



“Fruit Facts” – Thursday, March 28th, 2024
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Are you interested in receiving text alerts this season?

We are wondering if it would be helpful to you if we send some information via text as well as in the normal Fruit Facts. Examples of things we might send by text include: freeze event alerts, apple scab and fire blight infection warnings, and other immediately relevant fruit growing notifications. Note that Fruit Facts will continue as is, so text alerts would just be an additional way to receive this information in a more condensed and quicker format.

If you are interested in receiving these text alerts, complete the following survey to sign up and give us your phone information: https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bJmt2zcg91wMrlQ.

Drone Demo at Cornell AgriTech – TODAY 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. Today 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](#)

Check the following link for more details:

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

Stay Tuned for a Coming Statewide Frost Protection Webinar – Day/Time TBA

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 **Cornell statewide frost protection webinar** this season, prior to the pink stage. Stay tuned to our CCE LOF email announcements, Fruit Facts, and newsletters for further updates.

Phenology Updates

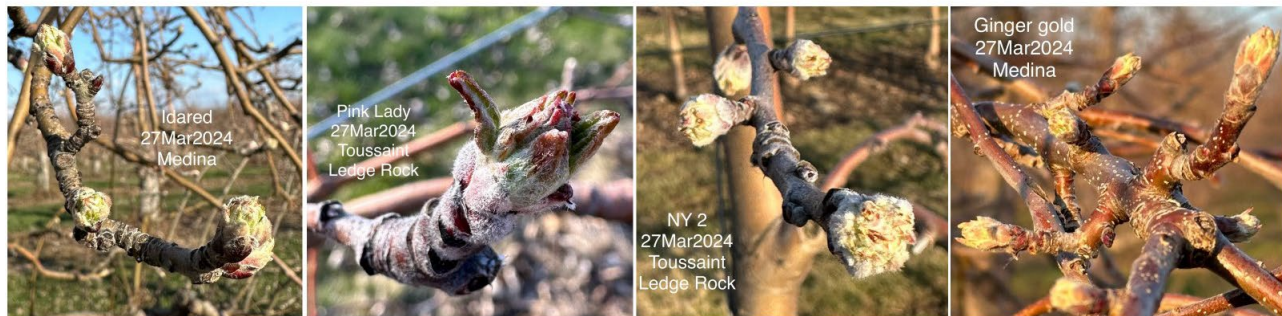
Tree bud phenology in inland sites progressed as expected with the warm temperatures registered during the last two days.

Review following Table 1 and below pics.

Table 1. Tree bud phenology assessments conducted at several inland sites in Orleans County on Wednesday March 27, 2024.

Cultivar/location	Date	(%) ST	(%) GT	(%) ¼" G	(%) ½" G
Idared / Medina	3/27	12	68	20	-
Pink Lady / Ledge Rock	3/27	3	51	42	4
NY-2 / Ledge Rock	3/27	10	44	43	3
Ginger Gold / Fox	3/27	4	48	31	10

Current tree bud phenology stages of four cultivars located in inland sites of the Lake Ontario fruit region by Wednesday March 27, 2024.



Cornell Cooperative Extension | Lake Ontario Fruit Program

Photos courtesy: Liz Tee, CCE LOF

To Do Today

- 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). **The price will increase after April 1st.**
- There was **no scab infection event yesterday**, aside from a very low (<1%) ascospore release in Orleans county lakeside. No kickback fungicide applications recommended, and no infection event in the forecast.
- Some blocks still have time to apply a **green tip** application of a high (>15%) metallic copper equivalent (MCE) **copper** fungicide (e.g. Badge, Champ, Cuprofix, Kocide) to help clean up any **apple scab** and **fire blight** inoculum that overwintered in bud scales. Today and Saturday look like good windows for that application. **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** has been spotted this week. I was hoping the recent freeze would knock those populations back, but that doesn't seem to be the case. If you have historically high psylla populations and want to use something stronger as well as oil, you can apply Actara, Centaur, Delegate, Esteem, Exirel or Sivanto Prime (or check the tree fruit recommends for other options).

On The Horizon

- Be ready to apply 2-3% oil whenever we get a window – early next week looks like it will be our best bet (keep in mind not to use oil within 10 days of Captan).

Good to Know

Are You Planning to Read the New *Fruit Quarterly* Article Titled “Management of ‘Honeycrisp’ Apple Trees for Maximum Sustained Yield and Minimal Bitter Pit” this Early Spring?

The recent 2024 spring issue of the *Fruit Quarterly (FQ) magazine (Vol 32 Number 1, Spring 2024)* includes one of the largest and more comprehensive ‘Honeycrisp’ articles published in the last 20 years. There is a significant amount of new Cornell re-search and recommendations for optimal ‘Honeycrisp’ management to reduce bitter pit. For years, the Cornell ‘Honeycrisp’ research and extension program led by Cornell faculties Dr. Terence Robinson, Dr. Lailiang Cheng, and Dr. Chris Watkins, and in close collaboration with the CCE LOF team, have successfully worked together and now have published a **very ‘grower friendly’ article** to successfully manage the low vigor and very problematic ‘Honeycrisp’ apple blocks in NY State. The new article provides extensive technical information based on more than 20 years of research trials at Cornell AgriTech and at grower farms and covers the following topics : (1) rootstock selection, (2) preplant soil preparation, (3) annual fertilization of young and mature blocks, (4) mid-season fruit peel sap analysis for managing ‘Honeycrisp’ nutrition, (5) irrigation management, (6) foliar calcium spray, (7) peel sap nutrient analysis as a valuable tool for managing bitter pit, (8) pre-harvest applications of PGRs, (9) crop load management via precision pruning and precision chemical thinning, (10) return bloom management, and (11) finishes with a summary that puts together all the new research-knowledge for optimal and more profitable ‘Honeycrisp’ apple production. The FQ article should be used as a **practical field guide** for 2024 and beyond.

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.

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.