



“Fruit Facts” – Tuesday, May 3 2022

Did you miss the Statewide Pink Webinar (Zoom) – last Thursday?

We had an excellent webinar covering the topics of Precision Crop Load Management in 2022 (T. Robinson), Use of Prohexadione calcium at Pink in ‘Honeycrisp’ for Bitter Pit Mitigation (D. Donahue), Spring Disease Management (K. Cox), and Spring Insect Management (M. Riviera).


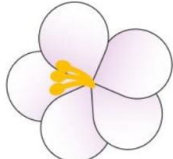
Here is the link to the video on the Lake Ontario Fruit Program YouTube channel:


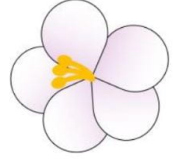
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOBVnoSEIa8>.

IPM Notes...Janet van Zoeren

Apple scab: There is a predicted infection period across the region for today, with some areas experiencing some infection yesterday and some continuing into tomorrow. The worst is predicted to be in Wayne County, especially along the lake. Consider applying something with kickback when there is a break in the rain. The below visuals as well as further information can be found at the Cox lab’s blog: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/coxlab/2022/05/01/apple-scab-fire-blight-disease-forecasting-5-1-22/>.

Fire blight: Many cultivars are currently at full pink. Consider an application of **prohexadione-calcium (Apogee/Kudos) at 6 oz/100 gal at pink**. Even if you do have any flowers open already, the fire blight risk is predicted to be low this week – however, once your flowers begin to open be sure to start checking your own forecast and possibly your NEWA infection risk! Remember that if you still haven’t familiarized yourself with the “new NEWA” 3.0, Kerik gave a very thorough tutorial which can be viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/685984674>.

	APPLE SCAB Infection Predicted	APPLE SCAB Infection Details	FIRE BLIGHT Infection Predicted	FIRE BLIGHT Infection Details
NIAGARA COUNTY	 5/2-5/4 Low	Spore release: 7% Ascospore Maturity: 29%	 None	Highest EIP: 0 Highest DH: 0

	APPLE SCAB Infection Predicted	APPLE SCAB Infection Details	FIRE BLIGHT Infection Predicted	FIRE BLIGHT Infection Details
WAYNE COUNTY	 5/2t- 5/4 Moderate	Spore release: 23% Ascospore Maturity: 59%	 None	Highest EIP: 4 Highest DH: 43

Powdery mildew thrives in high humidity and temperatures in the 50s and 60s... Products with high efficacy against PM, as well as 48hrs kickback for scab, include **Flint Extra, Inspire Super, Luna Sensation, Miravis, Merivon, and Sercadis, as well as many others**. 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.

The **brown Rot** management period in stone fruit has begun. Although the optimal range for pathogen development is above 60F, blossom infection can occur at any temperature above 32F. If you have a history of blossom blight, and especially for nectarine growers, rotate fungicides from pre-bloom through petal fall. There are many labeled products available (see Recommends), including Rovral 4 flowable (which may provide 24hr “kickback” activity) and chlorothalonil/Bravo (avoid when bees are foraging, if possible).

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

Horticultural Notes...Mario Miranda Sazo

You can still control excessive flower bud numbers in ‘Honeycrisp’ and ‘Gala’ this week: Excessive flower bud number divides the spring nitrogen, carbohydrates and cytokinin from the root system into each bud.

With excessive number of flower buds each bud receives less than optimum levels resulting in:

- Weak buds that have low set
- Weak bud that produce small fruit especially with ‘Gala’, ‘NY-1’
- Weak buds that are more biennial – ‘Honeycrisp’, ‘Fuji’

Several blocks should be re-pruned before bloom to adjust flower bud number to right target: Don’t forget to count flower cluster number on representative trees after pruning for quality control. We are getting close to end of the precision pruning window.

- Example 1 – target final fruit number is 73 per tree X 1.8 = 131 flowering spurs
- Don’t leave more than 250 flower clusters on ‘Honeycrisp’
- Don’t leave more than 300 flower clusters on ‘Gala’

The right timing for Apogee and Kudos for bitter pit mitigation in ‘Honeycrisp’ is full pink, preferably applied when temperatures are 60°F or above:

- Apogee should be applied to mature bearing tall spindle ‘Honeycrisp’ at pink stage at a rate of 6 oz./A. for orchards up to 180 gallons TRV. Cover the foliage well. **Apply at full or late pink**, not early pink. **Use a water conditioner**, “hard” water deactivates Apogee and Kudos.
- **Avoid cold temperatures at application** and during the 8-hours post is a **critical factor**. Prohexadione calcium (Apogee, Kudos) are plant growth regulators and require metabolic activity within the plant for uptake and metabolism. Temperatures below 60°F are questionable for an application timed at pink. Delay your application until temperatures are warm enough for up to eight hours post.

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.