



**“Fruit Facts” – Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Mario Miranda Sazo, Janet van Zoeren, and Anya Osatuke**

**This is the last regularly-scheduled Fruit Facts of the 2024 season!**

We are transitioning now to the CCE LOF Fruit Maturity report produced by Craig Kahlke. Please don't forget to sign up for the Harvest Maturity Report – see details below for subscription.

We will continue to post articles as necessary through the fall.

**Have a very successful harvest!**

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**Subscribe Now for Harvest Maturity Reports!**

Click on the link here for the form to print and mail in to Natalie: [2024 Harvest Maturity Report Subscription Form.pdf](#)

**Look for the first Harvest Maturity Report in ~2 weeks.** Testing will begin on Wildfire Gala, Premier Honeycrisp, Ginger Gold, and Zestar! Your \$75 subscription (if in the Lake Ontario Fruit Program partner counties of Niagara, Monroe, Orleans, Oswego and Wayne) gets you critical information on a weekly basis during apple harvest. Fruit samples are collected early in the week from across the region and sampled for internal ethylene concentration, firmness, starch/iodine, and total soluble solids. Results are summarized and recommendations for harvest windows of major apple and pear varieties are either faxed or emailed to subscribers later in the week. Satellite subscribers outside of the four county regions can receive reports as well, for \$100. Not sure if you've subscribed this season? Contact Natalie Mrzywka at [nlm53@cornell.edu](mailto:nlm53@cornell.edu) or 585-798-4265, ext. 122.

You can also use this link (<https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/enrollment.php>) to subscribe for any of our supplemental publications (Fruit Facts & Harvest Maturity Reports) if you are already enrolled in our program.

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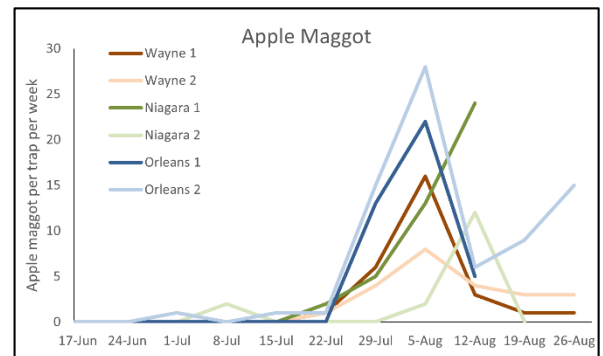
**A thank you note to all the growers who sent their employees to the last CCE LOF Hispanic summer tour, to Dobbins for hosting the tour, and to Farm Credit East for the generous sponsorship. Many thanks!**



## To Do Today

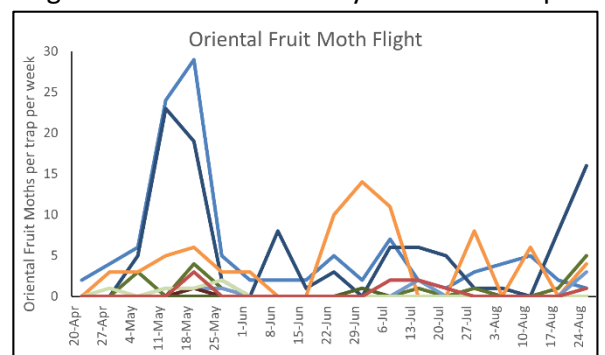
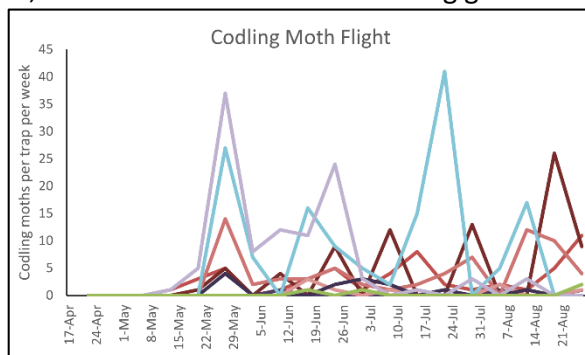
- **Avoid the use of pre-harvest applications of PGRs (ReTain and Harvista) on regular or colored Honeycrisp strains with a high K/Ca ratio determined by the peel sap analysis method:** Please be aware that ReTain and Harvista can exacerbate bitter pit development in bitter pit prone fruit. Fruit treated approximately 1 week before anticipated harvest date in research trials had increased bitter pit, leather blotch, core browning, and CO<sub>2</sub> injury. On the other hand, these PGRs reduce senescent breakdown and wrinkly skin, both of which are associated with advanced maturity. PGR treatment can reduce soft scald, even when fruit are stored at 33°F. Nevertheless, in fruit with a high K/Ca ratio (above 27) determined by the peel sap analysis method, we recommend not applying either ReTain or Harvista to avoid exacerbation of bitter pit development.
- **Last week I evaluated the incidence of bitter pit development on the trees and saw bitter pit development in only 6 of 30 blocks evaluated in Wayne County:** The highest incidence was 6-8% BP on the trees (before harvest). The 2024 peel sap results were again promising this past July. In general, the overall Ca level is lower than last year, but it's not bad at all. We are not expecting again to have a large incidence of bitter pit this season. Please recall that last year we predicted almost zero incidence of bitter pit in early July of 2023.
- **Continue irrigation practices for small-fruited cultivars (Gala and NY-1) and reduce or eliminate irrigation for regular and colored Honeycrisp strains the rest of August and September.**
- **Budding in the on-farm nursery and for some plant-in-place projects** began at a larger scale last week and will continue this week and over the weekend.

- **Apple maggot** is still high, and has reached threshold on baited traps (cumulative 5 flies per trap) at **all** farms where we have traps set. Consider rotating **Assail and Imidan** (both 7 day PHI) for AM management. The pyrethroids Baythroid (7 day PHI), or Danitol or Mustang Maxx (14 day PHI) are also effective options, but likely to cause flair ups in mites and/or woolly apple aphids due to removing natural predators.



- **Brown marmorated stink bug** continues to be present at low numbers. One of the blocks I monitor reached threshold this week. We usually expect BMSB to move out of soy when nearby soy fields are cut, and out of woods when we have prolonged periods of drought. I expect numbers to increase this week, if the dry late summer weather continues. If you have a history of damage in your blocks, consider applying Brigade (30day PHI), Beseige (21day PHI), or Leverage 360 (7day PHI). Venerate (**0day PHI**) is effective at slowing stink bug feeding, and so is a great late-season fit.

- **Codling moth and Oriental Fruit Moth** are beginning a third generation flight. Orchards with continued high trap catch of OFM may want to put a final cover on late maturing varieties to keep fruit clean through to the end of harvest, and to remove the overwintering generation to get a head start on next year. Low PHI options



for pome fruits to control OFM include: Exirel (3day PHI), Altacor (5day PHI), and Assail and Delegate (7day PHI).

## **Berries**

- **For strawberry plantings with slug issues**, an application of iron phosphate (such as Sluggo Slug and Snail Bait) or metaldehyde (such as Deadline Bullets, a restricted use product) will prevent next year's generation, as slugs lay their eggs between now and mid-September.

## ***On the Horizon***

### **Coming fall reminders:**

- For those WNY growers who conducted peel sap analysis for Honeycrisp in July and their peel sap K/Ca ratios were below 25, then we are recommending that those Honeycrisp blocks should receive about 40 to 50 lbs of K<sub>2</sub>O at a yield level of 1000 bushels per acre.
- Growers should start planning to conduct soil analysis tests later in the fall!

## ***Good to Know***

### **Mancozeb under review by EPA – your comments are needed by Sept 16<sup>th</sup>!**

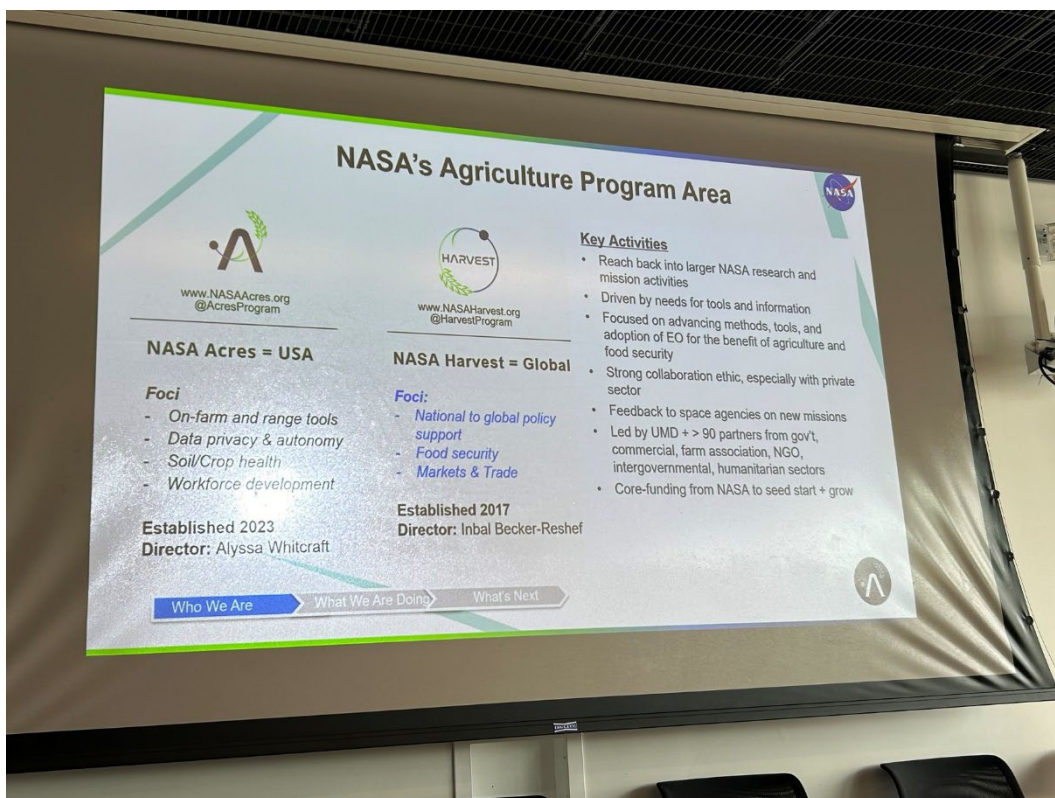
Mancozeb is currently under review by the EPA. For apples and pears, the proposed changes include a **35-day REI for hand thinning activities** (or possibly not allowing any hand thinning at all) and a **4-day (96hours) REI** for all other activities. There is still time to make your voice heard.

Growers have till Sept 16<sup>th</sup> to submit comments to EPA on this proposed rule. Your voices are the most important in this matter – the most persuasive arguments will be your calmly written, detailed explanations of how these changes will affect your operation, how it will affect your bottom line, how many acres of production will be affected, why Mancozeb is important on your operation, etc. To submit comments, go to <https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0750-0044>, and input text there or write up a letter and send it as an attachment. If internet connectivity is an issue at your farm, consider a local library or your county CCE office.

**Blueberries are in the process of sending nutrients down into their roots.** This time of year, there is a high risk of injury from systemic herbicides, particularly glyphosate (Roundup). Symptoms may include yellowing of leaves and early defoliation, but often, the damage is only seen in the following spring, when injured bushes have straplike, pale leaves and are slow to emerge from dormancy. To avoid this, avoid spraying on conditions that favor herbicide drift (hot, dry, and windy days) and favor spot applications of systemic herbicides that target broadleaf plants.

## Did you know that Cornell University recently hosted the NASA leadership team at both Ithaca and Cornell Agritech campuses last week?

NASA leadership visited Cornell University on a ‘Space for Ag Tour’ and had conversations with stakeholders and the Cornell community last week (Figure 1). The goal of this visit was to have a two-way dialogue with end users to improve NASA Earth Science’s research portfolio in specialty crop agriculture while fostering a broader conversation about effective research translation into practice.



**Figure 1.** Some of the participants who attended the Extension panel titled “Extending research-based practices into the food and agricultural community. Both Cornell Professors Dr. Yu Jiang and Dr. Jason Londo conducted technology demonstrations at Cornell Agritech.

To learn more about the role and activities of **NASA Acres in the USA**, please visit [www.NASAacres.org](http://www.NASAacres.org).

To learn more about the role and activities of **NASA Harvest in the world**, please visit [www.NASAHarvest.org](http://www.NASAHarvest.org).

To learn more about some of the **recent NASA activities conducted at Cornell**, please visit the following: [From space to farm: readying NASA satellites to help growers | Cornell Chronicle](#).

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.**