Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Lake Ontario Fruit Program
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"*Fruit Facts*" – Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Please pre-register your Hispanic orchard employees for the 6th Hispanic Summer Fruit Tour this Saturday, August 28, 1-5:30pm. The last day for pre-registration is today by 5pm.

See more details below.

Pre-season Workshop Webinar with Chris Watkins this Friday August 27, noon-1pm: Chris will conduct a pre-season workshop webinar to discuss the latest storage recommendations for Gala and other important New York apple varieties.

The Zoom webinar is scheduled for **Friday August 27 from 12.00 -1.00.** There is no registration or charge to attend. You can join the Zoom webinar by following the link here:
https://cornell.zoom.us/j/99325676151?pwd=SDlqa0taNVJCcWxJcndWOFIzeTdDdz09

Chris welcomes any pre-meeting questions (cbw3@cornell.edu) that will help address specific storage issues.

IPM Notes…Janet van Zoeren

Three **Bifenthrin** products have now been approved by the EPA under the Section 18 Emergency Exemption for use to control **brown marmorated stink bug**. These products are **Bifenture 10DF** (EPA Reg. No. 70506-227), **Bifenture EC** (EPA Reg. No. 70506-57), and **Brigade WSB** (EPA Reg. No. 279-3108).

Specifically, these Bifenthrin products can be used to manage BMSB, from now through October 15th 2021, in apple, peach and nectarine crops. You must have a copy of the appropriate Section 18 exemption in your possession at the time of use

In our region, it is permitted in Niagara, Monroe, Orleans and Wayne counties.

Lorsban (chlorpyrifos) Ban and Disposal. The DEC will allow possession, transport, storage or handling of open or closed containers of these products *for purposes of shipment out of state or for proper disposal* until February 1, 2022. The DEC is also working on providing CleanSweepNY disposal options – you can check the CleanSweepNY website, email info@cleansweepny.org or call 518-225-8146 for details. In addition, **please let me know if you do have large quantities of Lorsban to dispose of, as I can contact CleanSweepNY to request a local pickup if there will be need for it**.

Horticultural Notes…Mario Miranda Sazo

Please pre-register and send your Hispanic orchard employees to the coming LOF summer tour for Hispanics to be conducted this Saturday August 28, 1-5:30pm: The tour will be hosted by the Rosarios (Sergio and Silvia Rosario). We will visiting the farms located in Marshall Rd. and Kendrick Rd, in Orleans County. The tour will finish with a celebration and food with funds provided by Nicole Waters from Cornell Small Farms Program.

Pre-registration will be required for attendance of your Hispanic employees for any part of the Hispanic tour this year (the last day for pre-registration is today August 25, 2021 by 5pm). We encourage all growers to register their Hispanic employees by **emailing a list of participants** with first name(s) and second last name(s)) plus a phone number from your organization to Kim Hazel (krh5@cornell.edu), Nicole Waters (nw42@cornell.edu), or myself (mrm67@cornewll.edu). Please contact me (315-719-1318) if you need more specifics about the tour.

Tour agenda:

Stop 1 – Marshall Farm. 3168 Marshall Rd. Medina, NY 14103.

1:00pm: Registration/check-in process. Please make sure all your employees are pre-registered for the tour (see details above).

1:30pm: Welcome and tour logistics – Mario Miranda Sazo, LOF

1:35-2:35pm: Sergio and Silvia Rosario will introduce their team, business, and the Marshall Farm recently purchased in 2021. The 60-acre farm consists of several facilities, equipment, and old plantings of Honeycrisp, Gala, Fuji, Jonagold, and Empire trees on M.26 rootstocks. Since the first day the farm was purchased, the Rosarios began a complete makeover process to make the orchards more productive and efficient. Barns, equipments, and roads have all been cleaned/repaired and there is more work to do in the fall and next year.

- Topics to be discussed at this stop:
  - Orchard renovation of Fuji/M.26 blocks through dormant/summer pruning
  - Bloom, chemical, and manual thinning practices for Fuji
  - Expected yields and fruit commercialization in 2021
  - Pre-site preparation for an on-farm nursery to be established in 2022

2:35-3:00pm: Tour participants drive to Stop 2

Stop 2 – Kendrick Farm. 13636 Kendrick Rd, Waterport, NY 14571.

3:00-4:20pm: At this stop tour participants will visit the 50-acres high density plantings established by the Rosarios since 2019.

- Topics to be discussed at this stop:
  - Orchard establishment, training, irrigation and pruning practices of Gala, Honeycrisp, Fuji, NY-1, Evercrisp, and Ambrosia on several dwarfing rootstocks, all planted at 2x11ft in 2019 and 2020.
  - Planting of side-grafted trees of Honeycrisp and Pink Lady on B.9, B.10, and M.9 Nic29 rootstocks.

4:20-4:30pm: Tour participants will walk to a comfortable shaded space with tables and chairs to celebrate the end of the tour at the same Kendrick Farm.

4:30-5:30pm. Welcome by Nicole Waters. Please notice that all the funds for this celebration, plus food, beverages, and gift cards are provided by Cornell Small Farms Program.

Peel sap results began to be sent to growers a few days before the LOF summer tour. Please let me know if you have not received your results via email from Dr. Robinson or need any additional interpretation.

You can still sample fruit for the Passive Model for Honeycrisp bitter pit prediction (please review detailed sampling protocol sent in the last issue of our newsletter): Today is the last day to sample fruit for the passive model in WNY. Select 100 fruit representative from a block (growers who submitted peel samples in July should sample the same trees/area of the block now in August). Flag the area and/or row(s) and/or trees to be sampled in 2021 for future fruit samplings in 2022 and beyond.

The Passive Model is simple and can provide very valuable information for your operation: Even if you did not submit peel samples in July, it is still beneficial to collect fruit for the passive model. An accurate assessment of bitter pit risk can help determine storage and marketing decision that can save you money.

Last call for leaf sampling (except for Honeycrisp! - please be aware that Honeycrisp leaves should have been collected at the end of June/early July in WNY this season): Time is running out to gather apple leaf samples. Nutrient levels will be shifting very soon so send samples in within the next few days. Please remember that if sampling is done later than 60 to 70 days after petal fall you must select the **first full-sized mature leaf behind the shoot tip.** For more details, please review the protocol sampling and more guidance listed on the Agro-One Plant Tissue Testing web page at http://dairyone.com/analytical-services/agronomy-services/plant-tissue-testing-services/

A call for sudangrass and radish: Time to mow your sudangrass and start thinking about tillage radish in the fall for new orchard sites to be established next spring 2022.

Deployment of reflective fabrics should have begun last week and early this week for high value apple cultivars. Please do so as soon as you have the time and labor.

General considerations for summer pruning: Do as little cutting as possible when summer pruning. Always keep the objective in mind when pruning. If your objective is to improve light interception and fruit color, limit pruning to the removal of limbs and foliage that prevents light from reaching the fruit. Excess removal of foliage will weaken the tree and may harm the fruit's ability to mature. If your objective is to contain tree size, cut back to weak side limbs or fruiting spurs just as you would in the winter on those same branches. Don't be afraid to remove some apples. Remember that if you are making the proper cut for color there will be better apples underneath.

Some specific considerations for 'Leaf pruning': A few growers have incorporated (or are close to conducting) leaf pruning in order to precisely expose shaded fruit to sunlight for better fruit color development the following days. Leaf pruning is an effective, but more expensive technique, that should be conducted until around 6-7ft above the ground (don't leaf prune the tops of your trees). We also recommend you stop leaf pruning at least 48 hours before the beginning of a period of hot temperatures. If you can't wait and have the time/labor available for any type of summer pruning and/or leaf pruning, please consider conducting the pruning only on the east side of the canopy (assuming your rows are oriented North-South), to minimize any potential sunburn issues at the hottest time of the day. A more aggressive summer pruning would be less detrimental if (1) it is coupled with an effective sunburn spray program, (2) has at least targeted the west side of the tree rows, (3) has been applied every 15-20 days, and (4) was started in the middle or end of June this season.

Dry mid-summer period immediately after harvest is a great time to summer prune sweet cherries: Pruning should be done during dry periods which allow cuts to dry out or heal before rain. The key to pruning is to leave a 6-12 inches heading stub (no flush cuts!) to reduce the movement of bacteria into the trunk or main limbs and to leave vegetative buds for regrowth of a new branch. Research done at Geneva showed that pruning cherries after harvest during dry, summer weather significantly reduced the likelihood of bacterial canker infections. It found that copper applied immediately before and after pruning did not reduce bacterial canker infections, (2) Cherry trees generally are so vigorous that removal of some wood does not affect carbohydrate accumulation for the winter and following season, (3) judicious summer pruning can improve the light environment within the tree strengthening fruit buds and possibly improving next year's bloom and fruit set. Research done in the west has shown that summer pruning reduced the overall vigor of the tree but did not affect subsequent yield or fruit size. This means that summer pruning is especially beneficial for **overly vigorous trees**. At this time it is easy to see bacterial canker infections that can be easily removed potentially reducing the potential for infections next spring. Immediately post–harvest is also the very best time to **reduce tree height**. Large cuts made in the tree top result in very little regrowth and any resulting winter injury has very little impact on the health of the tree. A single large cut at the desired tree height can contain tree height for up to 3 years.

The style of summer pruning used depends on sweet cherry tree architecture: Dormant cuts made into 1 year old wood generally result in the production of 3 new shoots. Usually 2 are laterally placed (flat) while the third is upright. Simply removing the upright will sufficiently open the tree and allow much improved light penetration to the interior fruiting wood. Allowing a small stub to remain can increase the number of cherries since fruit buds generally form at the base of one year old wood. Leaving stubs might be an excellent practice for shy bearing varieties such as Regina, Ulster, and Attika. Shoots should be completely removed on cherries that bear excessively such as Whitegold, Rainier, and Sweetheart. Another reason to leave stubs is to limit the potential spread of bacterial canker on extremely susceptible varieties.

Trying pneumatic defoliation for the first time this year?: There is a lot to learn and things to try/test when combining/comparing the use of reflective fabrics, manual leaf pruning, and pneumatic defoliation with one of the German or Italian machines. Please contact me if you are planning to test the use of a pneumatic defoliation machine this season! (Mario – 315-719-1318, mrm67@cornell.edu).

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 2021. 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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