



“Fruit Facts” – Tuesday, April 13 2021

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.

April 11 th -15 th	Infection Predicted	Ascospore Maturity	Predicted Spore Release
NIAGARA COUNTY	 Low	10%	6%
WAYNE COUNTY	 Low	10%	8%

West of Rochester: An infection period is occurring from 4/11 to 4/13. If you did not apply Captan or Mancozeb over the weekend, consider applying a fungicide with kickback like Syllit (not to exceed 2 applications per year). This should protect leaves if it rains later in the week as well, but may cause russetting in the earliest varieties. Other options (Scala, Vanguard) would be effective, but don't redistribute as well, and may be important to save for use later in the season or for use other diseases.

East of Rochester: An infection period is occurring from 4/11 to 4/15. Continuous rainy weather may make it difficult to get fungicide coverage this week. Consider applying a fungicide with kickback like Syllit (not to exceed 2 applications per year) when there is a break in the rain. Syllit may cause russetting in the furthest along varieties. Other options (Scala, Vanguard) would be effective, but don't redistribute as well, and may be important to save for use later in the season or for use other diseases.

Powdery Mildew. Watch for mildew symptoms as your varieties reach tight cluster stage. Luna Sensation or Merivon (FRAC 11+7), Fontelis (7) and Flint Extra would help control mildew at tight cluster stage.

Black stem borer flight begins! This spring, you can still apply Lorsban (chlorpyrifos) to blocks with black stem borer pressure at petal fall. However, after July 31st of this year, all chlorpyrifos products will be banned in NY for all uses. Remember that BSB only targets trees that are already stressed or unhealthy, so optimal water management practices and general tree health practices will help eliminate BSB spread.

Tarnished Plant Bug has been sighted. If you have blocks with a history of TPB, consider applying a Pyrethroid at early tight cluster.

Pear Psylla numbers have been high in some orchards this spring. Eggs have not yet hatched, so scout and control now. Scout terminal buds for ovipositing adults or eggs. 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).

Mating Disruption. Are you are interested in learning more about mating disruption, or if you are deciding if it would be a good fit for your operation? There will be an informational meeting open to all tree fruit growers in the Lake Ontario area, organized by Trece Inc and Peck Babcock, on April 23rd. RSVP is required so let me or Kaley Catlin (KCatlin@trece.com) know if you are interested in attending.

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 or videos via text (cell 315-719-1318) or email (mrm67@cornell.edu) and let me know what you and/or your employees are Doing/Seeing/Trialing: 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 Wednesday I received a video from a Wayne grower. We posted his video in our CCE LOF YouTube video. The video shows potted trees being planted in the first part of July at Fresh Start Orchards, Wolcott, NY. Trees were produced by Wafler Nursery. <https://youtu.be/Tvekn1RpWTk>

Pink bud phenology getting closer: Several early cultivars located in inland sites were still at the tight cluster stage yesterday (Gala, McIntosh), Ida Red clusters were a bit more advanced, and early pink was noticed in Gingergold and a bit also in Ruby Mac. In early sites, we estimate early pink stages for Gala by the end of this week or during the weekend and for Honeycrisp starting next Monday through Wednesday.

Have you counted, reassessed pruning severity, and conducted final pruning touches for Gala and NY-1? For Honeycrisp (also Fuji and EverCrisp) you may be able to start by the middle or end of next week to finish precision pruning. Soon we will be entering the right time window from pink 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 (especially with situations of low return bloom) or anything else (315-719-1318).



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.

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 it is 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). Better results have been achieved if applied in the second year after planting when the root system is well established. Scoring/girdling should be followed with a directed spray of Promalin or 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** 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 this year's foliar application of nutrients
- **What will you be doing to better manage K/Ca levels in young and established 'Honeycrisp' orchards this year?**

Berry Notes...Esther Kibbe

Spring Weed Management

Across the Northeast, warm temperatures are contributing to early bud development in berry crops, up to two weeks ahead of normal. Many of the typical regional differences in phenology are muted or reversed. Growers will be watching the forecasts carefully for frosts/freezes that may damage tender new growth. Drought conditions are reported across the region, with relief in some areas from the recent rain. Some observers are concerned that drought from last season, combined with drying winds through the winter have contributed to more winterkill on blueberries than would be expected from the temperatures.

Caneberries.

Casoron 4G (granular) can be used in caneberries. It must be applied before May 1st. If you are applying it in April, make sure to apply before soil temperatures exceed 45 degree F and before any annual weed seeds germinate – we may be past this point in many areas of WNY. **Casoron CS** can be applied a bit later but still needs to be incorporated by rainfall before weed germination; it is labeled for blackberry and raspberries if applied before new shoot emergence. Casoron controls annual grasses and broadleaves, as well as some perennial grasses. Follow Casoron with a post-emergent such as paraquat to kill pre emerged weeds or apply glyphosate when weeds are actively growing.

Princep, Devrinol, Axex, Sencor or Sinbar can all be applied for pre-emergent weed control. Another pre-emergent is **Surflan**. Again there are two formulations. Surflan AS can be used in non-bearing and bearing brambles at a rate of 20-40

gallons per acre. To broaden the spectrum of weed control, tank mix Gramaxone with Princep or Solicam. Irrigate product in to activate material. Surflan XL 2G can only be applied to non-bearing brambles.

Blueberries.

If you use wood chip **mulch** for weed suppression, and the layer is breaking down, try to get fresh mulch on before the weeds get established.

For herbicides, **Casoron 4G** must be applied before May 1st. If you are applying it in April, make sure to apply before soil temperatures exceed 45F and before any annual weed seeds germinate – this window is probably closing as well! **Casoron CS** can be applied a bit later but still needs to be incorporated by rainfall before weed germination; it is labeled for 1 year old blueberries. Casoron controls annual grasses and broadleaves, as well as some perennial grasses. Follow Casoron with a post-emergent such as paraquat to kill emerged weeds or apply glyphosate when weeds are actively growing.

Princep, Devrinol, Axxe, Solicam or Sinbar are pre-emergent options. If you have a nutsedge problem, consider **Sandea**.

Strawberries.

I am seeing new leaves emerging from strawberry crowns – this means it is too late for most spring herbicides. However, **Stinger** (clopyra-lid) can be applied as a broadcast treatment over actively growing strawberries up to the time of first bloom. This herbicide is only available as a *Special Local Needs (SLN) No. NY-190003*. Stinger is especially strong on weeds in the Aster and Legume family (i.e. dandelion, horseweed, mugwort, clover and vetch). Since this has only recently become available, there is not much experience with strawberry tolerance, so if trying it for the first time a small test patch is recommended. (*Herbicide information from Andy Senesac, CCE Suffolk county*).

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.