



“Fruit Facts” – Monday, April 15th, 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!!!

Virtual IPM Scout Training TODAY 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.

Last Chance for special permit training

For anyone with workers who were unable to make it to this week’s special permit (handler) training sessions, we are offering a ***last chance*** training next week on **Wednesday April 17th from 1-5pm** at the Irondequoit public library (4035 Lake Rd, Rochester NY).

Register now at <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1924> (registration will **close** Tuesday morning at 8am).

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

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

1 pesticide update credit requested per session from NYS DEC

Virtual Pink Meeting April 22nd 3-4:30pm

Save the date for our virtual statewide pink meeting, which will be held on April 22nd from 3-4:30pm. Agenda and registration link coming soon!

To Do Today

- Prolonged rain and warm weather over the past week means all orchards likely have un-covered green tissue which is **susceptible to scab infection**. Consider an application of **Captan/Mancozeb** (do not use Captan if you have or will soon apply oil within 10 days), mixed with a product that has efficacy for powdery mildew and the rot complex as well as kickback action for scab (some options include **Cevya, Luna Sensation, Fontelis, Merivon, Syllit, Inspire Super, Miravis, and Aprovia**). Check the Recommends for a full list of products that are effective against scab, PM, cedar apple rust and summer rots, depending what diseases you have a history with.
- **Stone fruit plantings with open blossoms** may also want to apply a product with “kickback” – i.e. **Rovral 4F**.
- **Bud union height for new plantings established with Geneva[®] rootstocks**: When establishing a cultivar of medium vigor like Gala or a more vigorous cultivar like Fuji, please use a minimum bud union height of 6-7 inches above the ground (Figure 1). For weaker cultivars like Honeycrisp or NY-1, please use not less than 4-5 inches.



Figure 1: Medium and high vigor cultivars on Geneva[®] stocks should be planted with a minimum bud union height of 5-7 inches above the ground.

- **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 2). If possible, please come back to some of those blocks and remove the ‘doggies’ before it is too late.



Figure 2. A large branch (a doggie!) removed via pruning.

- **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 (Figure 3):** 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 3: 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 and for a few plant-in-place plantings:** Don’t forget that the portion of the rootstock above the inserted bud should have been removed by now. 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.

On the Horizon

- You may also want to consider a **pink insecticide application** if you have a history of damage from **rosy apple aphid** or **Tarnished plant bug**. Some highly effective products for RAA include Exirel, Versys Inscalis, Sivanto Prime, Actara and Assail. If you apply a pyrethroid for TPB, that would also help control RAA. However, we recommend you target RAA with one of these other non-pyrethroid materials, in order to preserve all your beneficial natural enemies. More on the pink insecticide application soon, and at our upcoming virtual “pink meeting”.
- **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.
- **Do you have enough PGRs?**
 - **Promalin use to improve shape (typiness) of Delicious and Gala:** Use promalin (concentration 25-50ppm; rate of formulated product 1/2pt/100 gal) early king bloom to 50% bloom (well before full bloom!). Apply as a fine mist using 50-100 gallons/acre. Don't apply more than 2 pt/acre. Fruit thinning may occur at high rates. Use of a surfactant increases both typiness and thinning responses.
 - **Consider the use of Apogee at pink for suppression of bitter pit in Honeycrisp.**

Good to Know

8-14 day temperature outlook: The Cornell climate prediction center slightly favors **below-normal temperatures for April 19-25**. There is not reason to worry too much about a killer frost event predicted by other sources for the third week or the end of April.

This coming Friday 4/19 we will send a second 8-14 day temperature outlook update to be provided again by Cornell climatologist Jessica Spaccio from NOAA, Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University. Stay tuned for more critical and reliable forecast information!

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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