



Fruit FAX

Horticultural and Pest Management Notes,
produced by Lake Ontario Fruit Program, CCE

From FAX: 585-798-5191

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The forecast is for a couple more days of cool temperatures and continued showers through the weekend, but then spring will come Monday next week with 30-40% chance of showers almost every day.

Are you ready for green tip? I expect to see green tip on McIntosh by Monday, at least in inland sites, based on the weather forecast. Do you have your sprayers ready to go, calibrated, and your fungicide for your first spray. Tree planting will have to wait for a bit now until the soil dries out a bit.

Pest Management Notes...

Copper –

It is very common in late or “more normal” springs for the weather to warm up, and stay warm resulting in very fast bud development. Fast bud development could result in copper still hanging around when blossoms begin to develop with a risk of fruit russeting. Practice triage on your orchards with established fire blight and apply copper ASAP before we have a scab infection. Then go to the next varieties with green tip that had scab last year and protect with copper or copper plus mancozeb. But as fire blight cankers will be active and oozing bacteria later, especially in processing orchards, they would benefit from a later application of copper as late as half-inch green.

If we get into a rainy week with few spray windows, remember Captan and/or mancozeb can be applied within 18-24 hours of the start of the rain, and mancozeb can be applied in a drizzle. Add Vanguard or Scala with mancozeb and apply it within 48 hours of the start of the rain that results in a scab infection.

Wait for the next window of dry weather to prune sweet cherries. We used to recommend an application of copper before pruning, and wait until after the 24 hour REI has expired. Juliet Carroll could not document bacterial canker control from copper applications before or after pruning, but she did show the importance of leaving pruning stubs about 6-8 inches long especially if pruning branches on the central leader and larger branches of sweet cherry trees.

New plantings: Those of you who were able to take advantage of tree planting weather in late March and last week, this is a great soil settling rainfall. Put in trellis and finish any other soil disturbance around the trees, then apply pre-emergent herbicide such as Prowl or Surflan. They can be tank mixed with Goal or Goaltender if applied before buds swell, or Chateau (but the label restricts application to trees established 1 year unless a nonporous tree wrap is installed or trunks are painted in newly planted orchards).

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.