



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Lake Ontario Fruit Program
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“Fruit Facts” – Wednesday, April 17^h, 2024

Mario Miranda Sazo and Janet van Zoeren

Cornell Statewide Pink Meeting (virtual)

Next Monday April 22 – 3pm - 4:30pm

Registration link: <https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAkd-ysrskiEtZEDmAvLtdPX164-PrezwT7#/registration>

Introductions: CCE LOF & CCE ENCHP

Weather update and temperature forecast for the next 8-14 days: Jessica Spacio, Climatologist, Department of Earth & Atmospheric Science (EAS), Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC), Cornell U

Pest disease control: Kerik Cox, Fruit pathologist, Cornell AgriTech,

Insect disease control: Monique Rivera, Tree Fruit Entomologist, Cornell AgriTech

Bloom thinning recommendations and last steps of precision pruning – Terence Robinson, Tree Fruit Horticulturist, Cornell AgriTech

Cornell Statewide Frost Protection Webinar recordings

The recordings of the Cornell Statewide Frost Protection Webinar held last Friday are available here:
<https://youtu.be/TIBepfb98ws>

Twilight Meeting to be held April 25th at Apple Shed in Wayne county

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.

Our first **Twilight meeting** will be held 7-8:30pm on **Thursday April 25th**. Please **arrive at 6:45pm** for pizza and soda. Thank you to Valent for providing refreshments!

Location: The Apple Shed, 3391 Fairville MapleRidge Rd, Newark NY.

1.5 DEC credits will be offered in categories 1a, 10, and 22.

Feel free to bring pictures or descriptions of pests you are concerned about on your farm.

No pre-registration required; **event is free to attend.**

Meetings will be held from 7:00PM - 8:30PM on the last Thursday of every month from April through July. Watch for new meeting locations every month.

To Do Today

- **Bud phenology update** – Despite the warm temps we had the last two days, the cultivars Fuji, Honeycrisp, and Gala were still at the early/tight cluster stages in inland and lake sites. We did not see early pink of the king on any of these cultivars evaluated in the LOF region yesterday.
- **Have you counted, reassessed pruning severity, and conducted final pruning touches** for Gala and NY-1? For Honeycrisp (also Fuji and EverCrisp) you should be able to conduct/finish precision pruning by the end of this or early next week. **Soon we will be entering the right time window from pink to bloom when it will be easy to identify and count Honeycrisp flower buds per tree.** Then you will be able to prune to the target flower cluster number at that time. Call me if you need any assistance with precision pruning of Honeycrisp (especially with a few situations of low return bloom in 2024) or anything else (315-719-1318).
- **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. For weaker cultivars like Honeycrisp or NY-1, please use not less than 4-5 inches.
- **Continue pruning out the big wood (the doggies!) and favor the production of more fine/open/shorter/flat fruiting units (the filete mignon!).**
 - **Pruning of younger plantings 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.
 - **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.**
 - **Envision the production of a more ‘tubular’ or ‘telephone post’ tree filled a well textured/soft fruiting canopy.**
- **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.
- **Be on the lookout for spring pests and diseases:**
 - Black rot and other diseased mummied fruits that were not removed during winter pruning. If you see any, remove them out of the orchard now to avoid problems later this season!
 - Tarnished plant bug and Oblique banded leafroller – scout for these by examining ~100 terminal clusters per block, and looking for either TPB feeding holes or OBLR rolled up terminal leaves
 - Early powdery mildew and scab symptoms
 - Dogwood borer in trunks of trees (generally the hole will be located where there are burr knot roots, and you may notice an area of damage as trees begin to look weak and decline).



Dogwood borer larva in a graft union near burr knotting. Arrow marks caterpillar hole.



Early powdery mildew on terminal leaves. Photo by Elizabeth Tee.



Oblique banded leafroller damage to leaves (bottom left leaf). Photo by Elizabeth Tee.

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 19th to 25th**. 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 to 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!

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

Plan to attend the virtual pink meeting next Monday the 22!!

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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