



**“Fruit Facts” – Thursday, April 7 2022**

**Updated green tip dates – Ranging from Apr 7<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> across the region**

The below predicted green tip dates are based on running the model on April 6 in the morning. See more details in the “Hort Notes” section below.

	Niagara/Orleans		Wayne	
<b>Lakeside sites</b>	Early bloom varieties (IdaRed):	Mid bloom vars. (Delicious):	Early bloom varieties (IdaRed):	Mid bloom vars. (Delicious):
	<b>April 13</b>	<b>April 14</b>	<b>April 15-18</b>	<b>April 16-20</b>
<b>Inland sites</b>	Early bloom varieties (IdaRed):	Mid bloom vars. (Delicious):	Early bloom varieties (IdaRed):	Mid bloom vars. (Delicious):
	<b>April 7</b>	<b>April 10</b>	<b>April 12</b>	<b>April 14</b>

Please plan to send your employees to the **two pruning workshops** scheduled for **next week**:

- **Tuesday April 12 - 4:30pm to 5:30pm** (hosted by Cherry Lawn Farms, 8130 Glover Road, Sodus, NY 14551, bilingual language format for Jamaican and Spanish pruning crews)
- **Wednesday April 13 - 4:30pm to 5:30pm** (hosted by Rosario Brothers, 3168 Marshall Rd. Medina, NY 14103, Spanish language format).

For more details about the last 2022 pruning workshops in April, please visit the following link:

<https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1650>

**IPM Notes...Janet van Zoeren**

This week looks like a good window for **dormant oil sprays**, which can go on until ½” green (below freezing temperatures in the two days prior or two days after oil application can damage tissue treated with oil). The 2-3% dormant or delayed dormant oil will help with **mites**, **San Jose scale** and **pear psylla**. A reduced rate application could go on until pink.

**Pear psylla** has already been seen in high pressure orchards. For psylla apply an delayed dormant oil application, or mix in copper with 3 gal of oil / 100 gal water.

**Apple scab** control starts now with a feed-grade **urea application**, before green tip, directed at the ground to speed up leaf litter decomposition (this will reduce inoculum and give you a huge head start for control of apple scab, as well as **Marsonina blight**, **cankers**, and **fruit rots**). Apply urea at 40 lbs. in 100 gal/A. and rinse the sprayer with water afterwards to prevent corroding the sprayer pump.

This week, at silver tip, a **dormant or delayed dormant copper spray** will help clean up any apple scab (as well as any **fire blight**) in the orchard. Apply from silver tip until green tip. Avoid applying copper if below freezing temps occur or are predicted to occur within 48hrs.

Apple scab infection potential begins when there is green tissue present in your orchard. Some orchards, especially east of Rochester, may begin to see green tissue soon. **If** you begin to see green tissues today or tomorrow, there is a very mild risk of first release of scab ascospores, beginning primary scab infection. Unless you: a, have green tissue present, b, had high apple scab pressure last year, and c, are growing a highly susceptible cultivar (see <https://blogs.cornell.edu/applevarietydatabase/disease-susceptibility-of-common-apples/>), I would recommend **not** to begin scab control yet this season. Read more about scab infection updates at Kerik Cox's blog: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/coxlab/category/newsletters/>

**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](mailto:jev67@cornell.edu), 585 797 8368.

## Horticultural Notes...Mario Miranda Sazo

**I have one special request today:** 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 will be doing/seeing/trialing (or just send me a text and let me know what you are doing). This 2022 season I would like to share via the *Fruit Facts* the great field work that each of you conduct in the orchard or nursery every year. There are a few growers who have already do so with new planting machines using gps and light guidance for more accurate tree spacing in the in-row spacing.

**Current prediction for green tip in WNY:** Craig sent us the most updated information yesterday. Summary – Lake sites Niagara/Orleans **same** GT dates; inland Niagara/Orleans, **1 day earlier** for both early and mid-season varieties; inland Wayne **one day earlier** for early cultivars, **same date** as before for mid-season cultivars.

**Updated GT Dates:** Ran the model on April 6, 11am (40 hrs after data that went into *Fruit Notes* newsletter)

	Niagara/Orleans		Wayne	
<b>Lakeside sites</b>	Early bloom varieties (IdaRed):	Mid bloom vars. (Delicious):	Early bloom varieties (IdaRed):	Mid bloom vars. (Delicious):
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**Have you counted, reassessed pruning severity, and conducted final pruning** touches for Honeycrisp, 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. We will be soon entering the right time window from green tip - early 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 (1.5 for Gala and 1.8 for Honeycrisp and Fuji). Call me if you need any assistance with precision pruning of Honeycrisp or anything else (315-719-1318).

**Pruning of tops:** At maturity, the top portion of the central leader must be cut annually to a small side branch and you also have to eliminate the upper large branches with a bevel cut. The upper 1/3 portion of your trees should be composed of just fine fruiting wood.

**For overgrown tops with too much vigor:** You can also consider delaying the pruning cut decision of tops after bloom or until the early part of the summer to reduce excessive shoot growth as a result of the dormant cut at this moment. If you can't wait and need to prune the tops now, you should also consider a directed spray of Apogee to the tops to reduce vegetative growth.

**Other vegetative growth control strategies for mature blocks with excessive vegetative growth potential in 2022:**

- **Delay the pruning cut decision** of the largest 1-2 branches/tree until bloom or right after.
- **Reduce or eliminate the application of nitrogen** until late in the growing season. The soil will generate enough N through the breakdown of organic matter.
- **Apply Apogee at pink** (Honeycrisp situations)
- **Root prune at bloom to 10 days after petal fall** can be very effective in controlling excessive shoot growth.

**Start thinking/planning ahead about the benefits of Boron and Zinc to overcome the effects of any early spring frosts that may occur in 2022:** For years we have recommended prebloom applications of zinc and boron to stimulate early bud, leaf, and shoot development. Growers might consider applying Dr. Warren Stiles "spring tonic" of 3 lbs of urea (feed-grade) plus 1 lb Solubor plus 1 qt zinc chelate EDTA per 100 gal. Application of this tank mix to apples at tight cluster to pink has shown to strengthen buds and could help in a frost year.

**The benefits of a prebloom boron foliar application are:**

- (1) the spray provides boron to the flower during the critical period of development of the ovules and anthers.
- (2) improves pollen germination and pollen tube growth.
- (3) improves early season leaf and shoot growth.
- (4) is also beneficial in overcoming the effects of winter injury or early spring frosts.
- (5) a prebloom application of zinc can also help to stimulate early bud, leaf, and shoot development.
- (6) one of the most critical periods that a zinc shortage may seriously impair tree performance is between budbreak and fruit set. A zinc shortage at this time often results in poor growth of the leaves and new shoots as well as abnormal development of pollen tubes, ultimately resulting in poor seed set.

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