



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

From FAX: 585-798-5191 D. Breth & M. Miranda S. May 10, 2013

Mark your calendar for petal fall thinning meetings for May 21. More details will follow.

The weather forecast is cooler temps in 60's west of Rochester, but mid-70's east of Rochester. Then the warm temperatures will cool down for the weekend through Monday. More showers are predicted through Monday. A frost predicted for Monday and Tuesday mornings comes and goes in the forecast, but forecasts change every 12 hours. Those of you with strawberries in bloom, in inland, low lying areas should be prepared for frost protection early next week.

Just about everything is in bloom – full bloom and dropping petals in inland sites to first bloom on Romes along the lakeshore.

Mark full bloom dates on Macs for your sites and call Craig Kahlke at (585) 735-5448 with the dates to use in predicting harvest models.

Fontelis has received a SLN registration from DEC for use in NY – in apples and pears for scab and mildew, use 16-20 oz./a, under high disease pressure at 7 day intervals with no more than 2 consecutive sprays. No more than 61 oz/acre per season. In stone fruit, use 14-20 oz./acre for brown rot and many other diseases. This is a new class of chemistry that we hope will provide an alternative to SI (DMI) resistance. You must have a copy of the label in your possession. This label will be posted, but those of you who get email Fruit FAX, it is also attached.

Fire Blight Alert... In inland sites with warmer temperatures today, there is still a high-extreme risk of blossom blight unless an antibiotic was applied on May 7 or later. Lake orchards with fire blight in the neighborhood are predicting a "caution" or low risk; but orchards with active fire blight in orchards continue to show a high risk of blossom blight if no strep has been applied. Fire blight cankers have been happily oozing with this warm weather! If no strep applied May 7 or 8, the risk continues to be extreme in warmer inland sites close to Rt. 104 and south. Streptomycin sprays need to dry to be effective. In orchards with established cankers, include streptomycin for all varieties, but in orchards without fire blight established, you can just cover the susceptible varieties that have been blooming since May 5 or before. Good spray coverage is essential for streptomycin to work – it must reach the blossoms to be effective. **So do not try to spray alternate row middles! With a strep application, you removed all the accumulated degree hours, and the forecast does not support any additional risk for a few days even in inland sites.**

Now is the time to start **Apogee application at 1-3 inches of shoot growth for shoot blight control.** This is especially the case where you have established cankers in the orchard and where streptomycin resistance has been documented.

Apple scab: NEWA, is now reporting that most of the weather stations across the fruit belt had a scab infection starting on May 8 in the afternoon. A few sites still say no infection (Sodus Lake, Ashwood, Kendall, Albion) but look at the **hourly data** in NEWA, mark when the showers started, and realize that the trees will not dry off as quickly as the flat plastic leaf wetness sensor. Although there was less rainfall in Wayne Co. we only need .01 inches of rain for scab spores to shoot. I would not take a chance, and hopefully, all apples had sufficient fungicide coverage before the showers. If you sprayed late last week, there is not sufficient protection for the remainder of the shower activity today and the weekend. **This is perfect weather for powdery mildew!** Overwintering mildew infections are easily visible in trees now and they are white with spores.

These have been great conditions for **brown rot on stone fruit, mummyberry on blueberries, and botrytis on strawberries starting to bloom.** Renew fungicide protection on a 7 day interval with this kind of weather.

Plum curculio have been actively migrating into the orchards with the warmer weather this week, and will threaten damage to young fruitlets especially in apricots and sweet cherries at shuck split. The best options for control include Actara, several pyrethroids, and Imidan but not on sweet cherries.

Horticultural Notes...

Promalin use: Last and final window opportunity along the shoreline to apply Promalin (or Perlan or Typy) to increase the length to diameter ratio (“typiness”) of the fruit such as Delicious, Cameo and Gala. “Typiness” can be an important marketing advantage for some cultivars and markets. These materials are most effective when applied in a narrow timing window when king blooms are open. These materials can cause some fruit thinning, which may be a benefit this season. The best response is obtained when temperatures are warm (>70°F) and the spray is applied as a fine mist in 50-100 gallons of water.

Bloom Chemical Thinning: It is your first opportunity to thin apples using a multi-application approach. It will be useful in a season like this. Applications should be made at 50-80% full bloom on appropriate varieties such as Fuji, Gala, Honeycrisp, Macoun, and Delicious (spur types). The timing window with caustic thinning chemicals is very narrow (1-2 days) since the goal is to allow the king bloom to be pollinated and then apply the chemical to prevent further pollination of other flowers. Thinning response with the caustic blossom thinners is not weather dependant, and fruit injury can occur with high rates and slow drying conditions. The use of NAA at full bloom will provide moderate thinning at best. Other products, including Promalin, ATS and lime sulfur when applied during bloom for other reasons may also produce some thinning as well. Be sure to take into account their potential to cause blossom thinning before you apply them. Complete thinning details are available in the 2013 Cornell Pest Management Guidelines for Commercial Tree-fruit Production. **Two more aggressive options in 2013 for Precision Thinning of Gala and Honeycrisp at Bloom:** (1) For Gala: apply a Bloom Spray (Maxcel 96oz/acre), and (2) For Honeycrisp: apply a Bloom Spray (Maxcel 48oz/acre).

Pear Chemical Thinning: Thinning pears with NAA gives best results if applied 14-21 days after full bloom at a rate of 10-15 ppm but can be applied as early as 7 days after full bloom and as late as 28 days after full bloom. Asian pears were in bloom around May 3-4 and Bartlett pears were in bloom on May 5-6. Please be sure and use your own full bloom dates for pear chemical thinning! We will be at the beginning of the pear thinning window in Western NY this coming week.

Leader selection: Tomorrow Saturday (weather permitting), next week, you can send your crew out to select leaders on your second and third year old trees. Simply remove every bud that is within three inches of the best leader shoot by rubbing them off. This allow the leader to grow without competition and prevents putting growth into shoots that will need to be removed later. If the existing bud is not strong prune it off and pick the strongest bud below it then remove its competitors. (Note from Debbie: be aware of fire blight risk before cutting and pinching on young trees and wait for cooler weather conditions.)

What do you do if the trees you ordered arrive and are something less than the ideal 6’ tall, uncut tree with 10-15 feathers for the Tall Spindle system? According to Steve Hoying and Mike Fargione, the current thinking is to treat poorer quality trees similar to high-quality ones for this system. That is, do not head them, even if they are whips. Remove only branches that are too low, broken or more than half the diameter of the leader where they intersect. If only 1 or 2 long branches remain after this process, then remove those branches as well. This is similar to how we restarted a poor tree. The difference is now we recommend that you do not head the leader. Don’t cut short branches or dards as they will grow into beautiful structural branches for this planting system. Remember that you should be using a flush cut where you do not want a new branch to grow back (low branches or those greater than ½ the trunk diameter), and a beveled cut (longer bottom stub of at least ½” length) everywhere else in the hope a renewal branch will develop.

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.