



Fruit FAX

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

From FAX: 585-798-5191

D. Breth & M. Miranda S. April 26, 2013

The weather forecast is for some clouds today with high temps only in the high 40's today. The high temp for the weekend will be in mid-high 60's. The warm up will come by middle of next week with highs in the 70's. There are no frosts in the forecast through next week. The next chance of showers is predicted for Sunday night through Monday.

Wednesday, May 1, 3-5 PM- Precision Chemical Thinning Meeting, A137 Barton Lab- (Building Change), NYSAES, Geneva– Parking available behind Barton Hall. 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: There was a scab infection resulting from Wednesday's showers that started between 1-3 PM across the region. The rain and leaf wetness continued through the night as temperatures dropped with some significant winds in the western side of the region which dried off the leaf wetness sensors, likely before the foliage was dry. There were multiple showers throughout the evening and it was difficult to say with 100% certainty there was a region wide infection. Although not all NEWA stations reported infection events in the scab models, I find that if I look at the actual hourly data and count hours of leaf wetness after the rain is first recorded and consider the % RH levels and single hours skipped, many of the “no infections” actually turned to “likely” infections. This is not the time of year to be pennywise and dollar short – most of you applied a protectant fungicide ahead of the showers and even had an extra morning on Wednesday to finish up. Apple buds are generally at the half inch green stage, but Gingergold, Idared, Sweetango, NY2 are between have leaves peeling back and will be at tight cluster with a couple more warm days. Most other varieties in most locations except right on the lakeshore are ¼ to ½ inch green. There appears to be only a good warm day difference in bud development between lake sites and inland sites.

The next fungicide cover should be applied by Sunday with the additional leaf growth that will need protection. We may not have had a lot of redistribution of the last fungicide applied with the light showers on Wednesday. If in doubt, cover with Vanguard or Scala plus mancozeb by 1-3 PM today... Syllit if no resistance on your farm is also an option and there is some experience with a longer kickback to 48 hours, although not in Cornell Guidelines. With this much leaf tissue and if just protection for the next rainfall in varieties approaching tight cluster, you can include a strobilurin (Flint, Sovran, Cabrio, Pristine) but not if resistance has been documented on your farm. The new generation of DMI's (Inspire Super, Indar) are generally more effective than old generation DMI's (Rally, Vintage) in controlling scab but are still recommended on a protectant basis in a tank with protectants, captan and/or mancozeb. If planning to rely on sulfur for mildew control, start now with captan + mancozeb.

Brown rot blossom blight will be a concern on apricots in bloom, plums at white bud, and pink bud on peaches. Conditions have not been very favorable, so far, for brown rot blossom blight infections (wet weather with temperatures above 60F) but Sunday showers will provide more pressure. Apricots are blooming so pay close attention to brown rot blossom blight conditions. Under low pressure conditions, I would start with Bravo (or chlorothalonil) or captan. Under higher disease pressure, options for control of brown rot blossom blight include 1) Rovral in all stone fruit crops (especially where European brown rot is established in tart cherries but wait for white bud) for 2 sprays per season but not after petal fall, 2) DMIs (Indar, Tilt, Quash)

unless resistance is established to DMI's, 3) AP fungicides including Vangard or Scala, which are equal in efficacy with 4) Strobies (Qols) like Pristine. Rotate between fungicide classes for blossom blight, fruit set, and preharvest sprays to manage fungicide resistance in brown rot. Be sure label includes your target stone fruit crop. Peaches are still at swollen bud: It is time to hang traps for oriental fruit moth to mark the biofix - but typically, no need for any control measures until petal fall on peaches.

I have noticed some peach orchards with very few live buds. It is mainly in inland sites in Wayne County and things improved as I got close to the lake to blocks that won't need hand thinning to full crops. I looked back in weather records and found a -11F recorded at Williamson Mason's station and a grower report in Sodus on January 24. Not sure how far this cold air spread at the time – during the EXPO - but that would explain why the flower buds stopped development and are dried up and dropping and vegetative buds are now at ½ inch green. I would wait to do the peach pruning in these sites until you see what you have when blossoms open. **There did not appear to be damage on sweet cherries. Peaches west of Rochester appear to be fine. Great weather for pruning sweet cherries but get them finished ASAP.**

Plan for mite management: Oil is not a common option since it is incompatible with captan or sulfur in fungicide program. Prebloom miticide options that affect egg and larval stages of European red mites include Apollo, Savey, Onager, or Zeal.

San Jose Scale? Now that the frosts are past, it is safe again to apply oil for SJS using 2 gallons/100 or use Esteem (4-5 oz./A) plus oil (2 gal/100) or Lorsban (chlorpyrifos) ½ inch green to tight cluster. I have observed that when chlorpyrifos (not mixed with Syllit) is used prebloom, woolly apple aphid issues are reduced.

Blueberries are at budbreak with about 1/8 inch of unfolded leaf buds developed. Any wet weather will be conducive for mummyberry and Botrytis. Mummyberry will be an issue with rainy weather in plantings with a history of mummyberry. Lightly disking or raking the groundcover under the bushes to stop the mummified fruits from producing spores, practical in a small planting. Start with captan under light pressure but use Orbit, Switch, or Indar 2F as disease pressure increases.

Horticulture Notes...

Pruning peaches: Dry, warmer weather is ideal for peach pruning at pink or bloom stages. Pruning under these weather conditions limits the spread of Cytospora canker. The following are basic pruning recommendations for any peach tree at the pink or bloom stages: (1) prune out most, if not all of the vigorous upright growth. Prune it all the way to the branch it originated, (2) pruning opens the tree up to allow sunlight penetration and air movement, (3) prune out any dead or diseased wood, (4) cut out any crossing limbs, (5) prune off 1/3 to ½ of the remaining branch and thin out wood keeping the best pencil size, (6) remove all shoots less than 6" long because short shoots produce small fruit, (7) remove all previous-season shoots with branches with shoots originating from auxiliary buds during the summer. These shoots are too vigorous, (8) remove shoots hanging below the vertical because they produce small fruit, and (9) keep about ¼ as many branches as the desired number of fruit and thin trees to remove all but 4 fruits on each shoot.

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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