



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

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The weather forecast is for more scattered showers today with high temps only in the low 60's. The high temp for the rest of the week will be in mid-high 70's, lows in the 50's. No showers for the rest of the week after today.

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: As of 5 AM readings, We are in the midst of another scab infection, with a few of the NEWA weather stations already reporting an infection in Albion, Sodus (Lake), Williamson (DeMarree), Somerset. But if I look at the hourly data, I estimate we have already had enough hours everywhere but a few which are only shy about an hour of leaf wetness. The infections started about 6 PM yesterday in Ransomville, 7 PM in Medina and the northern part of Niagara County, 8 PM in other sites in Orleans Co., 10-11 PM in Wayne Co.

Apple buds have grown over the weekend and are very close to tight cluster – should be at pink by the end of the week if not earlier. Hopefully none of you have to rush out to cover for this infection since your next spray should include an insecticide where San Jose Scale is an issue. Good spray coverage will be essential for this application.

If no fungicide renewed by Sunday with the additional leaf growth, you need to assess fungicide coverage and reapply by 6 PM today with captan/mancozeb. We may not have had a lot of redistribution of the last fungicide applied with the light showers. If in doubt, cover with Vangard or Scala plus mancozeb by 6 PM tomorrow... 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.

The season is shaping up to be a good mildew year! If planning to rely on sulfur for mildew control, start now with captan + mancozeb. Topguard and Rally (using the higher end of rates still works for some) in tight cluster should start now.

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.

Peaches started to bloom on Sunday, April 28. Plums are in bloom. The lighter brown rot pressure - time for that Bravo, chlorothalonil spray.

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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