



Fruit FAX

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

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Meeting Notice: As a follow up to the in-depth school, Terence Robinson and Mario Miranda Sazo will conduct a series of "Precision Orchard Management" field workshops this year.

Tuesday April 23, 3-5pm: Precision Nutrient Management - Field meeting activity for all WNY fruit growers and consultants at Lamont Fruit Farm (12703 Stillwater Rd., Waterport, Orleans County)

Wednesday May 1, 3-5pm: Precision Chemical Thinning - Training class offered at NYSAES in Geneva (Jordan Hall) on for all consultants and WNY growers interested to implement the "Precision Thinning" approach. This is an improved method of conducting chemical thinning that utilizes both the carbohydrate model as a tool for predicting response prior to application of chemical thinners and the fruit growth rate model for early assessment of thinning response immediately after application.

Pest Management Notes...

Apple scab: We reached green tip in McIntosh on March 14 in inland sites and March 15 in later sites closer to the lake. And the showers yesterday resulted in the first scab infection of the season in some locations, but it was very variable. If you can guarantee no scab overwintering in or next to your orchard last season, it is not likely a high risk. At an average temperature of 54F, we needed 8 hours of leaf wetness for a scab infection.

But sites in Wayne county according to 3 stations shows an infection with 8 hours at 54F to 12 hours at 50F if you add in the high humidity and calm conditions through this morning. The start time in Wayne Co was about 1 PM yesterday.

In Orleans county, there was an infection in Albion, but no data was available for Medina or Ashwood. The Knowlesville station did not show an infection, but there was likely a marginal one.

Stations in Niagara County show that only one site resulted in a scab infection in Appleton close to the lake but other sites dried off in 6 hours after the showers.

Monday was a great day for copper applications in varieties with fire blight established and where there was some green tissues starting to poke out of the buds – this was your first scab spray and it should be good for about 5 days this week. Today is the next spray window but you better switch to captan/mancozeb through noon today. If you still can't cover, add Syllit or Vanguard.

You can tell I have changed my philosophy about spraying for apple scab – I will not wait to see if a scab infection as occurred to start to apply fungicides in a post-infection mode. With the weaknesses in our fungicides and the fungicide resistance situation, it is more critical to apply scab fungicides on a protectant basis before a possible infection. A protectant program is often more rigorous on a 5-7 day interval, but more effective and less expensive in the end.

Do not mix Syllit with copper or chlorpyrifos insecticides because nozzle clogging may result.

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.

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