

NEWA Workshop Program Key Takeaways

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The ENYCHP hosted a NEWA training workshop in Voorheesville last week. We reviewed some of the key pest models available on the site, and discussed some future changes to the site that will make it more user friendly. Here are some of the main takeaways from the training.

NEWA is a decision aid system (DAS) consisting of 611 networked weather stations across the Northeast, Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions of the U. S. The network offers a collection of 40+ online models, tools, and resources. Tree fruit producers have access to weather data tools such as daily summaries, hourly histories, and degree-day estimators. Prediction models available include:

- Apple Diseases
 - Apple Scab
 - Fire Blight
 - Sooty Blotch/Fly Speck
- Apple Insects
 - Spotted Tentiform Leafminer
 - Oriental Fruit Moth
 - Codling Moth
 - Plum Curculio
 - Obliquebanded Leafroller
 - Apple Maggot
 - San Jose Scale
- Orchard Management
 - Carbohydrate Thinning
 - Irrigation

As we walked through the NEWA tools, we discussed how many of the models require user-entered information to return accurate information. A number of the models require phenology input for each cultivar you would like information on. The phenology dates needed include:

- 50% Green Tip
- First Blossom Open
- Full Bloom
- 90% Petal Fall

You will also need first trap catch dates for the following insect pests:

- Spotted Tentiform Leafminer
- Oriental Fruit Moth
- Codling Moth
- Obliquebanded Leafroller

- Apple Maggot

While the models will insert a default best guess for these dates based off of historic pest phenology and degree days, you will get the most useful reports out of the system if you can enter the exact dates that they occurred in your blocks.

The NEWA website is in the process of undergoing a redesign to make the site more user friendly. The development team received a USDA grant to make the site easily readable on all mobile devices and web browsers, so you can view your models at home or in the field. This new website is in development and will not be released until after the 2019 growing season. Many new features are in the works. Growers have prioritized the inclusion of a login option with a username to allow preferred weather stations and model biofix dates to be saved, so you do not have to navigate to each of these separate pages or enter custom data every time you visit the site.

Station maintenance is vital to making sure your model predictions are as accurate as possible. You need to have good data going in to get good recommendations coming out. Stations have a 6-year expected lifespan according to Rainwise, Inc. manufacturer recommendations, though many in the network are older than that and are still working well due to routine maintenance.

NEWA launched a new help desk at support@newa.zendesk.com. Use this address for any questions or issues relating to the NEWA website, any model, or your weather station. They will redirect you to Rainwise if there is a station hardware issue or to Dan Olmstead if it relates to the system or the models.

If you do not currently have a station and would like to purchase one, send an email to support@newa.zendesk.com to get more information and review weather station details before making a purchase decision. NEWA staff are happy to get you started.

Your ENYCHP regional specialists will be publishing additional instructions on how to effectively utilize specific prediction models as the season progresses, so stay tuned! You can access the NEWA website at the web address newa.cornell.edu

The screenshot shows the top portion of the NEWA website. On the left, there is the Cornell University logo and the text "Cornell University". Below this, the "New York State Integrated Pest Management Program" logo and "NEWA Network for Environment and Weather Applications" are displayed. On the right, there is a "Search Cornell" link and a "Search NEWA website" search bar with a "Search" button. At the bottom, a blue navigation bar contains the following links: "Weather Data", "Pest Forecasts", "Station Pages", "Crop Management", "Crop Pages", and "About Weather Stations".