



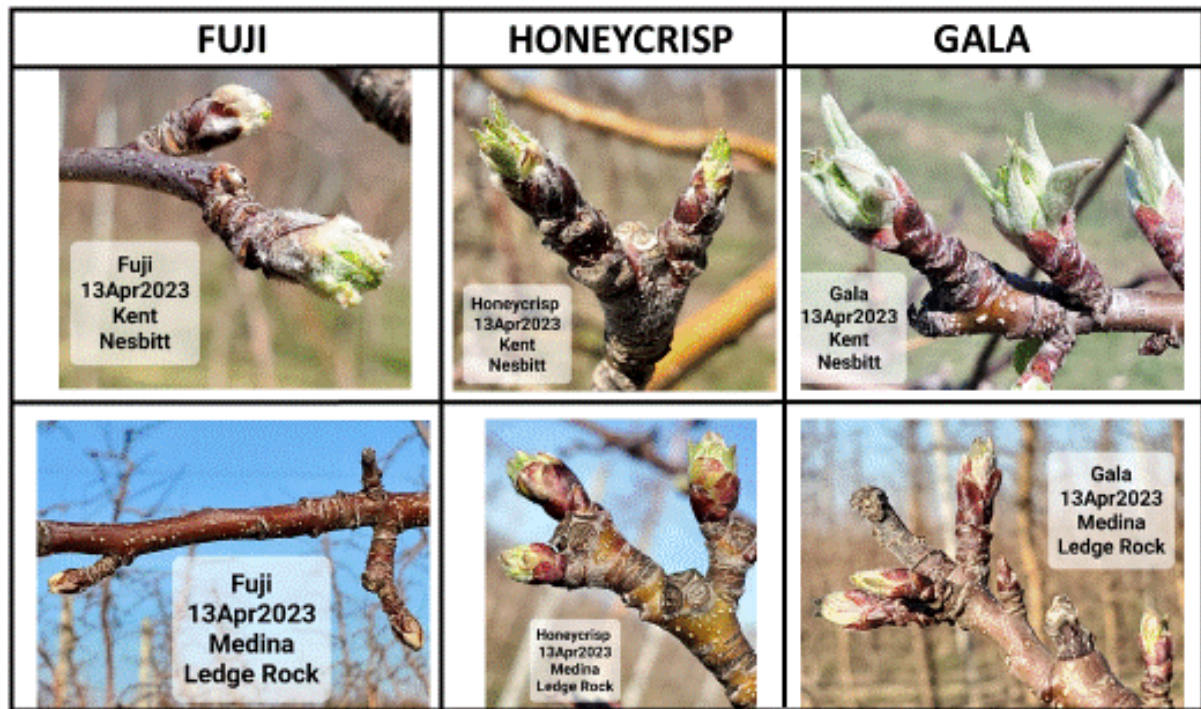
**“Fruit Facts” – Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Mario Miranda Sazo and Janet van Zoeren**

**Apple Scab infection event predicted Sunday/Monday!**

There is a rain event forecast for Sunday evening into Monday, and therefore a potential apple scab infection period across the entire region for those days. The window for use of copper is closing for most varieties as we push past green tip, so an application of Captan or Mancozeb on Saturday or Sunday morning, to cover new tissues that push open in the today and tomorrow’s heat will likely be a good idea. Continue to watch the weather forecast and to check the NEWA model, as weather predictions change rapidly!

**Green tip phenology update**

This morning we provide you with an update for Fuji, Honeycrisp, and Gala blocks located inland versus lake sites in Orleans County. Yesterday we found large growth differences for the three cultivars and interestingly, the lake sites cultivars seemed to be **much farther ahead** than the inland sites. It is very clear that the very warm temperatures of the last two days quickly pushed bud phenology for these important apple cultivars in WNY. Don’t forget to record **50% green tip** in Gala, Fuji, and Honeycrisp in the next days.



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## Join us for the statewide virtual pink meeting next Wednesday the 19

More information to come in today's Fruit Notes and next week's Fruit Facts.

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### Reminder to enroll in the Fruit Facts by May 5<sup>th</sup>!

Are you enrolled for this year's Fruit Facts? We have been providing a few complementary issues this spring, as a reminder to re-enroll if you would like to. These will continue until May 5<sup>th</sup>. You can re-enroll in with the Fruit Team and for your Fruit Facts subscription at: <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/enrollment.php>.

### To Do Today

- Record when you reach **50% green tip in MacIntosh** on your farm – this will be used to begin the apple scab forecasting model. Record when you reach **50% green tip in Gala and Honeycrisp** blocks also. An accurate estimation of 50% GT date will be important for the use of the carbohydrate model for chemical thinning later this season.
  - Do the quick bud counts and tally the buds at the green tip stage. You should randomly pick and examine up to 100 fruit buds in a sample of around 15-20 trees. Do this until you calculate in your tally that in this sample of 100 examined fruit buds there is 50 of them at green tip. Try to get a good estimate this season.
- If you were considering an **oil spray** in the next few days, remember not to apply oil within ~10 days of an application of Captan! If you have or plan to use a 2-3% oil application this week to help control **mites, San Jose scale** and **pear psylla**, then be sure to use Mancozeb over the weekend for scab protection.
- Avoid **copper** after ¼" green on fresh varieties, or after ½" green on processing blocks (rule of thumb - see label for product-specific directions).
- **Pear psylla** populations can still be reduced by using: Sivanto Prime, Exirel, Esteem, Delegate, Centaur or Actara (or check the tree fruit recommends for other options).
- **Fertilization and pruning recommendations for Honeycrisp in 2023:**
  - **Calcium**
    - Before planting add sufficient lime to achieve a soil Ca level of 5,000lbs of Ca per acre from soil test.
    - If leaf Ca < 1.3% we suggest 4 tons of lime every other year to raise soil calcium level even if pH goes 7.1 or 7.2
    - If leaf Ca level is between 1.3 and 1.8% we suggest 2 tons of lime every other year to raise soil calcium level even if pH goes to 7.1 or 7.2
    - If leaf Ca level is between 1.8 and 2.0% we suggest 1 ton of lime every other year to maintain soil Ca
    - If leaf Ca is greater than 2% we suggest no lime but add gypsum until soil Ca level is ~5,000 lbs. per acre
  - **Pruning considerations**
    - If shoot growth is more than 15 inches long then vigor is too high and light pruning is suggested
    - If shoot growth is between 8" and 12" then vigor is moderate and normal pruning is suggested
    - If shoot growth is less than 8" then vigor is low, and we get almost no renewal shoots and increased N fertilization is suggested

**Get your tractor out and be ready to apply Captan or Mancozeb on Saturday/Sunday morning**, to cover up prior to the possible scab infection event Sunday evening through Monday morning. Watch the weather forecast closely, as the timing of this weather pattern may change significantly between now and when it happens!

**Are we now expecting an early bloom in WNY?:** Yesterday I had the opportunity to be part of an email exchange communication between two of our Cornell faculties discussing the possibility of an early bloom as a result of the record warm temperatures experienced on Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

- Dr. Lailiang Cheng:
  - Hi Terence, with this very warm weather, where are we on the growing degree days? Are we going to have an early bloom?
- Dr. Terence Robinson:
  - Hi Lailiang, **it all depends on the weather in the next 3 weeks**. This week's heat will push us toward an early bloom and with the forecast we have now I think bloom will be in the **first week of May**. The historical normal for Geneva is May 10 (second week of May). Thus, I think we will be a **week early** but that may not happen if the weather goes back to being cool.

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 2023. 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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