



“Fruit Facts” – Tuesday, May 12th, 2025

Mario Miranda Sazo and Janet van Zoeren

In-person Petal Fall Thinning Meetings – May 15 and 16 (both meetings at 2pm)

Come to hear updates and petal fall thinning recommendations by Terence Robinson. LOF team members will be present to answer questions. We will discuss crop potential across the country.

Thursday May 15 – 2pm	Friday May 16 – 2pm
Grower host: Cherry Lawn Fruit Farm, 8130 Glover Rd, Sodus 2pm	Grower host: Lamont Fruit Farms, 12703 Stillwater Rd, Waterport 2pm

We hope you will join berry specialists Anya Stansell and Heather Kase over Zoom to discuss berry production. Our office hours this year will be held every Wednesday morning from 8:00-8:30am, starting May 7 and ending July 9.

Anya Stansell is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://cornell.zoom.us/j/98945641042?pwd=qtLxLuYLE4uKJrkglzIzz0s8PoOnkL.1>

Meeting ID: 989 4564 1042

Passcode: 12345

**Join us Thursday May 29th at Hurd Orchard in Orleans county
for our second Twilight Meeting of 2025**

This series of monthly meetings will examine seasonal changes in tree fruit and berry crops, demonstrate scouting techniques, and discuss integrative pest management solutions to maximize the health and productivity of berry and fruit plantings.

Our second **Twilight meeting** will be held **7-8:30pm** on **Thursday May 29th**. Please **arrive at 6:45pm** for pizza and soda. Thank you to Valent for providing refreshments!

Location: Hurd Orchards, 17260 W. Ridge Rd, Holley, NY

1.5 DEC credits will be offered in categories 1a, 10, and 22.

Feel free to bring pictures or descriptions of pests you are concerned about on your farm.

No pre-registration required; **event is free to attend**.

Meetings will be held from 7:00PM - 8:30PM on the last Thursday of every month from April through July. Watch for new meeting locations every month.

To Do Today

Last blossom thinning opportunity for Honeycrisp, Gala, Fuji, and most of the high value cultivars along the lake, is today and tomorrow Wednesday: First blossom thinning sprays in inland sites were started on Wednesday May 7. A larger proportion of the first thinning sprays were conducted on May 8-9. Poor weather conditions for early pollination in a block in Wayne did not guarantee a thinning spray originally scheduled for Saturday May 10. This block was treated with the nice weather we had yesterday. Blocks in the west side of the city had better pollination weather and the need for early blossom thinning. In some late blocks trees have still too many blossoms and bloom thinning should remove at **least another 18-20% more**, via bloom thinning with ATS or NAA or Lima Sulfur (see below rates). The conditions are still optimal for good chemical thinning results at the end of this first window for chemical thinning.

Don't forget that blossom thinning is critical for Honeycrisp and other biennial varieties: (1) Seeds produce gibberellins which inhibit flower formation for the next year, (2) the earlier that fruit number can be reduced to the target fruit number the greater the likelihood of having flower initiation, and (3) **blossom thinning** is an excellent method to remove excess seeds before they cause damage.

Options for bloom thinning sprays in 2025

Caustic Products

- ATS 2.5-3.0%
 - Burns stigma of pistil
 - Apply using PTGM at 60%
 - Causes mild leaf phytotoxicity but no effect on fruit finish
 - Requires 2 applications
 - Not registered as a thinner in NY but can be legally used as a bloom time foliar fertilizer.
- Lime Sulfur (2.5%) and oil (2.0%)
 - **Newly registered in NYS (Miller Chemical Co.)**
 - Burns both stigma and style of pistil
 - Apply using PTGM at 80%
 - More consistent thinning than ATS
 - Requires 2 applications
 - Can cause russetting if applied at petal fall or later

Hormone Products

- NAA (Fruitone, Pomaxa, Refine)
 - A mild thinner (safe) when used at bloom
 - Can be sprayed safely at high rate of 10ppm (4oz/100 gal)
 - Apply at full bloom
 - Can help improve return bloom on Honeycrisp
- NAD (Amide-Thin W)
 - A mild thinner (safe) when used at bloom
 - Can be sprayed safely at high rate of 50ppm (8 oz/100 gal)
 - Apply at full bloom
 - Can help improve return bloom on Honeycrisp

When to use Caustic versus Hormone thinners at bloom:

Use caustic thinning products when weather conditions at bloom are good

- No frost

- Not too hot (70-80°F)
- Good bee flight
- Bloom is not too fast

Use a hormone type thinner when weather conditions are poor

- If there has been some frost or frost is forecasted
- Poor bee flight
- Bloom is fast
- Temperatures are hot
- Not comfortable with caustic thinners

Suggested bloom thinning for Honeycrisp

Bloom:

- Lime Sulfur (2.5%) + oil (2.0%)
- Use PTGM and spray at 80%, 2 times
- No Captan 7 days before or 7 days after oil spray

Suggested bloom thinning for Gala

Early King Bloom

- Promalin 2 pt/acre

Full Bloom

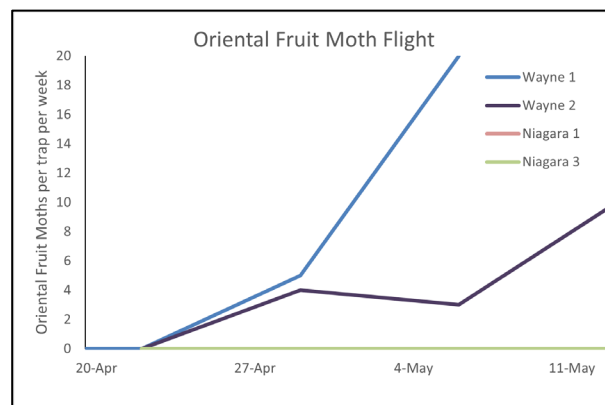
- Lime Sulfur (2.5%) + oil (2%)
- Use PTGM and spray at 80%, 2 times
- No Captan 7 days before or 7 days after oil spray

- **Continue to avoid fungicides and insecticides that are toxic to bees UNTIL HIVES HAVE BEEN REMOVED and ALL PETALS HAVE FALLEN.** See the Bloom Pesticides – Relative Toxicity to Pollinators, by Trade Name page on the LOF website (https://rvpadmin.cce.cornell.edu/uploads/doc_870.pdf) for a quick guide to which pesticides are least toxic to bees. Also note that this page has not been updated recently, and that the **Bt insecticides and Spear-Lep are also approved for use during bloom.** Double check which products are labeled for use during bloom before you apply any insecticide or fungicide during bloom!
- **High fire blight infection risk beginning tomorrow Wednesday, especially for inland locations (lower risk up along the lake).**
 - Consider applying an antibacterial product for inland sites (Strep, Kasumin). Strep and Kasumin will provide coverage for 48 hours after application. We recommend you include Regulaid with your initial Strep application. **Do not tank mix a thinner with Regulaid!**
 - Up along the lake you may be able to get away with a biological (i.e. Blossom Protect, etc).
- We continue to see some risk of **apple scab** infection events across the region, so you will want to stay strong with an protectant today or tomorrow before any predicted rain in your region. Continue to rotate between SI and SDHI fungicides.
 - Avoid Captan if you have applied or plan to apply oil within 10 days.

'On the Horizon'

Petal fall sprays will go on as soon as bees have been taken out of the orchard and petals have fallen.

- **We've seen fairly high OFM pressure** at some sites the past couple weeks, so consider including a product with high "worm" efficacy as your petal fall insecticides (i.e. Assail, Exirel, Avaunt, among others).
- **Plum curculio** is expected to be active now, with consistently warm temps, but will not attack fruitlets until they begin to size up.



Stone fruit PC sprays should go on as your trees reach reach shuck fall AND once the bees have been removed from the orchard block (and nearby apple blocks as well). Consider applying Assail, Exirel or Avaunt to manage plum curculio and OFM (or see the Recommends for other options). Record your petal fall spray date, to use in NEWA to help determine how many PC cover applications you need this year.

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.

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