



**“Fruit Facts” – Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Mario Miranda Sazo and Janet van Zoeren**

**Apple Scab infection event**

We are in the middle of an apple scab infection event: inland sites may continue to experience wetting through today, whereas lakeside sites are expected to dry up today – if you weren’t adequately covered (or if a lot of tissue pushed during the past few days) you will want to apply something with kickback after the rains stop (Syllit is a great option for this time in the season). Another infection event is predicted for the coming weekend, so be sure to cover up again of Friday (or Thursday pending changes in weather patterns).

**Bud phenology update**

Yesterday the cultivars Fuji, Honeycrisp, and Gala were at the early/tight cluster stages in inland and lake sites. In the picture to the right, we even saw early pink of the king on Gala at an inland site in Marion, Wayne County.



**Photography by Elizabeth Tee**

**Join us TOMORROW for the statewide virtual pink meeting**

Jointly hosted by the CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Program and the CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program.

Please use this link <https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rdu-vpjlVGN0wMNRqtZXaQ8ugwnu3MEKz> to register.

**Agenda:**

Welcome and Zoom Reminders – Craig Kahlke, CCE-LOF

Sponsor Spots – **Agro-100, BASF, BioSafe, and Gowan**

Managing Crop Load Early at Green Tip and Full Bloom for Optimum Results – Dr. Terence Robinson, Cornell University

Early Season Insect Management – Dr. Monique Rivera, Cornell University

Early Season Disease Management – Dr. Kerik Cox, Cornell University

## 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

- Consider applying a product with kickback against **apple scab**, as soon as the rains end today (tomorrow in some inland sites). Although the total spore release was low, it is good to keep things clean now to make it easier on yourself later in the year. **Captan or Mancozeb mixed with dodine (Syllit)** is a good option for this window. Don't use Captan if you've applied oil in the past 10 days.
- **Topping of rootstocks** in the on-farm nursery: Don't forget that the portion of the rootstock above the inserted bud should have been removed by now. Some growers pruned the tops late last week or during the sunny weekend. Please do this if you have not done it yet. Any sucker growth that occurs on the rootstock should be removed by rubbing it off as it is shown in the below picture. This may be necessary 1-2 times before the growth from the inserted buds dominate.



Figure 1. An inserted bud is still growing with the top portion of the rootstock as pictured yesterday (left). An on-farm nursery where the top portion of the rootstock was recently pruned (right).

- **Remove also the top of the rootstocks for a few plant-in-place projects that were budded last summer:** Please do this asap in the orchard (see below). Make sure the tape is removed and it is not covering the new bud.



Figure 2. A plant-in-place project where the top portion of the rootstock was just pruned one inch above the inserted bud. Please make sure the tape is not covering the bud. Install a horizontal wire and support the new shoot with a vertical element in the next weeks.

- 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.
- **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).
- **Peach, apricot, plums and cherries** are coming into bloom or are in full bloom. Brown rot / blossom blight infection is favored by temperatures over 70F along with a wetting event. These criteria are forecast to be met over the coming weekend. Consider an application of chlorothalonil (**Bravo, Echo, etc**) or iprodione (**Rovral**).

## On The Horizon

**Prepare to cover up prior to another apple scab infection event** forecast for this coming weekend. Watch the weather report, the NEWA website, and for a follow up Fruit Facts, to determine the optimal window to get a Captan/Mancozeb spray on late this week.

**If you experienced a fire blight outbreak last year, consider an application of Apogee this year at pink.** This is especially important on farms where Strep Resistant *Erwinia* has been found in the past. A **pink application** of prohexadione-calcium (**Kudos, Apogee, etc.**) at 2 oz/100 gal mixed with 1oz /100 acibenzolar S-methyl (Actigard) will both slow vigorous growth of the tree, but maybe even more importantly will thicken the cell walls making it more difficult for *Erwinia* to colonize.

If you missed the webinar this spring on Strep Resistant *Erwinia* in NYS, you can rewatch that on our YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/-hi9guUp0Ho>

### Start planning or continue the annual maintenance of your trellis system:

1. Replace broken and weakened posts (see pics taken in a mature Honeycrisp block yesterday)
2. Re-pound anchors and in-line posts that have heaved.
3. Straighten leaning posts.
4. Check and replace pulled staples especially those at stress points where wire changes direction.

5. Readjust wire tension before this year crop.



**Other important essentials to building a support system that will withstand almost anything:**

- Use pressure-treated or a rot-resisting wood species. Lodgepole, Southern yellow pine, Locust, and Cedar are the best. All locally sourced posts should be debarked. Avoid wood species that have whorled branches, and large knots. End posts and anchors should be at least 4-5 inches and inline posts 3-4 inches in diameter.
- Match the trellis system to the planting system. Trees in tall planting systems such as the “Tall Spindle” or “Vertical Axis” should be supported to 10 feet. Use 10 foot end and in-line posts with individual tree stakes to provide tree support and use 12 foot posts when wire alone provides tree support.
- Use an equilateral triangle end assembly consisting of an angled end post, high tensile steel wire, and the distance along the ground from the base of the angled post to the wire as the three sides of the triangle. The physics of this end assembly is the most stable of all end assemblies.
- Drive posts – do not auger. Driven posts will not move through the soil
- “Deadmen” or screw-type anchors are not as strong as driven anchors. Rings on the ends must be securely welded to prevent straightening out under stress.
- Drive the anchor post vertically 3-4 feet into the soil. This will seat the anchor below the frost line to prevent heaving and the resistances preventing the anchor from being pulled out of the ground will be maximized.
- Space inline posts no more than 30 feet apart. Increasing crop load and taller systems have created more torque on the support system than before.
- Pound end and inline posts at least 3 feet deep to prevent frost heaving.
- Drill the post for the top wire and thread wire through. One of the major causes of trellis failure is staple pull-out. By drilling through the posts and threading the top wire, staple pull-out is eliminated. Any additional wires on each post can safely be attached with staples without the threat of pull out.
- Use 1.75 inch galvanized barbed staples to minimize pull out and use two staples (1 horizontal and one vertical) at stress points where wire changes direction. This provides 3 points of contact for the wire. Be sure and drive staples so that arms flare away from each other rather than toward each other.
- Use 12.5 gauge Hi-Tensile steel wire. Soft wire will stretch too much.
- Use a high quality wire tightening device on each wire so that wires can be tightened and loosened as needed.

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