



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

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The weather forecast is for a 30% chance of showers for today with high temps only in the mid-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:** Apple buds have grown over the weekend and are very close to tight cluster – early varieties like Idared, Gingergold, Sweetango are at tight cluster in many locations. Even varieties close to the lakeshore grew with the warm southerly breeze over the weekend. We had a general scab infection

We had a scab infection starting on Sunday afternoon moving from west to east, and by Sunday evening in Wayne County. Little to no risk of a scab infection for the remainder of the week, but powdery mildew will now be an issue if we have a dry spring. 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?** With no frost in the forecast, 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. Do not apply oil within 2 weeks of a captan or sulfur application. 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.** Those of you with winter damage in peaches, take another look. You only need 10% of the blossoms for a viable crop. Just wait a bit later for pruning in these sites with damage. Plums are in bloom. Sweet Cherries are at white bud. The lighter brown rot pressure - time for that Bravo, chlorothalonil spray.

**Oriental fruit moth counts** are still zeroes over the weekend with a couple imposters that raided the traps. Next week we will be hanging up codling moth traps to set first trap catch, sustained trap catch, for biofix of degree-day models. Stay tuned. If you plan to install mating disruption pheromones for codling moth, you can start as early as pink and continue through bloom, but hopefully the job is complete before any moths are caught in your area.

**Pear psylla control suggestions:** Pears are at budburst to green cluster, Asian pears will be at white bud and I would not be surprised if they start to bloom this week. This week is the timing for the pre-bloom insecticides for psylla. Peter Jentsch, from the Hudson Valley Lab, suggests the use of an insect growth regulator such as Esteem 35WP at 4–5 oz/acre or Centaur 0.7WDG at 34.5–46.0 oz/A, used during the pre-bloom period to decrease egg hatch and reduce the viability of eggs laid by treated adults. But it should be applied with 0.25% v/v horticultural spray oil prior to sustained egg-laying which has already occurred in western NY. Esteem may be applied once at pre-bloom or once pre-bloom and once at petal fall as a tactic for both psylla reduction and as a resistance management strategy to alternate yearly with Agri-Mek. Remember, its mode of action is as an ovicide and to control early instar nymph development, so it will not directly reduce the adult or nymph population.

**The choices for managing adult psylla** include Thionex 3EC (2.67 qts/A) – note that EPA has mandated a stop-use date of July 31, 2013 for endosulfan in pears; the neonicotinoids Actara 25WDG (5.5 oz/acre), Assail 30SG (4.0–8.0 oz/acre), and Calypso 4F at 4–8 oz/A. The use of 1 quart of oil per 100 gal of finish spray solution (0.25% v/v) has been found to increase the neonicotinoids' effectiveness, but is not required by the label. The NY label allows a total of 11.0 oz/A (0.172 lb a.i./A) of Actara (or 0.172 lb a.i. of thiamethoxam-containing products such as Endigo ZC per acre) per growing season. Multiple applications of Actara require the applicator to have the most recent Special Local Need (SLN) label. However, you may be working with a beekeeper who does not like neonics around bloom time. Delegate 25WG used at 4.5–7.0 oz/A is another good alternative for use against the 1st generation pear psylla nymph population during the pre-bloom period. However, an ideal timing for this product would be during the early hatch of obliquebanded leafroller, which usually coincides with the end of the 2nd generation and onset of the 3rd generation psylla (mid-June). Plan to follow up about a week after petal fall with abamectin (Agri-Mek) or Actara.

### ***Horticultural Notes...***

**Pre-bloom nutrition management:** Pre-bloom nutrients should be applied including 3 lb. of urea (feedgrade) and 1lb. solubor. In orchards where Zn is low, include Zn-chelate at the labeled rate per 100 gallons dilute. The treatment can be concentrated up to 3X and can be tank mixed with most fungicide combinations. The exception is the water soluble bags which must be pre-dissolved before adding to the tank with Boron.

**Planting sweet cherries:** (1) rootstock shank 4-6 inches above ground, (2) paint trunk with cheap latex paint especially on the south side of the tree. For bud removal on 1 year old wood of young sweet cherries: (1) for early branch development, (2) at bud swell during dry period, (3) do not head the leader, instead preserve leader bud then remove all buds in top 8 inches of leader, (4) then remove 2/3 buds on 1 year wood by removing 2 buds, leaving one bud, remove 2 buds, leave 1 bud, remove 2, etc.

**Will you be planting new peach trees this year?** They should also be pruned just as soon as you can get to them. Unlike apples, and despite the intended planting system, there are very few decisions you need to make. Simply head the tree to approximately 30 inches, higher if there are no live buds or side branches, then stub all side branches to 1 or 2 buds. If you haven't planted remember that we recommend that all stone fruit be planted on 12-18 inch high berms. Stone fruit trees are not very water tolerant and the additional height gives more depth to the water table especially perched water tables that occur in the spring and fall. In addition, root growth is thought to be improved by providing additional oxygen provided by berming.

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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