



“Fruit Facts” – Thursday, April 11th, 2024

Mario Miranda Sazo and Janet van Zoeren

Are you registered to receive Fruit Facts?

We have been working on making sure everyone who is registered is in fact receiving the Fruit Facts newsletter. We appreciate your patience – sometimes email addresses tend to “bounce” our emails, so we have been working to find and fix those situations. If you know of anyone who you think should be receiving Fruit Facts, who has not been, please email me at jev67@cornell.edu. I’ll send you the issues you have missed so far this week, and work on getting your account fixed.

Thank you for letting us know – we definitely want everyone who is signed up to be receiving the newsletters!!!

Cornell Statewide Frost Protection Webinar

Tomorrow Friday, April 12, 12:00 – 1:30pm

Register at the following link: bit.ly/4aENAFq

Spring started earlier than usual in some parts of New York’s fruit production regions, and CCE is taking a proactive approach to get information on frost protection and its science out to NY fruit growers. There have been some advances in frost protection in recent years, along with promising ongoing research. We will be having a **Cornell Statewide Frost Protection Webinar** with several Cornell scientists and an invited speaker tomorrow Friday. Growers will have plenty of time to ask questions during this very informative webinar as apple trees advanced very quickly their bud phenology after the warm temps on Tuesday.

Agenda:

Introductions

Mike Basedow and Mario Miranda Sazo, CCE

Climate Monitoring of Apple Bud Development and Freeze Risk

*Jessica Spaccio, Climatologist, Department of Earth & Atmospheric Science (EAS),
Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC), Cornell U.*

The Physiology of Frost Damage, and the Practical Challenges of Testing Mitigation Tools

Dr. Jason Londo, Cornell AgriTech

Practical Tips for Using Promalin as a Frost Mitigation Tool

Dr. Terence Robinson, Cornell AgriTech

Research on Sprayable Frost Protectants

Dr. Brent Arnoldussen, University of Kentucky

Virtual IPM Scout Training to Take Place Monday April 15, 2-4PM

Registration now open: <https://bit.ly/2024-orchard-scout-training>

2 DEC credits offered for this virtual training. If you will want credits, please send a picture of your applicators license to Anna Wallis (aew232@cornell.edu) prior to the 15th.

What: Join us for a live, virtual training on scouting of major insect pests of apple orchards. Anna Wallis (NYSIPM Program), Mike Basedow (CCE ENYCHP) and Janet van Zoeren (CCE LOFT) will broadcast from orchards in their region to discuss best practices for monitoring. We will review monitoring/scouting procedures for major economically significant pests. We will also share resources available for helping with identification of pests and forecasting pest activity.

Fire Blight Webinar Series

Updates from a multi-state research project involving MI, NC, NY, CA, OR and WA funded by the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

**April 18, 2024 @2pmPST/5pmEST,
“Fire Blight Moves Fast in the Plant. Prune Fast to Stay Ahead”**

Katherine Olive, Michigan State University

**Nov 6, 2024 @2pmPST/5pmEST
“Plant Defense Products Actigard and Kudos/Apogee”**

George Sundin, Michigan State University; Tom Kon, North Carolina University

Co-authors Kerik Cox, Cornell University; Tianna DuPont, Washington State University and Sara Villani, North Carolina State University

Register at: https://events.anr.msu.edu/fireblight_webinar_series_2024/

1 pesticide update credit requested per session from NYS DEC

Phenology update

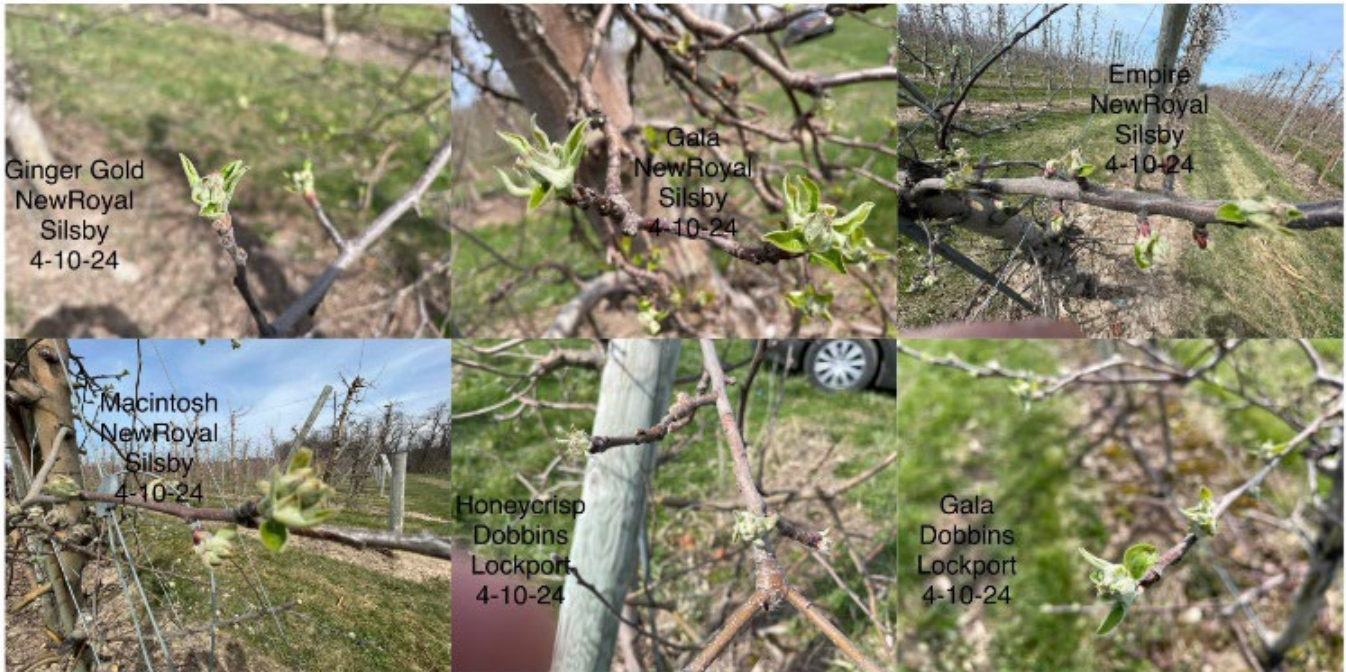
Tree bud development stages progressed very quickly after the warm temperatures registered on Tuesday, April 9. CCE LOF visited several blocks on Wednesday and documented the most current bud development for several cultivars in Orleans and Wayne yesterday. A significant number of blocks received second sprays on Tuesday in anticipation of the rains registered in some areas on Wednesday night and before lunch time in Wayne yesterday.





Cornell Cooperative Extension | Lake Ontario Fruit Program

Photos courtesy: Craig Kahlke and Liz Tee



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To Do Today

- **Prune out the big wood (the doggies!) and favor the production of more fine/open/shorter/flat fruiting units (the filete mignon!):** Several growers finished or are close to finish the pruning of Gala blocks. Some pruning crews have left big wood in the middle portion of mature canopies (Figure 1). If possible, please come back to some of those blocks and remove the ‘doggies’ before it is too late.



Figure 1. A large branch (a doggie!) removed via pruning.

A few comments for the ‘Honeycrisp’ pruning strategy (wait and prune late!) with this very early spring: It is still advisable to continue waiting (intentionally in many cases!) for the last pruning cut decisions for Honeycrisp. I am glad to see several blocks of Honeycrisp where growers have intentionally delayed the pruning until it is safer to prune more aggressively based on flower bud counts at early pink (continue waiting and be patience!). There is nothing wrong if we have to finish the pruning of Honeycrisp later or after bloom this year.

The pruning for younger (future 2-D plantings spaced in-row around 24-26-28-32 inches), should be done by removing any branch that is too long, or too tick, or that has a very narrow crotch angle when compared to the main trunk: Always leave a stub (at least 1-2 fingers length) and much longer (4-fingers length) especially for Honeycrisp and NY-1 trees to secure shoot renewal.



Figure 2: For younger plantings (years 1-3) you should always prune out any branch that outcompetes the main leader and favor the development of more **flat/open** fruiting units as seen in the left picture. Envision the production of a more ‘**tubular**’ or ‘**telephone post**’ tree filled a well textured/soft fruiting canopy (loaded with flower buds from top to bottom!).

- **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 (Figure 3). A few Wayne growers already pruned or are close to finish by the end of this week. 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 3. An on-farm nursery where the top portion of the rootstock was recently pruned (right).

On the Horizon

- We are now in the middle of an apple scab infection event, with the bulk of the spores being released yesterday and today, and then lower amounts predicted to release Friday and into the weekend. Due to warm temperatures along with rain, most blocks continue to push new tissue yesterday, today and tomorrow, which will be susceptible to apple scab infection. **You may want to apply a product with kickback (i.e. dodine (Syllit)) along with a protectant whenever you are able to get into the orchards (looking at probably Monday).**
- **Esteem** might be a good product to use whenever you can get into your pear blocks next week, to help keep pear psylla from getting out of control.
- **Time to start thinking and getting ready your frost protection devices:** Apple growers should check and test the use of frost protection devices (wind machines) next week. Typically, a wind machine can protect 10 acres or so. We emphasize that the best methods to reduce frost risk and prevent crop loss are through **orchard site selection** and the use of wind machines during frost events.
- **Site location matters:** New stone and pome fruit plantings will be more prone to future frost events if located in low-lying areas where cold air settles, and in areas where wind and air movement are blocked by obstructions such as trees, hills, fences, and or buildings.

Don't forget to sign up for the 2024 Fruit Facts!!

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