



“Fruit Facts” – Wednesday, April 24th, 2024

Mario Miranda Sazo and Janet van Zoeren

Join us Thursday **TOMORROW**

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.

Scout Training Webinar recording now available

In case you missed it, the recording of our scouting webinar that we held on Monday April 15th is now available online here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtyOWCL1Q2A&t=3359s>.

Pink Meeting recording now available

During this meeting we discussed updated temperature forecasts by a Cornell Climatologist. Some of the forecast graphics are shown below. Click to access recording: <https://youtu.be/JGI7n69-JA0?si=nXTtGikVaSqLfgyk>.

00:00:00 - Intros – Mike Basedow & Janet van Zoeren, CCE

00:00:51 - Climate Update – Jessica Spaccio, NRCC

00:06:45 - Tree Decline Survey – Kenneth Buck, Cornell AgriTech

00:09:42 - Managing Crop Load for Optimum Results in 2024 – Dr. Terence Robinson, Cornell AgriTech

00:40:00 - Apple Insect Management in Pink – Dr. Monique J Rivera, Cornell AgriTech

01:01:59 - WNNY Pink Disease Update – Dr. Kerik Cox, Cornell AgriTech

Cornell Statewide Frost Protection Webinar recordings

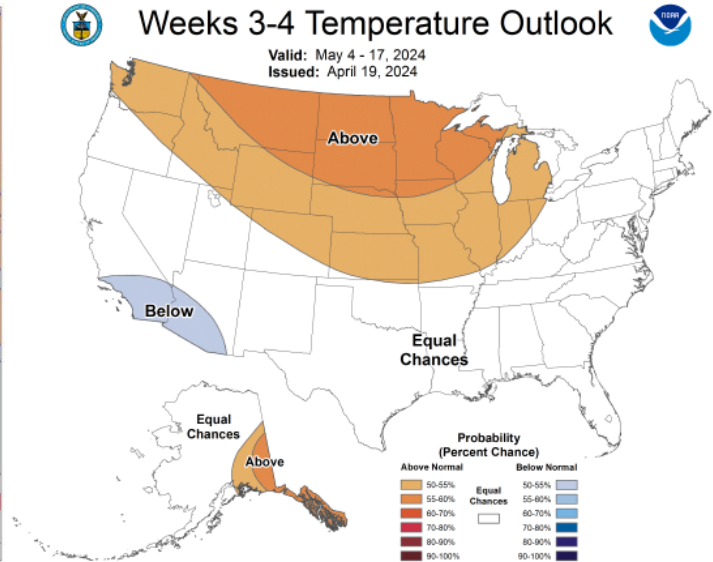
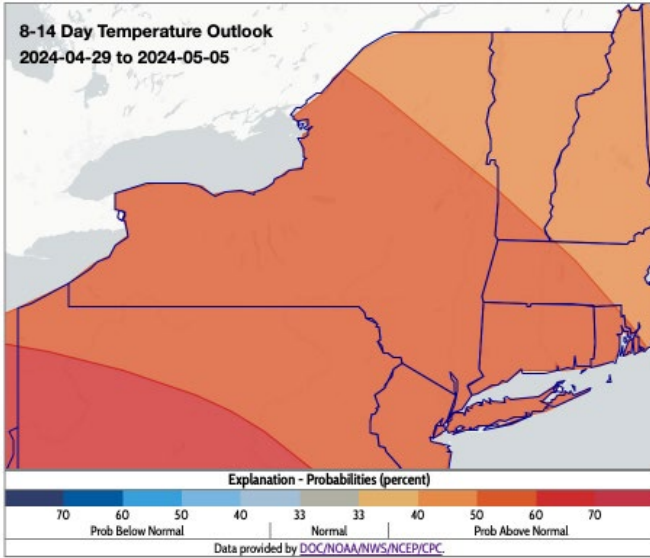
The recordings of the Cornell Statewide Frost Protection Webinar held last Friday are available here:

<https://youtu.be/TIBepfb98ws>

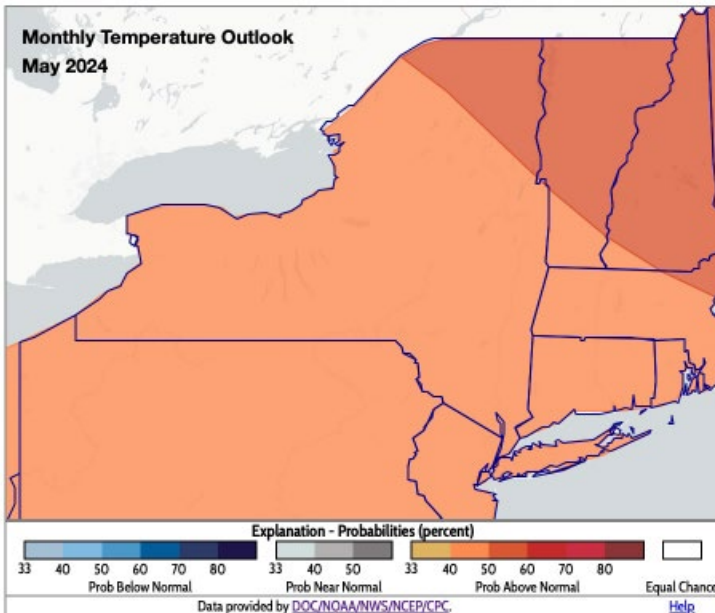
Weather Forecast

See graphics below that were updated in the afternoon on Monday the 22 by Cornell climatologist Jessica Spaccio from NOAA, Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University.

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) 8-14 day outlook for April 29 – May 5 slightly favors below-normal temperatures for most of the state (review the graphic titled 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook). CPC indicates equal chances for May 4-17. This means equal chances of above-normal, near-normal, or below-normal temperatures (review the graphic titled Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook).



The outlook for May favors above-normal temperatures for the entire state. Probabilities range from 40-50% for most of the state, and 50-60% for the northeast corner of the state (review the graphic titled Monthly Temperature Outlook).



To Do Today

- This is the week to impose/finish the last touches of precision pruning on Honeycrisp at the early pink stage.
 - Please visit the CCE LOF YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6PXjEkx7nLDY1A81Ek5brQ>
 - While there, specifically please review:
 - **English - Pruning Guide for Precision Crop Load Management** A video describing precision pruning, why, how, and when to accomplish it.
 - **Spanish - Guía de Poda para Manejar con Precisión la Carga Frutal (con subtítulos en Español)** Un video, subtulado en el idioma español, que describe la poda de precisión, el por qué, cómo, y cuando realizarla. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kZYT-7etL4&list=PLYLbxsK4pTXWaFNZIOiRCLQ2-0TYxujzs>.
- The second step (important this week at early pink for Honeycrisp) is adjust bud load through precision pruning. And also ask your Jamaican and Spanish pruning crews to watch the CCE LOF YouTube videos in English and Spanish – see above!)
 - Honeycrisp example:
 - Target = 73 fruits/tree x 2 = 146 buds per tree
 - Don't leave more than 200 flower clusters on Honeycrisp!
 - Gala example:
 - Target = 114 fruits/tree x 1.5 = 171 buds per tree
 - Don't leave more than 250 flower clusters on Gala!
- Last call to get READY your frost protection devices. Don't wait any longer.
 - Also, set the start of wind machines at around 37-40°F instead of lower temperatures for better frost protection results: Apple growers should check and test the use of frost protection devices (wind machines) in preparation for any cold event this weekend. Wind machines should start at around 37-40°F, not at lower temperatures!. Last year wind machines worked better when they were started at around 37-40. 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.
- 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. **We already entered the right time window from pink to bloom when it is 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).
- Some locations show an apple scab infection event occurring with the rains yesterday into today, although temperatures are hovering around 50F so not quite warm enough for scab to really take off. If your location had a wetting event and temperatures into the mid-50s, and if you were not covered with a protectant in the beginning of the week, you may want to consider applying a product with kickback. Also keep an eye on the weather for a possible more significant infection event upcoming over the weekend.
- Tight pink is your first opportunity to get a head start on fire blight management. In any blocks with previous history of damage (and where the tree is already filling the space so you don't mind slowing growth), I would recommend following Kerik Cox's suggestion to apply either:
 - or apply prohexadione-calcium (**Kudos, Apogee, @ 3-6 oz/100 gal**) alone
 - or apply prohexadione-calcium (**Kudos, Apogee, @ 2 oz/100 gal**) with Acibenzolar-S-methyl (**Actigard @ 1 oz/100 gal**)

○ **Keep scouting your blocks for those 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 - scout for these by examining ~100 terminal clusters per block, and looking for TPB feeding holes. TPB feeding holes often drip a little bit of sap which can be an easier way to spot them.
- Oblique banded leafroller – scout for these by examining ~100 terminal clusters per block, and looking for chewing damage on developing fruitlets or rolled up terminal leaves.
- Dogwood borer larvae feed 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 is usually localized to specific blocks, and is best managed using mating disruption. If you see larvae now, you could look into finding disruptors to hang in mid May to prevent future generations.
- Woolly apple aphid is not supposed to be a “spring” pest, but has already been seen at several locations in WNY with aerial colonies on pruning cut wounds in the interior of the canopy. At this time of year they are more difficult to stop, because they are only just beginning to build up the “woolly” exterior coating, so the white fluff is not so pronounced as in the mid-summer. Scout for WAA by looking at areas where you know there was a hotspot last year, and looking for small amounts of white fluff or aggregating dark bodies in the interior of the tree.



OBLR or other spring caterpillar feeding damage.



Woolly apple aphid colonies this time of year are quite small, but can still be found in the usual places: in the inner canopy and on pruning or other wounds. Look for the white fluff to find early colonies, and flag locations to spray at petal-fall.

On the Horizon

- **Leave checks/controls/untreated panel sections if you will be using frost protection products this season:** If you are going to test products, you need to leave unsprayed controls within each block that you are testing. You should try to avoid using separate complete blocks as contrasts between control and treatment. If you don't leave controls, you cannot determine potential effectiveness. Dr. Jason Londo is happy to coordinate with growers to evaluate product effectiveness this season. Please let us know if you are planning to test the use of frost protection products.
- **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.**
- Are you ready for fire blight season? Make sure you have any products you will need in stock.

Good to Know

Do you know that the optimal soil pH for the majority of apple cultivars (of course the exception is Honeycrisp!) is around 6.5-7 (acid 1-6, neutral 7, and alkaline 8-14).

Please notice that we now suggest the optimum soil pH before planting of 'Honeycrisp' should be 7.2 not 6.5-7.0.

This new Cornell recommendation may seem high to some consultants or growers but in recent orchard plantings where 7.2 pH is maintained we have seen low amounts of bitter pit and excellent tree growth.

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.