



UMassAmherst Outreach UMass Extension

# Healthy Fruit

Volume 15, 2007

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Program

## Healthy Fruit, Issue 10, June 5, 2007

[http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/healthy\\_fruit/](http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/healthy_fruit/)

### Current DD accumulations

Location	Base 33F	Base 43F	Base 50F
Belchertown, UMass CSO observed (01/01/07 – 06/03/07)		937	610
Belchertown, UMass CSO SkyBit (01/01/07 – 06/03/07)		799	
Belchertown, UMass CSO observed (04/20/07 [GT] -- 06/03/07)	1221 [99]*		

\*[99] = % mature apple scab spores

### Upcoming meetings/events

Date	Meeting/event	Location	Time	Information
June 12	Fruit Team Twilight Meeting	Mountain Orchard, Granville, MA	5:30 PM	Jon Clements 413-478-7219
June 13	Fruit Team Twilight Meeting	Meadowbrook Orchards, Sterling, MA	5:30 PM	Jon Clements 413-478-7219
June 14	Fruit Team Twilight Meeting	The Big Apple, Wrentham, MA	5:30 PM	Jon Clements 413-478-7219
July 12	MFGA Summer Meeting	Bolton Orchard, Bolton, MA	TBA	Jon Clements 413-478-7219

### The way I see it

We've received some much needed rain which very likely released all the remaining scab ascospores except in the coldest orchards. Keep scouting for scab lesions for the next ten to fourteen days before you know you are out of the woods. I have had a couple calls reporting suspected fire blight strikes on spurs of apple. It does not surprise us given the rather extreme fire blight conditions we had during bloom this year. If anyone else sees blight -- see picture at end of Healthy Fruit -- please let us know. Curculio activity was likely high over the weekend, and in Belchertown we are now about three-quarters of the way through curculio season based on the DD model. (As of 6/3 we were at 240 DD's

base 50 from est. McIntosh petal fall date of 5/20, 308 DD accumulation is end of curculio season according to the model.) Based on forecasts, 308 DD's will have been reached on this weekend. We have three twilight meetings lined up for next week (see attached). Two pesticide recertification credits will be offered at each. Hope to see you at one. I want to also remind you that if you have not bought the **2007 New England Tree Fruit Pest Management Guide** yet, they are going fast. You can order yours here:

- <http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/2007netfpmg.html>

Or phone Doreen York (413-545-2254) for instructions on how to order a copy.

Finally, there will be no Healthy Fruit published next week unless an unusual situation develops -- please come to one of the twilight meetings for production and pest management information. J. Clements

### ***A little rescue thinning if needed???***

Fruit are approaching 20 mm in size and we are rapidly moving out of the 'traditional' thinning window. My impression is Macs are in pretty good shape, however, some later blooming cultivars -- Gala and Macoun -- may need some additional thinning. If so, your best option is to use ethephon (Ethrel) when fruit is approaching or at 1 inch diameter. Dr. Wes Autio has been experimenting with Ethrel applications when fruit size is about 1 inch to achieve additional thinning on McIntosh and Macoun. His results have been somewhat inconsistent, however, his advice is to use 2/3 to 1 pint of Ethrel per 100 gallons water based on dilute tree row volume. If you find yourself needing a little extra thinning in the next week or so, this is worth a shot. Avoid applying Ethrel if temperatures exceed the middle 80's as over-thinning may result. For more information see FACTSHEET F-129 -- 2006 Late-season "Rescue" Thinning with Ethephon:

- <http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/factsheets/F-129.pdf>

### ***Time to start calcium applications***

It's probably never too early to start applying calcium to improve fruit condition at harvest and during storage, and reduce or eliminate the incidence of cork spot and bitter pit. Honeycrisp, Macoun, and Cortland are commonly grown apple varieties that suffer from inadequate calcium. According to FACTSHEET F-119R Foliar Calcium Sprays for Apples, the recommendation is to start calcium applications three weeks after petal fall and continue at two-week intervals until harvest. Until mid-July, use 2.0 to 2.7 lbs. calcium chloride (or 3.2 to 4.3 lbs. calcium nitrate) per 100 gallons dilute. Add 2/3 ounce vinegar per pound calcium chloride, and using a surfactant with chloride sprays may reduce the potential for foliar injury (which is also most likely during hot weather and at higher rates). Also, do not mix chloride with solubor. For these reasons, I prefer to use calcium nitrate. For more information on calcium sprays, see the above-referenced FACTSHEET:

- <http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/factsheets/folcalcium.pdf>

### ***Oak/Hickory Plant Bugs on Stone Fruit***

*Reprinted from NH Integrated Pest Management Newsletter, May 29, 2007, Alan Eaton, Extension IPM Specialist*

"We have several kinds of insects that have piercing-sucking mouthparts, and attack stone fruit. Tarnished plant bugs usually move to other species after bloom, but stinkbugs and oak/hickory plant bugs attack young stone fruit and cause "cat facing". Basically, that's shallow injury that looks like scars, scratches and dimples on the fruit.

"There are several species in the genus *Lygocoris* that we collectively call oak/hickory plant bugs. They look very similar to tarnished plant bug, and

they're strongly associated with oak and hickory trees. They seem to attack when the fruit are small, from fruit set and shuck split for almost 4 weeks (through much of June). When the fruit are larger (over 3/4 inch), stink bugs seem to be more important.

“For years we’ve depended on Imidan and Guthion to control these insects. Now we have a long list of new materials, and I’m not sure which ones have been tested here specifically on the Lygocoris bugs. Pyrethroids dominate the other choices, including Ambush, Asana, Baythroid, Pounce, Proaxis, Warrior. I’ve been asked if Sevin is effective for oak/hickory plant bugs, and I don’t know. “This is a good place to mention the 2ee rule, because it applies here. The names oak plant bug, hickory plant bug, or Lygocoris bugs don’t appear in the stone fruit section of these labels (I can’t find them, anyway). A couple of labels mention “plant bugs” and that may be close enough. But federal and state laws indicate that the name of the target insect must appear (on the site) on the pesticide label, in order to legally use it for that purpose. The exception? If you have a private pesticide applicator’s license in NH, you are allowed to try a pesticide for a pest not specifically listed on the label, **if the pesticide is registered for that crop**. You have to follow the rate, days to harvest, reentry period, everything else for that crop. In this case, the fact that there are several closely re-lated insects listed on the label gives a clue that it probably should work. If you don’t have a pesticide applicator’s license, or if it is in a commercial (for hire) category, you don’t have this option.

“I mentioned stink bugs. They tend to cause problems a little later, in June and July.”

P.S. I suspect Massachusetts has the same 2ee rule for pests not specifically identified on the label. J. Clements



Possible fire blight strike on spur/shoot of Macoun apple

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