



“Fruit Facts” – Tuesday, April 1st, 2025

Mario Miranda Sazo and Janet van Zoeren

Respirator Fit Testing April 17th in Wayne County

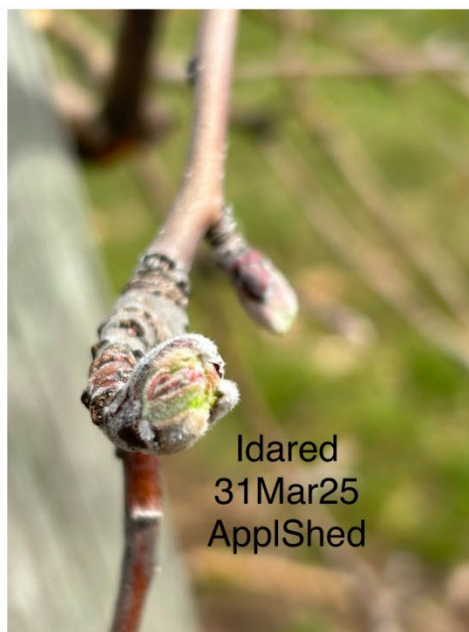
If you live in Wayne county, there will be a fit testing clinic for you on April 17th in Pultneyville. There are still time slots available between 10am-3pm.

You must register before April 8th by contacting Janet van Zoeren at 585 797 8368 or jev67@cornell.edu.

Phenology Updates

Phenology Update for Tuesday, April 1:

Yesterday LOF visited several blocks located in Niagara, Orleans, and Wayne Counties. Bud development continued progressing in the early risers (Ginger Gold, NY-2, Zestar, Idared, Pink Lady, review more cultivars in the below pictures). We saw lot of green tip in WNY. There were not too many that had at least 50% of the buds open though. We estimate that a 25-30% green tip was observed in the most advanced cultivars like NY-2 (more advanced than Idared in several sites this season).



Early apple bud phenology stages in Orleans blocks visited on Monday March 31 (photo credit: Liz Tee).



Early apple bud phenology stages in Niagara blocks visited on Monday March 31 (photo credit: Craig Kahlke).



To Do Today

- If you need to send anyone for the **“Special Permit”** handlers course, to be able to apply certain restricted use pesticides, those courses will be offered in-person on [April 7th \(Wayne county\)](#) and [April 9th \(Orleans county\)](#). Register today by following the above links. **Registrations will not be accepted after 5pm on April 3rd.**
- Do you need a **respirator fit test** for anyone on your farm? There will be a fit test clinic in Pultneyville (Wayne county) on April 17th. To register anyone for that clinic, or to learn more, email me at jev67@cornell.edu.
- Check your **pesticide inventory**. Will you be able to source any products (including herbicides and mating disruptors) that you need?
- **Record 50% green tip dates** at several blocks/varieties around your farm, to use in the NEWA models this summer. Remember that when you create an account with NEWA, you can enter a green tip date into the model and it will remember it for you. Of course, you should always have a backup record of greentip dates in your own database, and if you have multiple blocks with differing green tip dates you will need to enter those into the NEWA models separately.
- **Any blocks that have reached green tip begin to have a risk of scab infection events. Copper will reduce disease inoculum.**
 - **In apple**, continue to cover any green tissue with a high (>15%) metallic copper equivalent (MCE) copper fungicide (e.g. Badge, Kocide, Cuprofix). Continue to reapply any time you get more than an inch of rain or new tissues push (i.e. as often as you are able to get into the orchard, given the forecast). The high MCE copper can be applied through green tip or even half-inch green, as long as temps are above freezing before and after application (freezing temps plus green tissue showing plus copper can lead to phytotoxicity).
 - **In pears**, apply copper during the dormant to bud swell timing. Use of copper beyond bud burst can cause leaf burning, especially in slow drying conditions.
 - **In stone fruit trees**, apply copper whenever you get a good spray window to clean up bacterial canker, peach leaf curl, cherry leaf spot, and other disease inocula.
 - **If you need kickback activity**, include Vanguard or Scala with the copper application (Scala is not registered for use on cherries).
- Consider making a **2-3% oil spray on Friday** (to all fruit trees).
 - **No oil within 10 days of any Captan or Sulfur applications!**
 - **Avoid oil when temps are below 40F**, and when there are **below freezing temperatures forecast** in the two days prior or two days after application.
 - Oil can be applied until ½” green or later.
 - Coverage is key with oil applications. Drive slowly and use plenty of spray volume.
 - **Oil can be tanked mixed with copper**, but use caution if conditions are “iffy” for either product (i.e. if any green tissue showing or if temps are expected to reach the 40F threshold for oil).
- **Consider finding a window to apply a pre-emergent herbicide** this spring, especially if you did not get one on in the fall. This can make a big difference in annual weed pressure for this summer. Pre-emergent herbicides often have very specific regulations regarding application timing, weather conditions, age of trees, and other factors, so be sure to read the label before you apply. You may also want to include a burndown, which will work best when weeds are small. You can read more about spring herbicides: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/enychp/tree-fruit/apples/2025-spring-orchard-pre-emergent-herbicides/>.

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 2025. 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.