

2021 Virtual Pink Meeting Chat - Questions & Answers:

Terrence, do you take into account bee activity if the target number of king flowers open in poor weather?

Terence Robinson: If pollination weather is poor then I would allow more king flowers to open before starting the PTGM as an insurance that enough king flowers will be pollinated and fertilized to achieve the target

How does ATS compare with Urea as a thinner?

Terence Robinson: ATS is much better than urea for blossom thinning. In our trials we get almost no thinning from Urea at the rates we have tested.

Are growers in NY finding that chem suppliers are not willing to sell us ATS or LS now that we are close to bloom?

Terence Robinson: Yes growers are experiencing some difficulty obtaining ATS in small enough containers to use as a thinner. In NY we are not suggesting anyone use Lime Sulfur and oil

What does 60-80% on the PTGM look like in terms of % Bloom?

Terence Robinson: 60-80% on the PTGM depends totally on temperatures and does not correlate that well with % bloom open. We have tried to time the sprays based on %. Open bloom but find it is not very successful. The PTGM is a better way to time the spray. It usually is about 2-3 days after we get the target number of king flowers open.

I am still concerned about lessening risk of frost in some blocks, so how late can I delay to prune down to bud count?

Terence Robinson: If you are still worried that you might lose some more flowers due to bloom you can delay the final pruning to adjust bud numbers down to the target bud number until bloom and petal fall. If you cut off a cluster at bloom or petal fall you remove all those seeds, so you are still helping prevent biennial bearing. Once you pass petal fall the excess seed number is already doing damage to return bloom

Terence, what % of pre-bloom cold damage to the kings could we potentially tolerate up to and still bloom thin with ATS and the PTGM?

Terence Robinson: If there is less than 25% of the kings damaged then I would still blossom thin. If the damage to kings is approaching 50% of the kinds. I would not blossom thin. In between 25 and 50% it would be an individual decision.

Is there a reason not to begin light applications of foliar ca on Honeycrisp prebloom? Not necessarily CaCl.

Lailiang, there has been a lot of criticism of calcium sprays lately. Some are saying it's a waste of time to do these sprays. But you are still firmly behind calcium sprays, right?

Lailiang Cheng: Yes, foliar Ca sprays are needed, particularly for Honeycrisp where bitter pit is largely confined to the peel and outer cortex tissue. The effectiveness of the foliar Ca spray is dependent on many factors such as background fruit K status. If the background K level is high, the foliar Ca spray would not be as effective as when the fruit background K status is moderate.

Can the boron/zinc nutrient sprays be combined safely with fungicides?

Lailiang Cheng: Soluble/Zn chelate/urea sprays can be mixed safely with many fungicides, but Solubor cannot be mixed with any pesticides contained in water-soluble plastic packages because it inhibits the dissolution of the plastic.

Kerik Cox: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/coxlab/category/newsletters/>

6 oz/ acre, or 6 oz TRV?

Dan Donahue: 6 oz./A, not TRV. I've tested this per acre rate on trees up to 180 TRV in size

Dan, is the pink apogee application something you'd recommend on trees that are cropping but haven't yet reached their full height?

Dan Donahue: A single application at pink will have some effect on vegetative growth, therefore, its best to restrict the program to blocks which have filled their space. Thanks for asking that question!

For bloom re-initiation on Honeycrisp in Washington they use 1 qt/ acre Ethephon weekly sprays starting at petalfall. Do you have an opinion if that is wise in NY?

Lailiang Cheng: You could start the Ca sprays before bloom, but the risk of phytotoxicity is much higher than starting the program at petal fall or 7 to 10 days after petal fall. It's more important to have frequent sprays throughout the growing season than focusing on a particular period.

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What is timing and rate for Actigard and Prohex?

Kerik Cox: Specific reqs are here <https://blogs.cornell.edu/coxlab/category/newsletters/>

Can you tank mix strep and actigard?

Kerik Cox: Specific reqs are here <https://blogs.cornell.edu/coxlab/category/newsletters/>

Mark Wiltberger:

Lake Ontario Fruit Program YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/LakeOntarioFruitProgram>

Lake Ontario Fruit Program Website: <https://lof.cce.cornell.edu/>

Michael Basedow:

ENYCHP YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSk_E-ZKqSClCas49Cnvxkw

ENYCHP Website: <https://enych.cce.cornell.edu/>

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