



“Fruit Facts” – Wednesday, March 20th, 2024
Mario Miranda Sazo and Janet van Zoeren

Don't Forget to Sign Up for the 2024 Fruit Facts!

We began to send out Fruit Facts issues last week! For now, we will continue to send to everyone who was subscribed to receive Fruit Facts last year, but do make sure to sign up for this additional subscription when you enroll in our program via your county office.

Drone Demo at Cornell AgriTech – Next Thursday March 28, 1-3:30pm

Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), also known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or simply drones, are becoming more popular and available in tree fruit perennial systems. Next week an educational and demo activity will feature the drone company Outfield from England. The Outfield system provides fruit counts, fruit size profiles, blossom loading and variability maps. Surveys are carried out by the grower or by Outfield using low cost and readily available drone systems. Outfield's company founders will be demonstrating the system and sharing the experience of growers using Outfield last year.

Meeting agenda:

1. Presentation from Outfield and the Cornell DATA program
2. Field data acquisition and transfer using consumer-grade drones
3. Access to the Outfield dashboard for data analysis and interpretation
4. Q & A

This activity will be **conducted at RS20 or RS28 at the Fruit Research Unit (FRU) of Cornell AgriTech**. Below are the GPS coordinates. Follow the Cornell fruit event signs when you get closer to Cornell AgriTech!

[42°52'03.6"N 77°02'01.4"W - Google Maps](https://www.google.com/maps/place/42°52'03.6\)

Check the following link for more details:

28 Mar - [Outfield Demo at Cornell AgriTech](#) - 1 - 3:30pm, Cornell AgriTech

Phenology Updates

Spring Has Sprung in Late Winter Yet Again

Craig Kahlke, Mario Miranda Sazo, Janet van Zoeren, Terence Robinson, Liz Tee

Unfortunately, we find ourselves in a similar situation to 2012, when we had green tip on most varieties by March 18-19. Some varieties on inland sites have already reached the 50% of open buds threshold for green tip by this past Sunday & Monday (3/17 & 3/18). For the immediate, with the continued cold/snow and temperatures maxing out in the 30's, we should see minimal bud development through the rest of this week. Mild warmups next week are forecasted to have a few days with highs in the mid to upper 50's (3/26-/28), with upper 30's and lower 40's at night. If the forecasts holds, we will see some further bud development later next week.

Please be aware that this season, some varieties may be achieving budbreak out of their usual sequence. For instance, we

typically see McIntosh leafing out slightly ahead of Gala and Honeycrisp. This season, we are seeing Macs behind these 2 cultivars in many sites. Thus it's very important to scout all of your blocks for bud stage in preparation for cover sprays.

There have been some advances in frost protection in recent years, along with some promising new research that is ongoing. **We plan to have a statewide frost protection webinar this season, prior to the pink stage.**

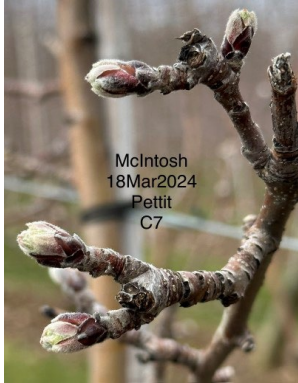
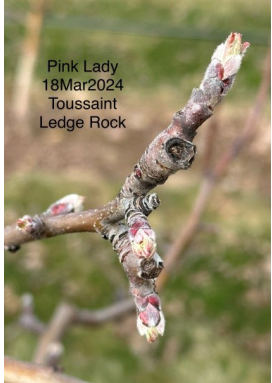
Stay tuned to our email announcements, Fruit Facts, and newsletters for further updates.

Phenology Update for Wednesday, March 20: Despite the low temps and snow events registered in some areas of the LOF region this past weekend and early this week, bud development still advanced and a more significant amount of green tissue was present by Monday March 18 (see below Table 1 with %GT for several cultivars evaluated on 3/18). Tree bud phenology evaluations conducted for 8 cultivars in 7 sites showed a 30 to 95% GT. % GT for Gala were lower but significantly advanced at this time of the year. % GT for Honeycrisp were still low at around 30-40%. By now Honeycrisp growers should be able to differentiate more easily a floral bud from a vegetative bud. Therefore, the last steps of precision pruning and the right pruning severity should be imposed starting this week. There is a significant amount of Honeycrisp blocks that had a low crop last year and have not been pruned yet. In these cases, a reduction of the flower bud load via pruning is critical to secure good return bloom in 2025. Please call or text Mario (315-719-1318) if you have any questions with the last steps of precision pruning and/or if you need any assistance communicating in the Spanish language with your pruning crews. Spanish pruning employees and specially the ones who were brought to prune for the first time in the LOF region, will benefit the most if trained in their own language for precision pruning. Don't hesitate to contact Mario if you need pruning and/or Spanish language assistance in the next 2-3 weeks.

Table 1. Percentages of green tip (%GT) evaluated for several cultivars at multiple sites on Monday March 18.

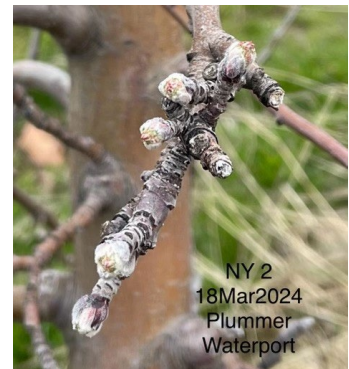
Farm	Block	Distance from Lake	Variety	18-Mar
Toussaint	Ledge Rock	Medina	Pink Lady	80% GT
Toussaint	Ledge Rock	Medina	Gala	40% GT
Toussaint	Ledge Rock	Medina	NY 2	80% GT
Dobbins	Railroad 12	Lyndonville	NY2	85% GT
Pulmmer	Platten	Lyndonville	Idared	75% GT
Kast	M1	Albion	Idared	70%GT
Kast	M60	Albion	Gala	80% GT
Kast	M60	Albion	NY 2	60% GT
Kast	M60	Albion	NY 1	50% GT
LynOaken	Rowley	Lyndonville	Zestar	90% GT
LynOaken	Rowley	Lyndonville	Gala	85% GT
Plummer	Yates Carlton Townline	Waterport	NY 2	85% GT
Plummer	Yates Carlton Townline	Waterport	NY 1	25% GT
Plummer	Yates Carlton Townline	Waterport	Gala	75% GT
Plummer	Yates Carlton Townline	Waterport	Honeycrisp	30% GT
Pettit	Medina	Martino	Idared	40% GT
Pettit	Medina	C7	McIntosh	85% GT
Pettit	Medina	Home	Gala	95% GT
Pettit	Medina	Home	NY 2	80% GT

Tree bud phenology stages in Orleans County orchards visited on Monday March 18 (this page, with several pics taken by Liz Tee):



Cornell Cooperative Extension | Lake Ontario Fruit Program

Photos courtesy: Liz Tee, CCE LOF



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Photos courtesy: Liz Tee, CCE LOF

To Do Today

- **Are you enrolled for this year's Fruit Facts?**
We're providing a few complementary issues this spring, as a reminder to re-enroll if you would like to. You can re-enroll in with the Fruit Team and for your Fruit Facts subscription at: <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/enrollment.php>.
- **Is your sprayer clean and calibrated?** If I were you, I would definitely plan on **being ready to spray on Tuesday next week**, if not before.
- If you need to send anyone for the "Special Permit" handlers course, to be able to apply certain restricted use pesticides, those courses will be offered in-person on April 9th (Wayne county) and April 10th (Orleans county). You can register on our website (lof.cce.cornell.edu).
- No risk on apple scab in the forecast – plan to spray a fungicide early next week, if current predictions hold.

On The Horizon

- A **silver-tip or green tip** application of a high (>15%) metallic copper equivalent (MCE) **copper** fungicide (e.g. Badge, Champ, Cuprofix, Kocide) will help clean up any **apple scab** and **fire blight** inoculum that overwintered in bud scales and will provide an early protection against fungal ascospore release for the following 7-10 days. You will likely be looking to get that on early next week, based on current predictions.
- Watch your NEWA **apple scab** model, and be ready to protect your trees potentially early next week. Watch for an update via Fruit Notes over the weekend.
- Be watching next week to try to get on a **dormant oil sprays**, which can be applied through **½" green**, whenever we get a window without temperatures dipping below freezing in the two days prior or two days after the oil application. It looks like that window won't happen until mid- to late next week, at the earliest.

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 2024. 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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