



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Lake Ontario Fruit Program
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“Fruit Facts” – Tuesday, May 20th, 2025

Mario Miranda Sazo and Janet van Zoeren

**Join via Zoom this Thursday May 22 for the Western NY
Post-Bloom Pest/Disease Management Updates & 8-12 mm Thinning Recommendations**

4 PM – Welcome, Craig Kahlke, CCE-LOF

4:05 – How Long & What to Spray for Plum Curculio? – Janet van Zoeren, CCE-LOF

4:15 – Disease Management Updates – Dr. Kerik Cox, Cornell University

4:30 – 8-12 mm Thinning recs for Western NY – Dr. Terence Robinson, Cornell University

5:15-5:30 – Additional Q & A, if needed

Join via Zoom at:

<https://cornell.zoom.us/j/93624363119?pwd=jH7XcktS2cEo0gazYuzyFtqN6otNgl.1&from=addon>

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. Exact meeting location on the farm will be announced next week!

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.

- A few grafting and pruning pics/notes today (Figure 1 and 2):



Figure 1. Beaver grafting technique by Orchard Dale Fruit Farm LLC. Picture in the left shows the growing of 3 stems after grafting conducted in May of 2023 and nurse limb removal conducted on Thursday May 16, 2024. The picture in the right shows the grafting of 3 sticks and the early growing of the new scion pictured on May 16, 2024. Please notice that nurse trunk stayed the entire 2024 season and was removed in mid May 2025.



Figure 2. Nice pruning cuts by taking out big branches (**the doggies!**) and leaving a long (4-fingers length) in a mature Honeycrisp block located along the lake in Wayne County. This type of precision pruning was just done in mid May. Honeycrisp grower was smart-patience enough and intentionally delayed the pruning cut decision until bloom.

- **Continue checking fruitlet sizes in inland and lake sites, and particularly those located in Wayne:** The next thinning spray period for the early part of fruitlet sizes @ 8-10mm is not approaching very rapidly and in particular for lake sites in Orleans and Niagara and Wayne counties. Some early blocks in these counties will need to be sprayed again during memorial day weekend.

The current weather will result in no carbohydrate deficit for the next 7 days which will give poor petal fall thinning.

Surfactants like Regulaid, can increase the response of NAA.

If there is a carbohydrate **surplus** include a surfactant

If there is a carbohydrate **deficit** do not include a surfactant.

Use 2 pt. Sevin/100 gal instead of 1 pt. Sevin/100 gal for increased thinning.

Suggested Chemical Thinning for Honeycrisp: Chemical thinning of 'Honeycrisp' is essential to achieve both annual cropping and the desired fruit quality of this variety in 2025. To successfully control biennial bearing, Honeycrisp needs

very early thinning at bloom (window already closed) and petal fall (spray window started opening in inland sites yesterday).

- Bloom LS (2.5%) and oil (2%)
- **Petal Fall (fruits at 5-6mm)**
 - NAA 4oz/100 + Sevin (1pt/100)
- Fruits at 11-13 mm
 - NAA 3oz/100 + Sevin(1pt/100)
- Fruits at 15-20 mm (if needed)
 - Accede+Maxcel

Suggested Chemical Thinning for Gala:

- Bloom LS (2.5%) and oil (2%)
- Petal Fall (fruits at 5-6mm)
 - Maxcel 64oz/100 + Sevin (1pt/100) or Maxcel+Accede
- Fruits at 11-13 mm
 - Maxcel 64oz/100 + Sevin(1pt/100)
- Fruits at 15-20 mm (if needed)
 - Accede+Maxcel

How much chemical to put in the tank:

- Calculate TRV for each orchard and then a concentration factor
 - $\text{TRV/Volume of spray per acre} = \text{Concentration factor}$
 - Example: TRV=200 and spray volume is 100 then concentration factor=2
- Multiply suggested rates by concentration factor to get rate/acre.
 - Example 4oz NAA X Conc factor of 2=8oz NAA/100 gal X 5 for a 500 gallon sprayer=40 oz/sprayer tank
- Do not use concentration factor adjustment for surfactants.

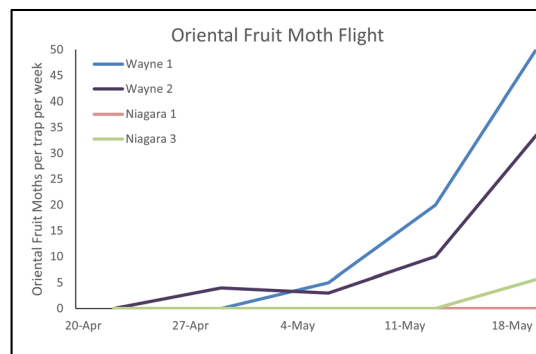
Tips for successful petal fall thinning in 2025:

1. Assess each block for initial set.
 1. If most king fruits are present, use full rates and follow the carbohydrate model.
 2. If kings are missing, then thin with lower rates.
2. Wait until fruits are 5-6mm before applying petal fall thinning spray.
 - Use the degree day calculator in the carbohydrate model to target the best time for thinning. Spray petal fall thinners when DD=100-130.
3. Nozzle the sprayer for the petal fall spray with 1/3 of output to the bottom half of tree and 2/3 of the output to the top half of the tree.
4. Surfactants like Regulaid, can increase the response of NAA.
 1. If there is a carbohydrate surplus include a surfactant
 2. If there is a carbohydrate deficit do not include a surfactant.

- **We continue to see some risk of apple scab infection events across the region, with an infection event beginning tomorrow Wednesday.** You will want to cover today if you have not done so in the past ~6days; rotating between Mancozeb, and the single site fungicides.
 - Avoid Captan during the thinning season.
 - Powdery Mildew has been seen at high levels in many orchards this spring. **Cevya, Flint, Inspire Super, Miravis, Rally and some of the pre-mixes double up protection for Powdery Mildew and Scab.**
 - Axios is a new product with a new mode of action, which has been performing well in trials in Michigan.
- **Continue to avoid fungicides and insecticides that are toxic to bees UNTIL HIVES HAVE BEEN REMOVED and ALL PETALS HAVE FALLEN.** Even once honeybees have been removed, use care to avoid toxic insecticides/fungicides

affecting wild pollinators on any rattail apple bloom OR on dandelions and other flowers in the row middles. You will want to protect your pollinators by choosing a bee-safe product, and by spraying at dawn/dusk/overnight whenever possible.

- Low risk of fire blight this week due to cool temperatures.
- **Petal fall PC insecticide sprays will go on as soon as bees have been taken out of the orchard and petals have fallen.** Record your petal fall date, to use in NEWA to help determine how many PC cover applications you need this year.
 - **We've seen 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, Avaunt, Exirel, 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.
 - **Wolly apple aphid** can be controlled by Movento, Senstar, Sefina or Sivanto at petal fall timing.
 - Include Proclaim, Rimon, or Intrepid in the petal fall spray if you have a history of high **Oblique Banded Leafroller** damage.
 - **San Jose Scale** can be controlled by Movento (with a penetrating adjuvant), Sivanto, Esteem or Centaur, generally to be applied around the PF or 1st cover timing.
- **If using mating disruption for Dogwood borer**, hang those disruptors now. Larvae are beginning to pupate, and you will want to hang disruptors before the beginning of the moth flight, or else disruption is a waste of your money.
- **Apple leaf curling midge** damage has been spotted at one farm. Yellow to bright orange larvae develop inside the upward curled leaf margins. Many PF spray products will have efficacy on ALCM. Some of our natural enemies will also help to manage them.
- Codling moth flight began this week. No management necessary at this time.



Apple leaf curling midge damage. Photo courtesy of Mike Basedow.

Pear

- **Fabraea leaf spot.** If you have had Fabraea in your peach block previously (note Bosc is especially susceptible), you will want to keep trees covered now through July 4th. Options include Topsin M, Ziram, Manzate and Syllit.

Stone Fruit

- **Peach Diseases (rusty spot, bacterial spot, brown rot):** Captan, Miravis, Inspire Super, and Merivon will control brown rot and peach scab. Be sure to rotate active ingredients to delay resistance. The addition of a copper (i.e. Cueva) will help blocks with a history of bacterial spot.
- **If using mating disruption for the Peach tree borers**, hang those disruptors soon.
- **Stone fruit Plum Curculio sprays** should go on as your trees 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).

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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