



“Fruit Facts” – Thursday, August 10th, 2023
Mario Miranda Sazo, Janet van Zoeren and Anya Osatuke

Registration for the 2023 Cornell Annual Hispanic Summer Fruit Tour in Wayne County is Open (please notice that this event will have limited attendance this year).

For registration, please visit: <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1799>

Brief summary: The half day tour (**8:30-noon next Wednesday August 16, lunch included**) will be conducted at G and S Orchards, 825 Atlantic Ave. (Route 286), Walworth, NY14568. The tour will include a wagon tour of the orchard and facilities. Some educational topics to be covered during the tour:

- **Western New York Berry Specialist Anya Osatuke** will cover blueberry soil health, mulching, pruning, and pest management.
- **Mario Miranda Sazo (CCE LOF)** will discuss the importance of site selection, irrigation systems, etc.
- **Janet van Zoeren (CCE LOF)** will briefly discuss brown marmorated stink bug identification and damage.
- **Deborah Aller (Cornell Soil Health Program)** will talk about the importance of crop rotations and how to build/sustain healthy soils.
- **Mildred Alvarado (Ag Futuro of Cornell Small Farms Program)** will guide a discussion about the G&S CSA, sales/marketing, and housing.
- **Mary “Bess” Lewis (bilingual specialist for the Ag Workforce Development at Cornell)** will be available for HR/labor consultation and will provide more details for a coming survey (see below section “On the Horizon”).
- The tour will finalize with **Mexican food and refreshments** (food provided by Ag Futuro).
- Deadline for registration will be next **Monday August 14**. Register your employees for the tour!

Tree Fruit and Small Fruit Twilight Meeting:

Thursday August 31st at 7pm at Reality Research, 4729 Preemption Rd, Lyons, NY.

Join specialists Anya Osatuke, Anna Wallis and Janet van Zoeren for a conversation about fruit and berry phenology and pest management. The August meeting will focus on weed management, including a quackgrass herbicide trial demo plot.

This series of monthly meetings will examine seasonal changes in tree fruit and berry crops, demonstrate scouting techniques, and discuss integrative pest management solutions to maximize the health and productivity of berry and fruit plantings.

Meetings are held from 7:00PM – 8:30PM on the last Thursday of every month, from April through August. Attendees are encouraged to bring pictures or descriptions of pests they are concerned about on their farm.

1.5 DEC credits will be offered in categories 1a, 10, and 22. Please arrive at 6:45PM to sign-in for DEC credits.

This event is free to attend, and no pre-registration is required.

To Do Today

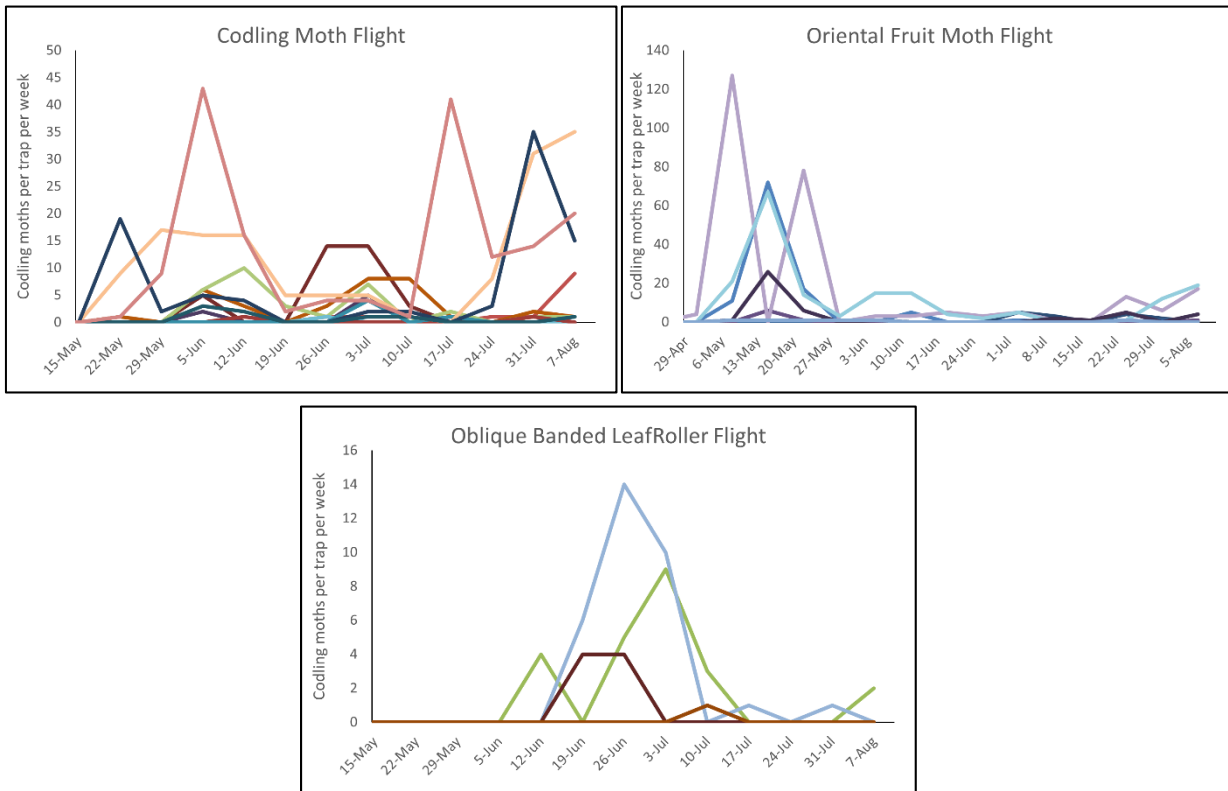
- **This is the week to start taking leaf samples for foliar nutrition for all cultivars, except Honeycrisp (Honeycrisp leaves without zonal chlorosis should have been sampled by the end of June/early July as recommended earlier this season).** Start sampling today, this weekend, and until the end of next week, or August 18. Please use paper bags, not plastic. Take the mid-shoot leaf from this year's growth at the height of the majority of the canopy. Pick leaves that are exposed to the sun (not shaded interior leaves). Collect 80-100 leaves from the same variety in the orchard, taking a 1-2 leaves from each of several shoots (not spur leaves) from several trees. Remove leaves by pulling down on the leaf so the petiole remains attached on the leaf. If there is heavy residue, the leaves should be washed and rinsed with distilled water before drying. After leaves are dried, send them to the lab for analysis.
- **What about if you did not sample Honeycrisp leaves earlier and you still want to submit samples TODAY:** Collect only 1-2 leaves from the tip of the one-year-old shoots. Don't collect leaves with zonal chlorosis.
- **Time to seed tillage radishes as a late-summer cover crop to improve soil physical properties and reduce weed pressure in new plantings:** The large taproots of forage radishes can help alleviate soil compaction by penetrating through dense soil layers. In addition, when seeded in early to mid-August, radishes quickly provide a thick canopy that can reduce erosion and shade out many winter annual weeds. Grower Ted Furber of Cherry Lawn Farm recently indicated at the WNY summer tour that radishes seeded in the in-row spacing have significantly reduced weed pressure in his new plantings. Do not delay the seeding of radishes and get this done as soon as you can the next few days.
- **Watch mature plantings** and specially support the upper part of your trees to the wire, bamboo, or metal stakes.
- **I have counted more fruit than I previously anticipated in some blocks.** You can conduct fruit counts per tree more precisely with a tally counter (it only cost you \$12-15 dollars). Don't guess your average crop load/tree at this time of the season. Several growers will be done with hand thinning by the end of this week or early next week.
- **The time of terminal bud set for several cultivars is almost here for budding in the nursery and coming summer pruning purposes.** Check each block since differences in weed control, soil type, and fertilizer programs can all influence the time of terminal bud set. Varietal response will also influence your order of summer pruning the following weeks. Idareds and Jonagolds can be pruned early and may reduce sunburn. Sunburning on these varieties appears to be worse when tender, more mature apples are suddenly exposed to direct sunlight. Younger apples appear to be more resistant. Therefore, prune this variety relatively early in the schedule. Jonagold appears to fail to properly mature in blocks where heavy summer pruning is performed early so don't over-prune.

Stone Fruit Summer Pruning:

- **Dry mid-summer period after harvest is a great time to summer prune sweet cherries:** Pruning should be done during dry periods which allow cuts to dry out or heal before rain. The key to pruning is to leave a 6-12 inches heading stub (no flush cuts!) to reduce the movement of bacteria into the trunk or main limbs and to leave vegetative buds for regrowth of a new branch. Research done at Cornell AgriTech in Geneva showed that pruning cherries after harvest during dry, summer weather significantly reduced the likelihood of bacterial canker infections. It found that copper applied immediately before and after pruning did not reduce bacterial canker infections. Cherry trees generally are so vigorous that removal of some wood does not affect carbohydrate accumulation for the winter and following season. Judicious summer pruning can improve the light environment within the tree strengthening fruit buds and possibly improving next year's bloom and fruit set. Research done in the west has shown that summer pruning reduced the overall vigor of the tree but did not affect subsequent yield or fruit size. This means that summer pruning is especially beneficial for overly vigorous trees. At this time it is easy to see bacterial canker infections that can be easily removed potentially reducing the potential for infections next spring.
- **Immediately post-harvest is also the very best time to reduce tree height in stone fruits.** Large cuts made in the tree top result in very little regrowth and any resulting winter injury has very little impact on the health of the tree. A single large cut at the desired tree height can contain tree height for up to 3 years.

- **The style of summer pruning used depends on sweet cherry tree architecture:** Dormant cuts made into 1 year old wood generally result in the production of 3 new shoots. Usually 2 are laterally placed (flat) while the third is upright. Simply removing the upright will sufficiently open the tree and allow much improved light penetration to the interior fruiting wood. Allowing a small stub to remain can increase the number of cherries since fruit buds generally form at the base of one year old wood. Leaving stubs might be an excellent practice for shy bearing varieties such as Regina, Ulster, and Attika. Shoots should be completely removed on cherries that bear excessively such as Whitegold, Rainier, and Sweetheart. Another reason to leave stubs is to limit the potential spread of bacterial canker on extremely susceptible varieties.
- **You can follow this summer pruning with a light touch-up late next spring** to eliminate any winter-killed branches and to make cropload adjustments.
- **Summer Pruning Peaches:** To keep shoots growing in the lower portion of the tree they must receive adequate light after harvest. This requires removing upper branches that shade the interior of an open center tree or a V-tree. Prune out most, if not all of the vigorous upright growth in the tree, which shades the lower half of the tree. Prune it all the way to where the branch originates. Keep good light exposure to the bottom of the tree by removing vigorous and upright interior growth. Limit the height of the tree by head tops of scaffold arms maintaining approximately 10-12 feet in height and keeping tops very narrow and approximately in line with the main trunks by removing all large wood in the top facing in the row.
- **Brown marmorated stink bug** is present in WNY orchards, although none of the blocks I monitor have yet reached threshold. If you have a history of damage in your blocks and want to plan an application, effective materials include Brigade (30 day PHI), Beseige (21 day), Endigo (35 day), and Leverage 360 (7 day).
- **Apple Maggot** is now showing up across WNY. Consider Assail or Imidan (both 7 day PHI) for AM management. The pyrethroids Baythroid (7 day), Danitol (14 day) and Mustang Maxx (14 day) are also effective options.
- **Scab pressure has recently intensified in certain blocks/trees.** In blocks with scab pressure, keep rotating through single-site products such as Aprovia\$\$, Miravis\$\$, Tesaris (group 7s); Cevya, Rhyme (group 3s); Flint Extra, Sovran\$\$ (group 11); Luna Sensation, Merivon (group 7+11s).
 \$\$ indicates fungicides with a 30 day PHI – the longest in this list.
- **Summer diseases** continue to show up. Fungicide covers for the rots go on every 14-21 days. Products that are effective for black and white rots include Flint, Luna Sensation, Merivon, Pristine, Sovran, and Captan+Topsin. Best products for bitter rot include Captan, Ferbam, Inspire Super, Prophyt, Topsin M, and Ziram.
- Sooty blotch and flyspeck applications can be timed using the [NEWA model](http://newa.cornell.edu) (newa.cornell.edu). Products that are effective for SBFS include Flint, Luna Sensation, Merivon, Pristine, Sovran, and Captan+Topsin.
- **Woolly apple aphid** is in full swing. Scout for colonies in the angle of a branch or twig crotch, or at pruning cuts. **Sefina** is a new product labeled in NYS for “suppression” of WAA, which is performing well in spray trials. **Assail** (plus Regulaid), **Movento** (plus Regulaid), **Beleaf**, **Sivanto Prime**, **Senstar** (contains Movento), **Aza-Direct**, and **Diazinon** (if your market allows) are other recommended products. These products will also be effective against **green apple aphids**, which continue to move into many blocks.

- **Codling moth, Oriental fruit moth, and Oblique banded leafroller flights are beginning to pick up again:**



Blueberries and raspberries:

- Continue monitoring for **spotted wing drosophila (SWD)** using salt floats in marketable fruit. Consider applying [SWD insecticides](#) in smaller segments of your planting when rain is forecasted, to keep the product from washing off; aim for a minimum of 2 hours without rain.
- To conduct a [salt float berry evaluation](#), dissolve 1 tablespoon salt in 1 cup water; add 100 lightly crushed berries and wait for 15 minutes. After 15 minutes, count white larvae that emerge. It helps to use a transparent container, and place it against a black background.
- For raspberries, actively scout for wilting and collapsing canes in flooded fields. The oomycete that causes [phytophthora root rot](#) is likely to attack brambles in standing water. Remove affected plants. Consider an application of Phostrol or Rampart to prevent further spread of this disease. Heavy mulching will exacerbate phytophthora in susceptible fields.

On The Horizon

Harvest is almost here for early cultivars like Premier Honeycrisp: By now growers should have finished mechanical pruning and should be getting ready to deploy reflective fabrics by the end of this week or during the weekend.

Time to review the CCE LOF YouTube video titled “Using reflective materials for improved fruit color”. The video describes how/when to deploy reflective fabrics and the economics on return on investment (ROI) showing the financial gains or benefits by adopting this technology.

Here is the link:

[Using Reflective Materials for Improved Fruit Color - YouTube](#)

A message from Mary “Bess” Lewis as we get closer to the Annual Hispanic Summer Fruit Tour in Wayne County on August 16: Mary will be at the Hispanic tour next week on August 16th and would love to connect with your employees. She is a bilingual specialist for the Ag Workforce Development. She has been conducting a survey to address the constant changing transition in agriculture. She would love to come to your farm and bring some refreshments and do a short 10-15 minute survey to all employees in Spanish or in English. This data will help us learn what tools are needed for the workforce to be successful and to help us collect data to inspire change within the industry. Please connect with her via email: ml2656@cornell.edu or in person on Wednesday August 16 if you would like her to visit your farm. All information is confidential, and no names should be on the surveys. Also, please look for October registration to their Online Course: Transition to Supervisor offered entirely in Spanish.

Good to Know!

First Annual Western NY Fruit Grower Tour was a Great Success on Friday July 28:

We'd like to extend a HUGE thank you to all for contributing to the overwhelming success of our first annual Western NY Fruit Grower Tour (sponsors, tour participants, invited speakers, and of course the grower hosts!). We had roughly 325 attendees at the first stop, representing well over \$12 million dollars in chemical crop inputs per season! With additional growers floating in later in the day we estimate a total of 350 attendees in the crowd.



Figure 1. The left picture shows the impressive image caught by a drone at the beginning of the first stop at Cherry Lawn Fruit Farm. The middle picture shows Bonalyn “Bonnie” Nelsen, the recently hired CCE LOF Business Management Specialist, accompanied by three WNY growers cooling themselves under the shade of an umbrella and the canopy of Honeycrisp trees. The right picture shows the exact moment when a drone is being demoed during the precision crop load management stop hosted by DeMarree Fruit Farm. Again, thanks to the three farms (including S&L Farm in Sodus) who hosted the tour this year!

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.

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.