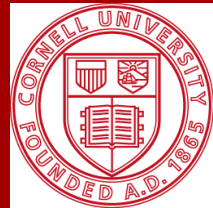




FRUIT NOTES

Lake Ontario Fruit Program



Volume 14 Issue 22

November 13, 2014

Tax Planning: Start Now! A. De Marree

As of the publication of this newsletter, the maximum amount you can elect to deduct for most section 179 property you placed in service in 2014 is \$25,000, which disrupts the most common method growers use to minimize income taxes. As an alternative, you may want to look at investing in fall urea sprays to strengthen buds or reduce apple scab, post-harvest gypsum and lime applications, fall weed control, fall mouse control and control measures for the pest and other problems of this past growing season. In addition you may have trees tilting from over-cropping, trellis posts too far apart, broken trellis wires & anchors. The amount of rain we received this year may also indicate where more tile is needed or drainage ditches that need to be cleaned out.

Carefully consider with your tax accountant and/or lender what may be your best tax management options for 2014 filing as soon as possible (first week of December)! New acreage coming into production could increase the supply of apples for the next several years, putting pressure on both fresh and process apple prices. Some apple varieties are rapidly becoming obsolete. It is critical that you begin to carefully manage your business to protect assets and profits in the coming years. This process should start with managing 2014 income taxes.

Tax Filing & Pre-Productive Expenses for Non-Bearing Orchards A. De Marree

The IRS tax code requires pre-productive expenses of new orchards to be capitalized until the orchard begins to bear (unless you officially chose the option to expense new orchards in the mid-1980's). Once the orchard is bearing, the capitalized expenses are then to be depreciated over the designated time period on your tax returns. Please work with your tax accountant to make sure that you have correctly classified and handled pre-productive expenses for depreciation on future tax returns. An example of pre-productive expenses for a fresh high density orchard follows on page 2.

November 20 Deadlines: Crop & NAP Insurance Enrollment or Policy Changes A. De Marree

If you are planning to make any changes to your current crop insurance policy for the 2014 crop year, those changes must be made by November 20th. This includes increasing or decreasing coverage or changing from fresh to process or adding the fresh varietal option. Schedule a meeting with your agent to fully understand all of your options!

Minimum Wage Increases to \$8.75 on December 31, 2014! A. De Marree

The NYS minimum wage increases on December 31st of this year and again next year. On December 31, 2014 the minimum wage increases from \$8.00 to \$8.75 per hour and to \$9.00 per hour on December 31, 2015. More information at: <https://labor.ny.gov/workerprotection/farm-labor.shtm> Under tips: Browse A-Z index, then choose M and minimum wage.



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Lake Ontario Fruit Program
in Wayne, Orleans, Niagara,
Monroe, and Oswego Counties
<http://lof.cce.cornell.edu>

Deborah Breth
Area Extension Educator
Team Leader, Pest Management
585-747-6039 dib1@cornell.edu

Alison De Marree
Area Extension Educator
Production Economics
315-573-8881 amd15@cornell.edu

Craig Kahlke - Newsletter Editor
Area Extension Educator
Fruit Quality Management
585-735-5448 cjk37@cornell.edu

Mario Miranda Sazo
Area Extension Educator
Cultural Practices
315-719-1318 mrm67@cornell.edu

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.

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.

2014 Pre-Productive Expense

Trees / Acre: 1,037

A. DeMarree CCE

8/19/14

Example

Fresh Apple High Density Orchard - First Harvest: Year 2 (2nd leaf)

Commercial Operation Per Acre Costs	Yr of Planting 1st leaf	2nd leaf
Materials		
Trees	\$5,413.14	
Trellis Support System:		
In row 12 ft locust pole	660.00	
5 ft anchor poles/row end	25.00	
Wire, hardware, tree fasteners	533.07	106.06
	\$6,631.21	
Grass seed row middles	\$66.00	
Fertilizer & Lime	120.00	83.00
Diesel fuel & lubrication	20.99	12.51
Pest Management Materials		
Disease control	144.00	181.00
Insect & Mite control	48.39	55.88
Thinner/Growth regulator	0.00	0.00
Weed control	31.69	33.50
Mouse / vole control	10.50	10.50
	\$441.57	\$482.44
Labor		
Chisel plow	\$4.29	
Disk	6.86	
Planting	210.00	
Install trellis	96.00	
Tree training	86.42	86.42
Spraying	12.96	20.16
Mowing / herbicide	3.45	5.18
Fertilize / Mouse bait	3.45	3.45
Fruit/blossom removal	57.61	57.61
	\$481.03	\$172.81
Overhead Costs		
Real Estate Taxes	22.37	22.37
Investment Maintenance & Repair	102.67	102.67
Insurance	80.00	80.00
Office & Accounting	50.00	50.00
	\$255.04	\$255.04
Total Pre-Productive Costs / Acre >	\$7,808.85	\$1,016.35
Year One and Two Total >		\$8,825.20

Managing Voles (Field Mice) To Prevent Trunk Girdling

D. Breth

Vole (mouse) populations quickly increase under favorable conditions such as infrequent mowing and wet seasons like this season. *Meadow voles* damage trees by feeding on the bark above ground level or *pine voles* primarily feed on bark below. Pine voles have extensive burrows underground and are not as common in Western NY but can be found in sandier sites. Feeding that mostly or completely encircles the stem (girdling) can cause plant death in the subsequent growing season. Lesser degrees of injury can mimic other causes of tree decline, such as root rots or borers. These can be identified by pulling weeds from around trunks and looking at the base of the tree for frass from borers, digging up trunks and roots to look for discoloration of cambium in the root and crown, or toothmarks from voles/rabbits.

The reduction of protective shelter is the primary cultural control method for voles. Close mowing of row middles and perimeter surroundings in late fall reduces vole habitat, improves baiting success, and increases natural predation rates. Dropped fruit and other debris should be removed, picked up and sent in for juice, or raked into the row middles and smashed to accelerate breakdown of apples as an alternate food source to bait.

Wire and plastic tree guards have fallen from favor, particularly in new high-density orchards where 1,000-2,000 trees per acre are being planted. When used, be sure the bottom edges of guards are buried slightly below the soil line. Mice do chew through plastic guards.

Post-harvest rodenticide applications can offer useful second stage orchard mouse control. Pelletized baits may be most effective, and unlike corn or oat whole grain baits, they are less likely to be consumed by non-target species such as quail, grouse, or turkeys. Not all sites will need treatment - scout first. Apply rodenticides in late November, after several days of clear, dry weather, but before snow cover, to improve rodent bait taking.

Zinc phosphide-treated baits are currently legal for post-harvest use in NY commercial pome, stone, grape, bushberry, caneberry and nut plantings. Zinc phosphide baits can be broadcast by hand or machine or applied by trailbuilders. It is illegal to apply bait on bare ground or accumulate in piles. Broadcast applications must be made to heaviest areas of vegetation. Broadcast applications must be applied when no rain or snow is expected for 3 days. Bait stations - PVC tubes, split tires, or beneath shingles - work well and avoid such problems.

Rozol is also labeled in NY for post-harvest pome fruit and stone fruit use but not in other fruit plantings. Rozol cannot be broadcast; it is restricted to "hand spot baiting" in NY. It must be used in bait stations or placed directly into a vole tunnel (useful with pine voles). Rozol is an anticoagulant, wildlife researchers have reported a risk to raptors and other wildlife secondarily feeding upon poisoned but still mobile rodents. Regardless of bait, whenever possible, bait station use is preferred where game birds frequent. Always read product labels for additional restrictions before use.

A Summary of the Cool and Rainy Fruit Growing Season of 2014

M. Miranda Sazo and T. L. Robinson

We began the 2014 fruit growing season after a very cold, frigid, and long winter. Low temperatures reached -13°F in some areas along the shoreline of Lake Ontario. Peach mortality was expected to be very high, but fortunately it ended up being for the most part a normal year for several stone fruit growers. At Geneva, lower temperatures were registered (-17°F) and peach bud mortality was almost 100% for Cresthaven, Crimson Lady, and Red Heaven cultivars, and 40-50% for sweet cherries.

Along the shoreline, we waited for peach pruning way beyond bloom and were surprised by how normal it was in some areas and blocks. Apple tree mortality due to winter injury was minimal in Western NY and at Geneva.

We had several cool fronts with rains and sometimes heavy rains in early April and even snow flurries in some areas. We had to plant trees later than normal because of wet field conditions. Very few growers were able to start early spring plowing

and soil preparation for planting. A few anxious growers who began early spring plowing in heavy soils got stuck in their fields. The April weather held us back and most of the new trees were planted in May.

Most of the mature apple plantings did not bloom as strongly in 2014 after the snowball bloom experienced in 2013. The unusual cool spring led to low bee activity and pollination, and likely also resulted in slow growth of pollen tubes. At the petal fall thinning meetings, we reported that initial fruit set was the lowest in Wayne County compared with orchards in the Champlain or Hudson Valleys and Orleans County, for apple cultivars that bloomed early or later this season. As the season progressed and orchards began to be harvested, several growers were surprised and reported yield reductions from 15 up to 40% in some of their blocks. Our estimate is that the Western NY apple crop is likely below the 5-year average and that the statewide apple crop will be around 25 million bushels.

Our region also experienced a cooler summer and a surplus of rainfall at several times during July and August. In addition, the higher than average rainfall promoted vigorous shoot growth and increased fruit nitrogen level, but decreased the transport of important nutrients such as calcium into fruit. The temperature conditions of June, July, August and September in the Williamson area of Wayne County, registered only one day of 90.1°F on Sept. 5, 2014. Rainfall was significantly greater in Wayne County than in Orleans and Niagara Counties. NEWA weather stations in Wayne County registered 50% more rains than stations located in the West side of Rochester during April, May, and August.

We understand that solving the puzzle of how to obtain accurate yield predictions is not easy. However accurate yield predictions are critical to the individual farm since they dictate labor needs and bin needs during harvest. In addition, the statewide crop size estimate affects apple pricing. To develop a good estimate for an orchard, we must have good estimates of the average number of fruits per tree and the average fruit size. Obtaining these estimates is easier with high-density orchards where the trees are small and representative trees can be counted. It is more difficult with large trees, which can “fool” growers when there is a crop only on the periphery of the tree and little fruit in the center of the tree. At the farm level and at the state level we need to improve the methodology of estimating crop size by convincing growers to count representative trees in each orchard and then developing a broader survey methodology of more growers.

As we look forward to 2015, now is a good time for growers to assess their cultural practices that favor good pollination and final fruit set (percentage of flowers that need to set, cross-pollination by honey bees, use of wild bees for apple pollination, nitrogen management, etc.). We expect a large bloom and a large crop. It will be essential in 2015 to do a good job of thinning using Precision thinning strategies to avoid small fruit size and to use repeat bloom sprays of NAA or Ethrel in the summer to avoid biennial bearing. The ability of a site to produce high yields of high quality fruit year after year depends on careful and precise management of its inputs, and this is something that should not be taken lightly for this coming season.

Gathering Your Input to Improve the Use of the Cornell Carbohydrate and Irrigations Models

M. Miranda Sazo

Dr. Robinson is looking for input from you about the Cornell Carbohydrate thinning model and the Cornell Apple irrigation model. If you have had the opportunity to use one or both models via the NEWA website, please let him know via email

(tlr1@cornell.edu) your experience when using and interpreting the results and recommendations. You can also suggest ideas for improvement or anything you would like to share with us. Thanks.

Wanted – Suppliers of Hard Cider Apples

Derek Simmonds, Agricultural Economic Development Specialist, CCE of Seneca County

Hard cider producers are having trouble finding the right mix of apples for their cider. To help them locate the apples they need, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Seneca County and the Finger Lakes Cider Alliance are **putting together a list of orchards growing/selling apples of interest to hard cider producers**. If you grow northern spy, Rhode

Island Greening, Baldwin, Newtown Pippin, other heirloom apples and/or pollinator crabs contact Derek Simmonds at 315-539-9251 or dc285@cornell.edu to be put on the list. Hard cider producers are also interested in fruits from abandoned or wild orchards and some are willing to pick them themselves.

Agribusiness Economic Outlook Conference-Registration Deadline is December 1

This year's conference takes place Tuesday, December 9th at Cornell University in Warren Hall.

For details, visit dyson.cornell.edu/outreach/ag_outlook_conference.php.

Registration information is online.

Check Your DEC Pesticide Applicator License Now

Take a look at the expiration date on your pesticide applicator license to determine when you will need your recertification credits. For private fruit you will need 10 credits over a 5-yr period, 2.5 of which must be in category 22. Winter opportunities are

coming up with points galore! So watch for meetings and workshops to earn credits, or set up for some on-line credits. Most meetings and workshops for credit are finished in early March and then the opportunities are fewer.

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT 2015 EXPO?

2015 BECKER FORUM, JAN. 19

**FROM NY FARMS TO NY PLATES: INSTITUTIONAL PURCHASING ACROSS NYS
HOLIDAY INN, LIVERPOOL**

Registration will open soon at <http://nysvga.org/expo/information/>

8:15 AM Registration and coffee

9:00 AM Welcome & recent developments –

Richard Ball, Commissioner, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Albany, NY

RoAnn Destito, Commissioner, NYS Office of General Services

Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President

9:40 AM Is your product ready? Learning the lingo and surviving a produce safety audit –

Betsy Bihn, Food Science, NYSAES, Cornell University

10:10 AM Examples in consistency: The Eastern Broccoli Project –

Thomas Bjorkman, Horticulture, NYSAES, Cornell University

10:30 AM Break

11:00 AM Are you prepared for bidding and billing? –

Robert Weybright, CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program

12:00 PM Lunch & Networking

1:30 PM The end of the rainbow: Examples of farm-to-hospital initiatives that demonstrate how to leverage the power of GPOs (group purchasing organizations) to advance local food procurement efforts.

2:15 PM Breakout sessions: What size fits your business? A group of experts in public and private purchasing, as well as other decision-makers, will be involved in each breakout session.

Session A	Session B	Session C
BIG customers – NYS & NYC	Farm to college	One to one: One nursing home to one county
This session will introduce attendees to examples and current situations from the largest government buyers and “broadline” distributors in the state who have now turned considerable attention toward NY food products.	Hear how growers are working with distributors, aggregators, and processors to take advantage of the increasing demand by college buyers for local fruits, vegetables, and meats, with examples and lessons learned from American Farmland Trust’s Farm to SUNY project.	Exposure to smaller, unique buyers who vary in size but generally purchase a larger percentage of products off-bid. Can be buying boxes to pallets for individual schools, county jails, or multi-county BOCES. Learn about “piggy-backing” with larger entity bids to fulfill needs.

3:30 PM Adjourn breakouts for additional networking time

Tuesday, Jan 20:

GETTING THE MOST OF HONEYCRISP ORCHARDS IN NY STATE

- 9:00 AM Announcements - Mario Miranda Sazo, CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Program**
- 9:05 AM What works and what doesn’t for successful production of Honeycrisp? –**
Terence Robinson, Horticulture, Cornell University
- 9:50 AM What's new from industry?**
- 10:00 AM DA meter: Science and practical use –**
Stefano Musacchi, Horticulture, Washington State University, Wenatchee, WA
- 10:20 AM Toward optimizing harvest timing, prestorage conditioning, and post-harvest handling of Honeycrisp –** *Chris Watkins, Horticulture, Cornell University*
- 11:00 AM Lunch**

APPLE ROOTSTOCKS & VARIETIES: JUST MADE FOR EACH OTHER!

- 1:00 PM Announcements – Dan Donahue, CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program**
- 1:05 PM Apple varieties and new uses: Cider, slices and more –**
Susan Brown, Horticulture, Cornell University
- 1:30 PM The strengths and weaknesses of Geneva rootstocks –**
Terence Robinson, Horticulture, Cornell University
- 2:00 PM Understanding the physiological and biochemical mechanisms of graft incompatibility** *Stefano Musacchi, Horticulture, Washington State University, Wenatchee, WA*
- 2:30 PM Break**

TREE FRUIT IPM - NEW PESTS

- 3:30 PM Announcements and DEC credit sign-up – Deborah Breth, CCE LOF**
- 3:35 PM Experience with black stem borer in ornamental nurseries, –**
Christopher Ranger, Entomology, USDA-ARS, Wooster, OH
- 4:15 PM Black stem borer: a new pest for NY apple growers? –**
Deborah Breth, CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Program
- 4:25 PM What's new from industry?**
- 4:30 PM Managing fire blight and late season tree decline –**
Kerik Cox, Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology, Cornell University
- 4:50 PM Progress in precision fruit spraying –**
Tomas Palleja Cabre, Entomology, Cornell University
- 5:15 PM Adjourn**

WEDNESDAY, JAN 21

TREE FRUIT - HOW NY APPLE GROWERS ARE ADDRESSING LABOR CHALLENGES

- 9:00 AM Welcome –** *Craig Kahlke, CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Program*
- 9:05 AM How New York apple growers are addressing labor challenges –**

Thomas Maloney, Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University
Paul Baker, Executive Director, New York State Horticultural Society, Geneva, NY

9:45 AM Break

TREE FRUIT - OPTIMIZING HIGH DENSITY ORCHARD SYSTEMS

1:00 PM Welcome – *Anna Wallis, CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program*

1:05 PM How to optimize apple training systems to improve orchard mechanization –
Stefano Musacchi, Horticulture, Washington State University, Wenatchee, WA

1:45 PM How pruning severity impacts thinning success to optimize grower income –
Terence Robinson, Horticulture, Cornell University

2:30 PM Break

TREE FRUIT - WEED MANAGEMENT IN PERENNIAL FRUITS

3:30 PM Announcements and DEC credit sign-up – *Deborah Breth, CCE LOF*

3:35 PM Managing invasive and resistant weeds – *Darcy Telenko, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program*

4:05 PM What's new from industry?

4:10 PM Replacing herbicides with under-vine cover crops in vineyards –
Justine Vanden Heuvel, Horticulture, Cornell University

4:40 PM Research update for apple weed management – *Deborah Breth, CCE LOF*

5:10 PM Adjourn

THURSDAY, JAN 22

HARD CIDER

9:00 AM Welcome –
Craig Kahlke, CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Program
Derek Simmonds, CCE Seneca County

9:05 AM Apple varieties for craft cidermakers in NY –
Ian Merwin, Black Diamond Farm, LLC, Trumansburg, NY

9:45 AM 15 years of cider survival –
Bill Barton, Bellwether Hard Cider, Trumansburg, NY

10:15 AM Establishing a New York State farm cidery –
Scott Donovan, BlackBird Cider Works, Barker, NY

10:45 AM Resources for hard cider production –
Derek Simmonds, CCE Seneca County

11:00 AM Adjourn

BERRY CROPS

9:00 AM Welcome and announcements – *Laura McDermott, CCE ENYCH*

9:10 AM Juneberry basics –
Erwin Elsner, Michigan State University Extension, Traverse City, MI

9:45 AM Organic blueberry production and promise –
William Sciarappa, Rutgers University Extension, Freehold, NJ

10:20 AM What's new from industry?

10:25 AM NYS Berry Growers Association annual meeting –
Dale Ila Riggs, NYSBGA President, Stephentown, NY

10:40 AM Berry business farm summaries: Final results –
Daniel Welch, Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University

11:00 AM Lunch

1:00 PM Welcome, announcements and DEC credit sign-up –

1:10 PM Small fruit opportunities in the metro-NY area –
Robert Weybright, CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program

**Lake Ontario Fruit Program
Cornell Cooperative Extension
12690 Rt. 31
Albion, NY 14411**

Contents:

- Tax Planning: Start NOW!
- Tax Filing & Pre-Productive Expenses for Non-Bearing Orchards
- November 20 Deadlines: Crop & NAP
- Minimum Wage Increases
- Managing Voles To Prevent Trunk Girdling
- A Summary of the Cool and Rainy Fruit Growing Season of 2014
- Gathering Input to Improve the Use of the Cornell Carbohydrate and Irrigations Models
- Wanted – Suppliers of Hard Cider Apples
- Agribusiness Economic Outlook Conference – Registration Deadline Dec. 1
- Check Your DEC Applicator License Now
- What is Happening at 2015 EXPO?
- Mark Your Calendars

1:30 PM	Going bigger with berries: Grower perspectives on scaling up – Shirley Kline, Happy Valley Berry Farm, Bridgeton, NJ, Steve Polter, Polter's Berry Farm, Fremont, OH, Nate Nourse, Nourse Farms, Whately, MA
2:30 PM	Bird deterrent testing: Preliminary results – Heidi Henrichs, Natural Resources, Cornell
2:50 PM	Biological control of strawberry root insects – Elson Shields, Entomology, Cornell University
3:15 PM	Use of wildflower plantings to enhance pollination in strawberry – Heather Connelly, Cornell
3:35 PM	Spotted Wing Drosophila research update – Greg Loeb, Cornell; Dale Ila Riggs, The Berry Patch
4:00 PM	Adjourn

And more... The full programs will be out in December. Save the dates!

Mark your calendars for Winter Educational Opportunities and DEC credits:

Feb 2, 2015 – LOF Winter Fruit Schools, Lockport, NY

Feb 3, 2015 – LOF Winter Fruit School, Wayne County, NY

Dec. 17 – Spotted wing drosophila workshop in Syracuse

Jan. 14 - Spotted wing drosophila workshop, Vorheesville

March 4 - Spotted wing drosophila workshop in Batavia

Details will follow.