



UMassAmherst Outreach UMass Extension

Healthy Fruit

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Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Program

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http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/healthy_fruit/

Current DD accumulations

Location	Base 33F	Base 43F	Base 50F
Belchertown, UMass CSO observed (01/01/07 – 06/26/07)		1476	991
Belchertown, UMass CSO SkyBit (01/01/07 – 07/02/07)		1448	

Note: this will be the last DD report of the season

Upcoming meetings/events

Date	Meeting/event	Location	Time	Information
July 12	MFGA Summer Meeting	Bolton Orchard, Bolton, MA	10 AM	Jon Clements 413-478-7219

The way I see it

I have been in the midst of two major activities the past two weeks -- cherry harvest at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard, and fire blight visits to Massachusetts orchards. On the high side, it has been an excellent, early cherry season to date, however, getting the fruit picked and sold is -- as always -- a challenge. Birds have been extremely troublesome, but we covered part of the cherry orchard with netting this year, and that has made a HUGE difference. (I just looked at some preliminary research from Washington State University where they were using Surround to deter birds -- interesting.) I have been impressed this year with both White Gold (ready 2 weeks ago) and Black Gold (ready 1 week ago). These are cherries introduced by Bob Anderson (retired) at Cornell. White Gold is a yellow-red cherry like Rainier and was popular at the farmers market. Just now we are picking both Sandra Rose (from British Columbia) and Benton (formerly Columbia from Washington State University). Early next week we will be picking Balaton, a tart-sweet cherry with excellent quality, and Lapins, a sweet cherry standard.

On a lower note, fire blight has been all too prevalent this year, and growers need to assume a more aggressive strategy to manage it during the upcoming year. Dan Cooley will be talking about fire blight at the Summer Meeting of the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association next week (July 12) -- make sure to pre-register (by this Friday, July 6) to ensure yourself lunch:

- <http://www.massfruitgrowers.org/summermeeting/index.html>

J. Clements

Bug watch

Potato leafhopper have appeared and warrant control in 1st and 2nd leaf orchards for sure. You can almost bet they will be found in trees this age, and can do significant damage by stunting terminal growth. They are also a vector for fire blight. Assail, Provado, and Sevin are all good control options -- consult the 2007 New England Tree Fruit Pest Management Guide for rates. J. Clements

Apple maggot fly will be showing up any day and you should have red sticky sphere monitoring traps placed by now. (Note that dry weather has a tendency to delay or negate emergence from the soil.) Traps need to be placed in trees at the periphery of the orchard, at head height (app. 6 ft.), and within the canopy but with at least a foot of clear space (no foliage) surrounding the trap -- the flies need to be able to see them! A threshold of 1-2 flies per no-baited trap warrants treatment -- typically this will be reached by mid-late July. Early ripening cultivars are most susceptible to damage at this time. Most apple growers make a prophylactic spray for apple maggot fly in late July using Imidan, but Assail, Avuant, and Calypso are also good control options.

Mites are definitely showing up and the warm, dry weather (if it continues) will hasten their build-up. Thresholds of 2.5 to 5 mites per leaf from early to mid-July have been established. You probably know if mites are going to be a problem, and will treat accordingly. The new-generation miticides -- Acramite, Kanemite, Nexter, and Zeal -- are best control options for mites. See the 2007 New England Tree Fruit Pest Management Guide for rates and details of each.

Borers -- both dogwood and peach-tree seem problematic this year, and most growers should be applying a trunk-directed spray of Lorsban to all peach trees and most young apples -- particularly on M.9, Bud. 9, and M.26 with exposed rootstock shanks and burr-knots.

Japanese beetles will undoubtedly make a scheduled appearance around the July 4th Holiday. They are most bothersome on young trees, Honeycrisp apples, and peaches/nectarines. Sevin and Provado are common controls, however, Imidan also shows some action. The problem with all these materials is the beetles make a reappearance in short order and then you have to treat again. Last year I experimented with a combination of Surround and Provado (at label rates) on Honeycrisp and it seemed to help. Both need to be applied just as the beetles appear. Surround will also help prevent sunburn, which can be a problem on Honeycrisp. The downside of Surround is there will be some residue at harvest, but it is not usually too bad on Honeycrisp.

J. Clements

Note: Healthy Fruit is now on a once every two weeks publication schedule. The next HF will be published July 17.

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