



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

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Petal Fall/Thinning Meetings

Times and Locations:

May 22, 1:00 PM - Lynoaken Fruit Farm, 1872 Greenman Road, Lyndonville, NY 14098. 1/4 Mile North of Platten Rd.

May 23, 1:00 PM - Ridgeview Farms, 4715 Congdon Road, Williamson, NY 14589 (from Route 104 – turn south onto E. Townline Road, Congdon Rd. is approximately one mile south of Route 104.

Look for Cornell Fruit Event Signs.

Cornell faculty and the LOF team members will be present to answer questions. Come to hear updates on insects and diseases, and of course, thinning recommendations by Terence Robinson.

Warmer temperatures are in the forecast with high temperatures a few degrees cooler close to the lake. A slight chance of showers are predicted for Sunday, and again on Tuesday with 40% chance for showers throughout next week – but not a lot of rain expected.

Pest management notes...

Fire Blight ! The forecasted temperatures will increase the risk of blossom blight on any apples still in bloom accumulating the necessary heat by tomorrow **in inland sites** and all the bacteria need then is a wetting event (spray, dew or rain) to help them get to the base of the flower. With temperatures closer to the lake forecasted a few degrees cooler (upper 60's – low 70's until May 20) than inland sites on or south of Rt 104 (low to mid-70's until May 20), the risk for the remainder of this week stays in the low to caution range in orchards closer to the lake. Even if you spray antibiotic on or before Sunday, Tuesday will reach a very high – extreme risk again across the region in any varieties still in bloom. Canker blight symptoms are showing up now with infected branches collapsing. If you see collapsing branches in orchards remove the branch in semi-dwarf systems with lower density, but if on the main leader in any planting system, remove the whole tree! As for next Tuesday's potential for infection through Thursday, a spray on Tuesday will reduce the risk of blossom blight for the rest of next week.

If you are reaching petal fall, remove the bees, and include streptomycin and/or oxytet at petal fall with your choice of insecticide for plum curculio. I have seen this as an effective approach to protecting the late bloom and the new tender shoot growth. I have seen reports of hail in the area from the past weekend. The standard recommendation for an application of strep with 24 hours of the hail storm still stands.

Apple scab/Powdery mildew: We are still in peak of primary scab season so do not stretch intervals. Make sure you are still renewing fungicide ahead of the rain, with the potential leaf expansion. The powdery mildew situation is getting more critical, even though we do not need fungicides for scab right now, mildew is having a party in your orchards!

Plum curculio have been actively migrating into the orchards with the warmer weather last week. Sweet cherries, peaches, plums, and apricots are attractive to PC now. Early blooming apple varieties in inland sites are at petal fall and are susceptible to plum curculio now. In apples, you can target oriental fruit moth and plum curculio using Calypso or Acatara. Other options include Avaunt, Imidan, or a pyrethroid like Baythroid, Danitol, or Warrior. IN stone fruit, all but Calypso are options. No Imidan on sweet cherries. **European apple sawfly** has been causing more damage in the region in recent years. It is critical to remove bees and get a **timely** petal fall spray on for EAS, using one of the same insecticide choices for plum curculio ASAP! Get started on your petal fall sprays if you have a history of this pest ASAP! **Oriental fruit moth timing is now in peaches** that are past petal fall using Actara, Assail, Avaunt, Danitol or other pyrethroid!

Renew fungicide protection for brown rot on stone fruit before the showers for next week. Do not use Bravo (chlorothalonil) past shuck split on stone fruit. Switch to Pristine, Cabrio, Indar, Gem, or Quash in cherries and apricots. Captan, Elevate, and Tilt are also options in peaches. Plums, use Captan, Gem or Quash for brown rot infections of fruitlets.

Horticultural Notes from Mario and Terence...

Fruit Russet Control (from Mike Fargione): Petal fall is the time to apply Pro-Vide (2.1-3.5 oz./A) or TypRus (10-13 fl. oz/A) to Golden Delicious and other russet prone varieties to prevent physiological fruit russetting. Rainy weather is often associated with finish problems. 2-4 applications are suggested beginning at petal fall and continuing at 7-10 day intervals. These materials are best applied at 100 gal/acre volume. Do not use a surfactant with Pro-Vide. Research in NC has shown that Apogee may provide some protection from fruit finish problems like russetting. The first application should have been made during bloom when trees had 1-3 inches of new terminal shoot growth. One or two follow-up treatments will be needed at 2-3 week intervals, but the second spray timing can be tricky in a season like this year since applying Apogee 10 days before or after chemical fruit thinners may reduce the effects of the thinners. Water conditioners like Choice, Quest or ammonium sulfate (AMS) improve the effectiveness of Apogee. Be sure to add the water conditioner to your tank before adding the Apogee. Do not mix calcium or boron fertilizers with Apogee. Concentrated applications of Apogee have been effective in research trials. However, we recommend you apply this material at 2X when possible.

The Petal Fall thinning window in Western NY: The snowball bloom across our region will require multiple thinning applications for most varieties. We encourage growers to apply a petal fall thinning spray. This is a year to spray “the whole farm” with a petal fall thinning spray. The optimum timing is when fruitlets are 5-6mm in diameter **and after beehives have been removed from the orchard**. Some Gala blocks will be getting close to the 5-6mm fruit diameter target size this Friday or Saturday or early next week in inland sites in Western NY. (By Wednesday Gala king fruitlets averaged 4.04mm fruit diameter in inland sites.) Five important varieties to focus on at petal fall are Gala, Empire, Honeycrisp, Macoun and Fuji. Terence’s suggestion for Gala and Empire is to spray @ 5-6mm fruit diameter (two to three days after petal fall) with NAA 6oz/acre + Sevin 2pt/acre. For Honeycrisp and Macoun use a higher rate of NAA 8oz/acre + Sevin 2pt/acre at the same timing. For Fuji use Maxcel 96oz/acre + Sevin 2pt/acre. Many other varieties will also benefit from a petal fall spray of either Sevin alone or a combination of NAA+Sevin or Maxcel+Sevin. **Do not mix Sevin with Urea or Captan at petal fall thinning applications. Calcium or oil mixed with the petal fall tank will damage fruit. (6) Mancozeb is okay in the petal fall tank. Come to the thinning meeting to hear more...**

Pear Chemical Thinning: Traditional pear thinning with NAA is best done at 5-6 days after petal fall, which is in the next few days. Later timings do not work as well and limit pear fruit size improvement. However, NAA gives only mediocre thinning. Much better thinning responses have been achieved with Maxcel applied when fruits are 10-12mm in diameter. This will be later this week or early next week. The rates we use for Bartlett are 150ppm (96 oz/100gal) and 75ppm for Bosc (48 oz/100 gal). We do not include Sevin with the Maxcel since it is not labeled on pears. For **Asian Pears** which have a strong set, we recommend a more aggressive chemical thinning with Maxcel using 125-200ppm or 80-128fl oz/100 gallons when fruit size is 10-12mm. Do not apply Maxcel on pears when temperature is below 60°F or above 85°F.

Top working: With the warm weather we have had, top working can be done at any time from the time bark slips to early June as long as grafting wood is dormant. Look for good tree growth and warm weather for callusing. Removal of blossoms for NY1 years 1-2: Now is the time to manually remove all flowers on 1st and 2nd year NY1 trees. A high rate of Maxcel (100ppm=64oz/100gal) plus 2pt Sevin/100gal +1pt oil/100 gallons can also be used to “defruit” young trees. Pick a warm day for this spray.

Nutrition: Don’t forget to apply a small dose of nitrogen (1/4 lb. of calcium nitrate) to newly planted apple trees in a doughnut shaped band around each tree.

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.