at the latest this week. The majority of the top should be removed first so that the large quantity of brush can be removed. The fresh cut will be made the day of grafting to create a smooth fresh cambial interface.

**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).

**Plan to score/girdle with the use of a double-bladed clipper plus Maxcel or Promalin to promote bud-breaks:** In 2019 I began to emphasize the importance of scoring and girdling for blind wood sections. These techniques temporarily interrupt the movement in the phloem (carbohydrate and hormone balance). Better results have been achieved if these techniques are performed with a **double-bladed clipper** (you can google it and order one online today, it costs @ \$60-70 dollars/piece), or a small saw (wounds can heal a couple weeks later). These cuts can promote bud-break and enhance vegetative growth. The techniques should be applied in spring (green tip stage) the first year. Better results have been achieved if techniques are applied in the second year after planting when the root system is well established. Scoring/girdling should be followed with a directed spray of a PGR (Promalin, Maxcel).

#### **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).

**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?

**Don't forget to order your Promalin, Maxcel, and Apogee materials!**

**Good luck this week!**

### Early Spring Berry Maintenance

Plants will start to develop quickly with the warm weather predicted. The very cold temperatures last week might have damaged the more advanced strawberry buds (straw or no straw) but we won't know until flowers come out over the next month. Once plants are actively growing, risk from frost increases, and accordingly, the importance of overhead irrigation or row covers for frost protection. The window is closing for dormant sprays against cane diseases on blueberries and caneberries.

**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.

**The Lake Ontario Fruit Program is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations in Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, Oswego and Wayne counties.**