



“Fruit Facts” – Friday, June 3 2022

Special Fruit Facts Edition: Rescue Thinning Recommendations for Western NY in 2022!

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We expect that most blocks have thinned sufficiently well from bloom, petal fall and 12mm sprays and do not need any additional thinning. To assess for yourself if additional thinning is needed measure fruitlet diameters 2 times over a 4 day period and use the fruit growth rate model. If you cannot use the model then an alternative is to count fruit on five representative trees counting only those fruits that are large and appear to be growing fast. Most of the smaller fruit will fall off in the next week.

- If on five trees your crop load is currently more than 2 times your target number or higher, a rescue spray is warranted.
- If on five trees your crop load is currently 1.5 to 2 times your target number, then use your best judgement as to whether you need to spray again or not.
- If on five trees your crop load is less than 1.5 times your target number, do not spray a rescue thinner.

If you determine you still need additional thinning, use the degree day column in the carbohydrate thinning model to determine when to apply. The ideal timing is 300-350DD after full bloom. For inland sites this window began Wednesday June 1 and continues through this Saturday June 4. For lake sites this window will begin on Sunday June 5 and continue through Wednesday June 8.

Measurements of king and lateral flowers on Thursday June 2 at an inland site showed Honeycrisp king fruits averaged are 20.8mm and lateral flowers averaged 17.3mm. With Gala, king fruits averaged are 17.5mm and lateral flowers averaged 14.0mm. Since fruit size is large do not wait, as fruit size will increase rapidly, and will soon be unresponsive to most thinners.

Temperatures during this window will be moderate (low-70's), and there will be a carbohydrate surplus. This should result in mild thinning and will require full rates. We recommend running the model for your site the day you plan to apply, as things can change quickly with the weather.

All thinners lose efficacy when fruits reach ~20mm. Thus, to improve thinning efficacy when fruits are large, we recommend adding 1 pt oil/100 gallons to improve penetration and uptake of the thinners. Over the last number of years we have had better thinning efficacy with Maxcel+Sevin+oil than with NAA+Sevin+oil. That is because fruitlets become quite insensitive to NAA when larger than 16mm. A new thinner named Accede has good efficacy when fruits are 16-20mm and will become a staple tool in the future for rescue thinning. It is available this year only from your Valent representative. If you can source this product then we suggest a combination of Accede and Maxcel for rescue thinning.

We recommend nozzling the sprayer so that 100% of the spray is being directed to the top half of the trees. Remember to adjust your TRV calculations for your lower spray volume when you shut off those bottom nozzles. Do NOT concentrate up your oil and carbaryl.

Rate recommendations:

Gala, Goldens, and Fuji – Use Maxcel at 64 oz TRVD basis + 1 pt Carbaryl + 1 pt oil
Honeycrisp – Use Maxcel at 48 oz TRVD basis + 1 pt Carbaryl + 1 pt oil

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