



“Fruit Facts” – Thursday, June 13th, 2024
Mario Miranda Sazo, Janet van Zoeren and Anya Osatuke

Spotted wing drosophila found this week across western NY region!

Spotted wing drosophila has been trapped this week in Wayne, Orleans and Niagara county blueberry plantings. At each of three farms, 1-2 SWD were found in a single trap. At other farms in those counties and in Monroe county, no SWD were trapped yet.

Current numbers pose a low risk of infestation, but **we do expect this to be an early year** since we are already beginning to catch this pest.

For blueberry plantings, begin sprays as soon as 20% of the green fruit develop a pink blush. For raspberries and blackberries, begin sprays as soon as blushed fruit appear in the planting. Consider a preventative spray program for late-season strawberries, such as 'AC Valley Sunset' or 'Malwina'.

[Click here for updated spray charts for berry crops](#), or [here for the updated spray chart for cherries](#).

Note that the Weekly Berry Office Hours **will not be held on Wednesday, June 19th, to commemorate the Juneteenth holiday. Join us again on Wednesday, June 26!**

Tonight is the Second 2024 Virtual Orchard Meetup
Invited Speakers are Drs. Alan Lakso and Lailiang Cheng
‘Water Wisdom: Navigating Tree Fruit Production Through Drought and Deluge’
Every Thursday from June 6 to June 27
7:00 PM (EDT)

Tonight, Drs. Alan Lakso and Lailiang Cheng will talk about the **impact of water availability in plant physiology and fruit quality**, diving deeper into the **potential consequences of extreme water availability** in our apple orchards. Both speakers will talk for about 20 mins each.

Since 2021, the North American Summer Virtual Meetup Program has brought together growers, researchers, Extension, and government to have a conversation about important tree fruit topics. Connecting industry leaders across North America, over 20 experts are involved in these 90-minute online forums, interacting with more than 1,000 participants.

Our fourth series will focus on **"Water Wisdom: Navigating Tree Fruit Production Through Drought and Deluge"**. Over the past decade, growers have experienced unpredictable rainfall, water availability challenges, droughts and deluges. We want to explore methods for adapting to these challenges and discuss alternatives for efficient irrigation practices, including advances in irrigation technologies that help growers produce high quality fruit.

In addition to the primary speakers, viewers are invited to share solutions, ask questions, and interact with the specialists and grower panelists. Preregistration is not required to attend. To join, simply **go to [the Meet-Up Zoom Site](#)**

<https://treefruit.wsu.edu/event/2023-virtual-orchard-meetup-summer-series-managing-the-uncontrollable/2024-06-06/>. If you can't access, copy and paste the URL in your browser. <https://bit.ly/2024-virtual-meetup>

Topics

- [JUNE 13: Role of Water in Tree Fruit Physiology & Quality](#)

- [JUNE 20: Smart Watering: Practices for Irrigation Management](#)
- [JUNE 27: Water Wisdom Unplugged: Panelist Q&A](#)

While each meeting builds off the one preceding it—and we hope you can attend all three—they also function as "standalone" meetings if you are not able to attend them all. You can download and import the following [iCalendar \(.ics\) files](#) to your calendar system.

Whether you are a fruit grower with ample experience, one that has modest experience, or one that is just getting started, Virtual Orchard Meetups will be the right setting for you to ask questions and find alternative solutions.

Register asap for the Second WNY Bilingual Fruit School about ‘Soil Health and Beneficial Fungi’

Tuesday June 18th, 4-7pm

Orleans County CCE Office

12690 NY-31, Albion, NY 14411

Join the members of CCE LOFP, CCE ENYCP, and Cornell Soil Health Program for a bilingual training on the basics of soil health, the potential benefits of mycorrhizal fungi, and an update on the current project status of our SARE grant on orchard mycorrhizal products.

This meeting will be hosted in **both Spanish and English** for farmworkers, beginning orchardists, and experienced orchard managers wanting to learn about the basics of soil health and mycorrhizal fungi within the orchard.

Light refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the meeting for an opportunity to socialize together. Registration is required, the event will be **limited to 40 participants in each session**.

For more details about the educational program, speakers, and pre-registration (**registration deadline is Monday June 16**), please visit: <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=1948>

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2024 Virtual Orchard Scout Training Second Session:

Tuesday June 25 1:30-3pm

Join us for a second 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.

1.25 DEC Credits available: If you would like to receive credits, please send a photocopy of your license to Anna at aew232@cornell.edu. You will also need to attend the entire meeting and complete the pre- and post-survey to confirm your participation.

This is a follow-up to our first training on April 15. You can view the recording of that training on the NYSIPM YouTube website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtyOWCL1Q2A>

No Advance Registration necessary.

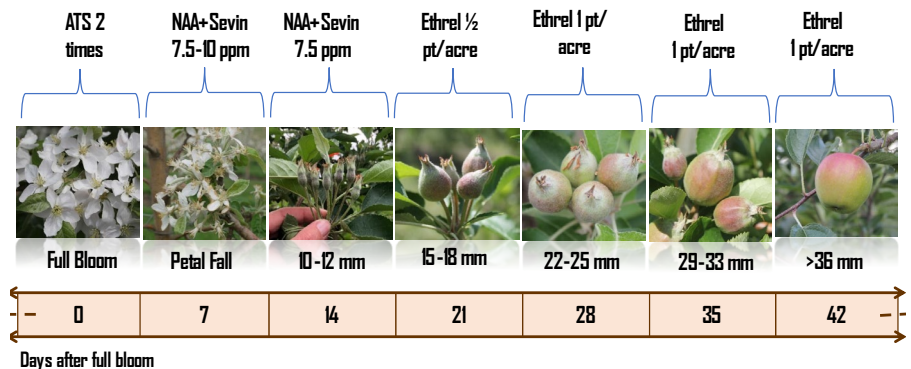
Zoom Meeting Link: <https://bit.ly/2024-orchard-scout-training-2>

To Do Today

- **Don't forget to mark your calendar and plan to attend the second 2024 virtual orchard meetup tonight Thursday June 13 at 7pm EST.** We have secured the participation of two of our own Cornell speakers (Drs. Alan Lakso and Lailiang Cheng). They will be talking about the **impact of water availability in plant physiology and fruit quality**, diving deeper into the **potential consequences of extreme water availability** in our apple orchards. Their short presentations (20 mins each) will be followed by a live conversation with invited US and Canadian grower panelists representing all the main fruit regions of North America. Please plan to attend and join the virtual meetup tonight Thursday, June 13 at 7pm, EST.
- **Continue the intensive tree training at the top of young trees. Maximize vertical shoot growth the rest of June and don't prune/touch/shorten back the mid-, lower branches yet:** WNY growers should focus their time and available labor to select and grow the main leader in young trees (supported with a vertical wire or plastic twine). Please recall that the rest of June is the time to grow the tops and fill the canopy volume as much as possible. Do not prune/touch the lower part of the trees yet (do not divert energy from the upper leader). Timely execution of orchard tasks is very important, and we need to be more patience with the trees sometimes. In the next 5-8 days, we will be discussing the use of targeted short pruning (by leaving longer stubs at the bottom and shorter stubs at the mid- and upper-part of your new plantings).
- **Timely execution of de-shooting and use of PGRs in the on-farm nursery is critical:** By now trees in the on-farm nursery should have a height of approximately 24-26 inches above the ground, de-shooting should be completed until around 24 inches height, and the use of PGRs to induce branching should be considered/started soon. In the next week or so, there will be a nice weather window with warmer temps for the directed sprays of Maxcel to the shoot tips (use a bottle or directed sprays with a boom and only spray approx. 4 mls of formulated product/tip).
- **Timely execution of 'smart' pruning (not the one you are used to practice to improve fruit color later in the season) is even more important to achieve what you want to induce/promote/divert/redirect energy (power!) in a young tree:** The timing for any pruning (simplification or cutting back of one-year old shoots to induce flowering closer to the trunk) should be started in the orchard by the third week of June (close to/after summer solstice) and then very quick for best induction before/close to July 15-20. It is an earlier season this year, and the 'smart' pruning should be targeted first for Premier and then for the regular and colored Honeycrisp strains. Honeycrisp one-year old shoots will start soon shutting down their grow in the third or fourth week of June.
- **Manual versus mechanical pruning?:** For younger trees with a less developed canopy, this type of summer pruning can be done manually with small clippers (inside /outside the canopy). For more mature canopies, it can be done mechanically in the next days in the summer. Only one-year shoots should be pruned mechanically in the summer. Please recall that in the dormant season you will be able to manipulate the inside of the canopy and shorten back /manage the in-row space for increased light porosity along the mature tree row during the next growing season.
- **Yesterday I was asked what fruit size I recommend for hand thinning to start and end for Honeycrisp or for small fruited cultivars like Gala or NY-1:** A few growers started hand thinning of small-fruited cultivars last week. Other growers are close to finish the hand thinning of Tangos this week. Tangos are @ 32-38mm and fruit weights are 16-27 grs. I have been recommending growers to finish Tangos asap and move their crews to the younger plantings first to completely de-fruit any left fruit after spray thinning to maximize tree growth. After the de-fruiting of young plantings (also in the on-farm nurseries!) is completed, growers should start/continue the hand thinning job of the small fruited cvs. Galas are already @ 25-33 mm and fruit weights are 8-17 grs/fruit. Honeycrisp fruitlets recently measured @ 28-33mm and fruitlets weighed from 9 to 18 grs/fruit.
- **Don't forget the rubbing of sucker growth that occurs on the rootstocks for some of the several plant-in-place projects that were budded last year!**
- **Mario's crystal ball and last thoughts this am:** With the current good soil moisture conditions and the coming nice weather, I expect an explosion of fruit and canopy growth. There is still a lot more cluster separation going on especially for the Galas along the lake . We need to wait a bit longer for the start of hand thinning next week in WNY.

- Growers should consider the second ethrel spray this week (yesterday!) for return bloom for strongly biennial cultivars like Honeycrisp (same program can be followed a bit later for Fuji as its flower initiation/formation starts after Honeycrisp). As always, you should avoid/skip any heat with temps close or above 80°F for the second return bloom spray with Ethrel this week.

Spray program to thin and enhance flower formation in Honeycrisp



- **Watch for powdery mildew.** We have begun seeing mildew symptoms in many orchards. Some options for PM control include Flint extra, Inspire Super, Luna Sensation, Merivon, Miravis, Rally, and others.
- **Apple scab** foliar symptoms are now showing up on many farms. **Scout your blocks**, and keep a map of where you see scab symptoms so you know where to focus management efforts throughout the summer. Products that will help control both scab and powdery mildew include Inspire Super, Merivon and Luna Sensation. Captan in the mix will help do double duty on scab.
- **Fire blight** blossom blight and shoot blight symptoms are present in some blocks. Prune strikes out **on a dry day**, and consider Cueva/Double Nickel to prevent further spread. Prohexadione calcium (apogee, kudos) applied **prior** to pruning will help to thicken cell walls, and to mitigate excessive shoot elongation due to summer pruning when removing FB shoots.
- **Wolly apple aphid** can be controlled by Sefina, Sivanto, Venerate or Versys at this timing. Coverage is critical so drive slow and use a high gallons per acre.
- **Plum Curculio** spray window is finished. Scout for damaged fruit along woodlines, and mark any hotspot areas of the farm to manage differently next year.
- **Oblique banded leafroller** flight has begun. No action is required at this time – best timing for a larvicide to target OBLR will be in a week or more. **Codling moth and Oriental fruit moth** first generation flights are finished. No action required at this time.

Pear

- **Fabraea leaf spot.** If you have had Fabraea in your peach block previously (note Bosc is especially susceptible), you will want to keep trees covered now through July 4th. Options include Topsin M, Ziram, Manzate and Syllit.
- **Pear psylla.** June is a great timing to remove water sprouts from your pear trees in blocks susceptible or at threshold for psylla. This will remove their best summer food source, keeping populations in check. For summer monitoring, examine ~ 10 recently expanded shoot leaves per tree on ~5 trees per block. The action threshold during the summer is an average of 1.5 nymphs per leaf. If a spray is necessary, be aware that most of the products that are effective against psylla will have off-target effects on natural enemies.

Stone Fruit

- Manage for **SWD and other cherry fruit flies** in cherry orchards. View the [quick guide of products used for cherry fruit flies and swd](#) and remember to rotate modes of action!
- Watch for **bacterial blast symptoms** in **all** stone fruit trees. Bacterial blast appears similar to “fire blight of stone fruit”, and is caused by a different bacterial pathogen. Bacterial blast occurs when freezing temperatures during



bloom allow an opening for the bacterial to enter the tree. There is currently no management step to take if you have bacterial blast at this timing – make sure to make a map of where to go to later this summer to prune cankers out.

- **Peach Diseases (rusty spot, bacterial spot, brown rot):** Captan, Miravis, Inspire Super, and Merivon will control brown rot and peach scab. Be sure to rotate active ingredients to delay resistance. The addition of a copper (i.e. Cueva) will help blocks with a history of bacterial spot.
- **Remember to keep your trees healthy if they are being defoliated by peach leaf curl.** Avoid heavy cropping, keep well irrigated, and continue to manage those blocks for foliar diseases even if there will be no fruits.
- **Oriental fruit moth** first generation flight is over. No action required at this time.

On the Horizon

Seeding of sudangrass should be in your radar and close to be completed this weekend: I am aware some growers already seeded this summer grass more than 10-14 days ago! Well done!

Irrigation reminder for the orchard (also for the nursery with the ‘grow-through’ production method) as we are already close to mid-June for maximum fruit size and tree growth the next 4-6 weeks!: By now you should be ready and well prepared to irrigate if we suddenly change to warmer and drier weather conditions, which can cause significant water deficits. We’re in the middle of cell division and about to start cell expansion, water shortages at this point can be critic and hard to recover later on the season.

Frequency of irrigation depends on soil type: With sandy soils, water should be added either daily or every 2 days. With silt or clay soils, the daily amount of water needed can be added up for several days.

Remember, if irrigation fails, nutrition fails.

Summer disease management will begin sooner than we would like!

- **Black, white, and bitter rots, along with sooty blotch and flyspeck** make up the “summer diseases”, which will be on our minds in a couple weeks. Each diseases is slightly different, but in general, products with efficacy against the summer diseases include: **Aprovia, Flint Extra, Inspire Super, Luna Sensation, Merivon, Pristine, and Sovran.**
- Be aware of **Marssonina leaf blotch**, which causes yellow leaves with small dark irregular blotches, followed by rapid defoliation (see image at right). Marssonina responds to similar conditions and fungicides as does apple scab, but often shows up later in the summer when you may have a gap in your fungicide program, or in varieties that are less prone to scab so may receive a limited spray program. There are no labeled fungicides for Marssonina in New York, but many of the products that you use for scab will also help manage Marssonina (especially effective products include Captan, Mancozeb, Luna Sensation, Luna Tranquility and Merivon).



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.