Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Lake Ontario Fruit Program
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"*Fruit Facts*" – Thursday, April 21 2022

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

Wednesday April 27 - 1:30pm to 3:30pm (hosted by Burch Orchards, 527 North Avenue (Route 259), Hilton, NY 14468.

I will show and discuss how to adjust bud load targets for 'Honeycrisp' with Bayard and Benjamin Burch, other grower participants, and pruning employees. English language will be used during instruction with all participants (instruction in the Spanish language will be used when needed).

IPM Notes…Janet van Zoeren

There is a possible **apple scab** infection in parts of the state today. If there is a significant wetting event, consider an application tomorrow of a product with kickback (unless you are already sufficiently covered of course).

As buds in some blocks are approaching tight cluster, this is a good time to switch to mixing Captan/Mancozeb with a fungicide that will also help control powdery mildew and the summer rots. A by no means comprehensive list of products with high efficacy against PM, and at least 48hrs kickback for scab, includes Flint Extra, Inspire Super, Luna Sensation, Miravis, Merivon, and Sercadis. Check the recommends for a full list of products that are effective against scab, PM, cedar apple rust and summer rots, depending what diseases you have a history with.

It is too late to apply copper on most varieties: copper 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 still 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. 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.

As we move into tight cluster, we move into a spray window for **rosy apple aphid** and **san jose scale**. Check the recommends for products effective against one of both those pests, if you have a history of damage from them.

We set out monitoring traps for **Oriental Fruit moth** this week. If you do your own trapping on your farm, you'll want to get those out soon, to catch the first moths beginning to fly. If you are using mating disruption for oriental fruit moth, make sure you have your disruptors sourced and think about finding enough labor hours to get those hung in the coming weeks. Remember that if you miss the beginning of flight, moths will begin to mate, and the disruption will not be effective.

On the subject of mating disruption, this would be a good year to consider using **mating disruption to keep on top of dogwood borer**. Historically, a trunk spray of Lorsban would have kept those numbers down. This year of course Lorsban is no longer registered for our use. Assail at petal fall may provide some control of DWB (also would double up as a good product against the internal leps), although complete reliance on a single chemistry is asking for trouble with development of resistance. Mating disruption, in some orchards, would either complement or replace that Assail

application. The same qualifications apply to DWB mating disruption as to the internal leps: a, if you have small irregular shaped blocks and are surrounded by non-disrupting orchards, mated females will likely fly in and you will not have good results, and b, be sure to get disruptors out before moths begin to fly (i.e. mid May). I would like to know your thoughts on DWB: Is it an important pest in WNY? Have you used or considered using mating disruption for this pest?

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

Horticultural Notes…Mario Miranda Sazo

Good participation during the 'Honeycrisp' and 'Fuji' pruning workshop in Oswego County yesterday: We had a good attendance and were able to discuss the last pruning touches for Honeycrisp and Fuji. In most of the blocks visited (some of them already pruned) there was the need for additional pruning. Two- or three-year old **Fuji plantings** with feathers **too long, or too thick, or too narrow (the 3Ts pruning rule**) needed to be pruned by leaving a **longer stub** of approximately three or four fingers length. Please prune by leaving a longer stub than a shorter so the Fuji tree can renew more than one shoot in 2022.

The "three to four fingers" stub-pruning concept is also applicable to secure renewal in low vigor apple cultivars like 'Honeycrisp' and 'NY-1'. A few years ago we started noticing a low renewal rate of pruning cuts on low vigor cultivars, especially on NY-1 and Honeycrisp trees. This negative effect was even more pronounced when growers and their pruning crews tried to leave a perfect bevel or 'dutch' cut (by leaving more surface wood at the bottom, less at the top). In some extreme cases, we saw some untrained pruning crews leaving almost no surface wood for renewal (whether at the bottom or top of a bevel cut). This situation almost completely 'flushed' the wood for renewal and ended up producing long sections of blindwood along the trunk, without the possibility of any renewal. This negative effect of repetitive pruning with short or almost absent stubs, and without successful renewal year after year, was more pronounced on very low vigor cultivars such as NY-1 and Honeycrisp.

When we started leaving stubs of 3-4 fingers length (a minimum of 2-3 inches) the rate of renewal was increased by more than **50-60%** in these low vigor cultivars.