



**“Fruit Facts” – Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Mario Miranda Sazo, Janet van Zoeren and Anya Osatuke**

**Berry Office Hours every Wednesday, 8:30-9:00am**

Berry office hours begin today, and will continue weekly until July 3, 2024. Drop in for an informal conversation about berry production with Laura McDermott and Natasha Field of the Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program, and Anya Osatuke of Harvest New York.

[Join Zoom Meeting Link](#) Meeting ID: 962 9520 5493, Passcode: 12345

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**Stay tuned!**

**The Next Thinning Meeting may be Conducted on Wednesday 22, 2024**  
**Time/Day to be Announced soon**

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**Bilingual Twilight Meeting to be held May 29<sup>th</sup> at Orchard Dale Fruit Farm in Orleans county**

Bring your workers to join us on May 29th at Orchard Dale Fruit Farm in Orleans county from 5:30-8pm. Click here for more information and to register: <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1936>

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**Twilight Meeting to be held May 30<sup>th</sup> at Coulter Farms in Niagara 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.

Join us from 7-8:30pm on **Thursday May 30<sup>th</sup>**. Please **arrive at 6:45pm** for pizza and soda. Thank you to Valent for providing refreshments!

**Location:** Coulter Farms, 3871 N Ridge Rd, Lockport 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.**

## To Do Today

- **Please review your current fruitlet size (king and laterals) and the petal fall recommendations sent in the last Fruit Facts on Wednesday May 15 (see below the link to the recording):** There was a significant amount of PF sprays applied on Wednesday and Thursday and yesterday despite the rains along the lake. More PF thinning should be conducted today/tomorrow for the late blocks next to the lake. Rain events interrupted the PF sprays, the planting of new orchards, and the grafting of old/unprofitable blocks in a few sites yesterday.
- **Good weather for thinning (today/tomorrow) and last call for PF thinning for Gala blocks with good set along the lake:** Please apply the petal fall sprays and especially if you did not blossom thin Galas that have a good crop load and don't have major cold damage along the lake.
- **Continue checking fruitlet sizes in inland sites, and particularly those located in Orleans/Niagara:** The next thinning spray period for the early part of fruitlet sizes @ 8-10mm is approaching very rapidly and in particular for inland sites in Orleans and Niagara counties. Some early blocks in these counties will need to be sprayed again early next week.
- **Fruitlet size separation/more about phenology:** By now I can say that fruitlet size is behind 1-2 days in inland sites in Wayne compared to Orleans/Niagara inland sites. I can also see a more clear fruitlet size separation between the inland and lake sites in Wayne.
- **Thinning efficacy after two blossom sprays applied to a mature Honeycrisp block located at a lake site in Orleans:** I evaluated great thinning efficacy at one large Honeycrisp block with G.11 and B.9 rootstocks with the use of two ATS sprays. I can't imagine there will be more thinning needed after the petal fall spray applied on Thursday. A fourth thinning spray may be needed but with low rates. The thinning job is almost done at this site! Congrats for the early thinning and the seed load reduction to secure good return bloom next year!
- **You can still review the recordings for the Western NY & Capital District Petal Fall Thinning Meeting conducted on Monday May 13** <https://youtu.be/G9AWpbRZuDk>

**A recording of the Petal Fall Thinning Meetings providing updates, crop damage assessments, and recommendations.**

[00:00:00](#) - Welcome & Intros - Mike Basedow (CCE-ENYCHP)

[00:00:48](#) - Phenology Updates in the Saratoga area - Mike Basedow (CCE-ENYCHP)

[00:03:52](#) - Phenology Updates in Western NY - Craig Kahlke (CCE-LOF)

[00:06:12](#) - Phenology Updates in Western NY - Mario Miranda Sazo (CCE-LOF)

[00:12:13](#) - Phenology Updates in Wayne County - Jim Eve (consultant, Eve Farm Service, LLC)

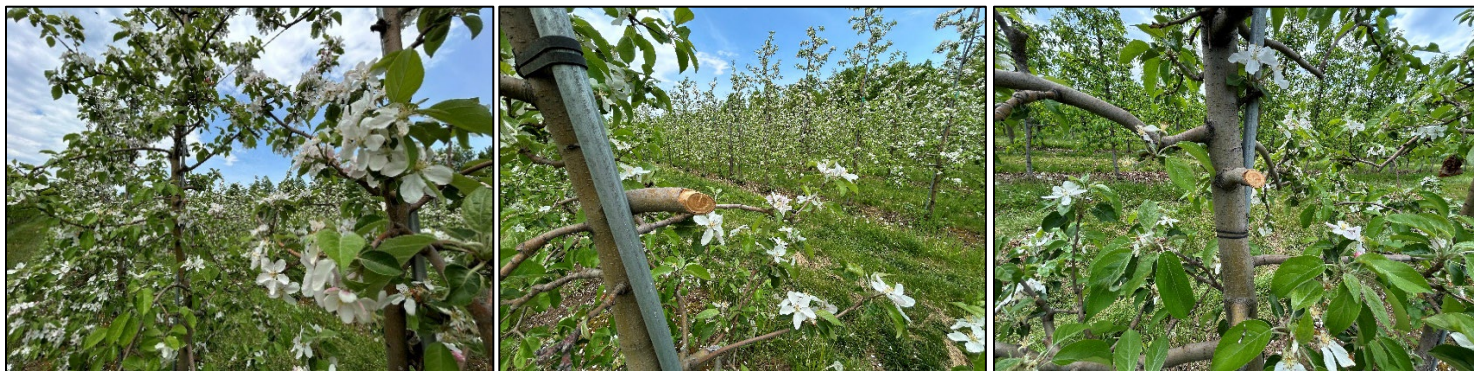
[00:15:35](#) - Phenology Updates in Wayne County - Vaughn Gingerich (consultant, Lake Ontario AG Consulting, LLC)

[00:17:57](#) - Thinning Recommendations at the Petal Fall Timing for both regions - Dr. Terence Robinson, Cornell  
Includes Q & A

- **A few grafting and pruning pics/notes this Saturday (Figure 1 and 2):**



**Figure 1.** Beaver grafting technique by Orchard Dale Fruit Farm LLC. Picture in the left shows the growing of 3 stems after grafting conducted in May of 2023 and nurse limb removal conducted on Thursday May 16, 2024. The picture in the right shows the grafting of 3 sticks (conducted 10 days ago) and the early growing of the new scion pictured on May 16, 2024. Please notice that nurse trunk will stay the entire 2024 season and will be removed next May 2025.



**Figure 2.** Nice pruning cuts by taking out big branches (**the doggies!**) and leaving a long (4-fingers length) in a mature Honeycrisp block located along the lake in Wayne County. This type of pruning was just done this past week on Tuesday May 14, 2024. Honeycrisp grower was smart-patience enough and intentionally delayed the pruning cut decision until bloom. On Tuesday May 14 I noticed great bee activity and pollination occurring in the last 30-40% of the bloom in Honeycrisp trees. Growers that lost 40-50% of the early kings made the crop this past Monday and Tuesday. We had great weather for the last part of the pollination period in Wayne.

○ **Petal fall thinning for 2024:**

- This year daytime temperatures will be in the mid-60's to mid 70's, but nighttime temperatures will be in the mid 50's with relatively low light levels due to cloudiness.
- The weather will result in a **moderate carbohydrate deficit** which will give **good petal fall thinning** (little risk of overthinning)
- The petal fall spray is an essential component of this year thinning program.
  - A full dose of either NAA+Sevin or NAD+Sevin is needed in blocks with a strong set.
  - Alternatively use Maxcel+Sevin with Gala if temperatures are in the 70's.
  - Alternatively use Maxcel+Accede on a trial basis with Gala.

**Suggested Chemical Thinning for Honeycrisp:**

- **Petal Fall (fruits at 5-6mm)**
  - **NAA 4oz/acre + Sevin (1pt/acre)**
- Fruits at 11-13 mm
  - NAA 3oz/acre + Sevin(1pt/acre)
- Fruits at 15-20 mm (if needed)
  - NAA 4oz/acre+ Regulaid (1pt/acre)
  - Accede+Maxcel

**Suggested Chemical Thinning for Gala:**

- **Petal Fall (fruits at 5-6mm)**
  - **NAA 4oz/acre + Sevin (1pt/acre)**
  - **Macel 128oz/acre+Accede 400ppm**
- Fruits at 11-13 mm
  - Maxcel 128oz/acre + Sevin(1pt/acre)
- Fruits at 15-20 mm (if needed)
  - Accede+Maxcel

- **Fire blight** infection may occur early next week (beginning ~Monday), in blocks with blossoms open. Be aware of rattail blooming blocks and cover those up tomorrow or when ever you get a window, with Streptomycin, kasugamycin, or a biological such as Double Nickel plus Cueva.
- **Oriental fruit moth** insecticides should go on mid next week to optimize spray efficacy.
- **Primary scab season is over.** Continue to keep trees covered in blocks with a history of leaf blotch (Marssonina) or other fungal rot diseases.
- **Plum Curculio** management begins as soon as petals are completely off all the trees in the block. Materials effective against PC include: Exirel, Imidan and Verdepryn (also control OFM), Actara (also controls Rosy apple aphid), Assail, and Avaunt.
- **Wolly apple aphid** can be controlled by Movento, Senstar Sefina or Sivanto at this timing.
- Include Proclaim, Rimon, or Intrepid in the petal fall spray if you have a history of high **Oblique Banded Leafroller** damage.

### **Stone Fruits:**

- **Oriental fruit moth** insecticides should go on mid next week to optimize spray efficacy.

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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