



“Fruit Facts” – Tuesday, April 8th, 2025

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Phenology Updates

Phenology Update for Tuesday, April 8:

Yesterday and last Thursday LOF visited several blocks located in Niagara and Wayne Counties. Bud development continued progressing slowly with the mainly continuous cool weather in the early risers (Ginger Gold, NY-2, Zestar, Idared, Pink Lady, review more cultivars in the below pictures). 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 last Thursday or Friday.

Early apple bud phenology stages in Marion, Wayne County blocks visited on Monday April 7.

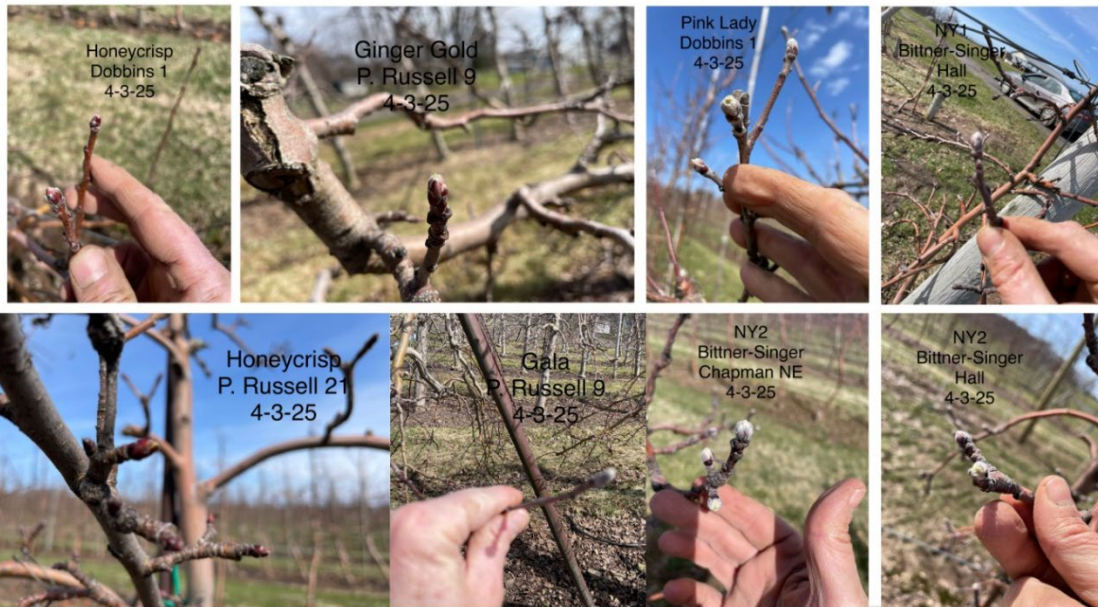


Early apple bud phenology stages in Niagara blocks visited on Monday April 7 (photo credit: Craig Kahlke).



Early apple bud phenology stages in Niagara blocks visited on Thursday April 3 (photo credit: Craig Kahlke).





To Do Today

- **Record 50% green tip dates** at several blocks/varieties around your farm, to use in the NEWA models this summer.
- **Any blocks that have reached green tip are at risk of fungal infection events. Considering the high disease pressure we had last year, don't let your guard down this spring.**
 - **In apple**, 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. 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.**
 - **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 had a prolonged warm rain event, or went into a rain event without solid coverage**, include Vanguard or Scala for some kickback activity (Scala is not registered for use on cherries).
- Wait to apply oil until the weekend / early next week.
 - Oil can be applied until ½" green or later.
 - **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.
- **Consider finding a window to apply a pre-emergent herbicide** this spring, especially if you did not get one on in the fall. 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 can read more about spring herbicides: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/enychp/tree-fruit/apples/2025-spring-orchard-pre-emergent-herbicides/>.

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