



“Fruit Facts” – Thursday, April 14 2022

Please plan to send your employees to the **last pruning workshop** scheduled for **next week**:

- **Wednesday April 20 - 1:30pm to 3:30pm** (hosted by Behling Orchards, 14 Potter Road, Mexico, NY 13114). I will show and discuss how to adjust bud load targets for ‘Honeycrisp’ with Eric Behling and his Jamaican pruning employees. English language will be used during instruction with all participants.

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

Conditions are conducive to **apple scab** infection in our region this week. If you have not recently applied any fungicides, consider applying a product with some kick-back. If you applied oil this spring, remember that Captan applied within 10 days of an oil application may cause phytotoxicity.

The next few days are not forecast to have risk of infection events, so if you are covered through today, you should be ok for the next couple days.

Read more about scab infection updates at Kerik Cox’s blog: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/coxlab/category/newsletters/>.

Infection Predicted	Ascospore Maturity	Spore Release
<p>Low</p>  <p>4/8-4/14 (current)</p>	5%	5%

Copper (to help clean up **scab and fire blight** inocula) should not be applied after ¼” green on fresh varieties, or after ½” green on processing blocks (rule of thumb - see label for product-specific directions).

Mites and scale insects can be controlled by using a 2% oil at green tip through ½” green, or a 1% oil at tight cluster. Go slow, don’t go below 100 gal/A. Watch the forecast – temps are forecast to dip down to around freezing over the weekend, and remember that applying oil within 48hrs of cool temperatures increases risk of phytotoxicity. Also keep in mind that there may be phytotoxicity issues if you use oils within 7-10 days of a Captan application.

Pear psylla can still be controlled with a delayed dormant oil application, or mix in copper with 3 gal of oil / 100 gal water. If you’d rather not risk oil with the forecasted temps dropping down around freezing, consider Sivanto Prime, Exirel, Esteem, Delegate, Centaur or Actara (or check the tree fruit recommends for other options).

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.

Oil at a rate of 1 to 2% will help get you off on the right foot controlling **mites and scale insects** in stone fruits. A provisional threshold for when to apply oil to stone fruit is if you can see mite or scale insect infestation without use of a handlens. Watch the forecast – temps are forecast to dip down to around freezing over the weekend, and remember that applying oil within 48hrs of cool temperatures increases risk of phytotoxicity. When applying, go slow and don't go below 100 gal/A.

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

Horticultural Notes...Mario Miranda Sazo

Don't forget to record 50% green tip date (Exact Date No Excuses! , this 2022 season) for improved precision chemical thinning results at your farm: Mature Gala blocks located in inland sites should have reached 50% GT on Monday or Tuesday. 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-tomorrow or sometime this weekend with the warm weather we had yesterday. 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!

Good participation during the Honeycrisp pruning workshops this week: We had a great attendance and were able to discuss in the Spanish language the last pruning touches for Honeycrisp with more than 60 employees on Tuesday and Wednesday. I want to thank the grower hosts and those growers who sent their employees to the field meetings this week. There is one more pruning meeting scheduled in Oswego County next **Wednesday April 20 - 1:30pm to 3:30pm** (hosted by Eric Behling).

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 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).

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!**

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 pruning 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.

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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