



Healthy Fruit

Volume 10, 2002

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

Issue 1 - April 2, 2002

Current DD Accumulations

Location	43	50
Belchertown UMass Cold Spring Orchard (CSO) (01/01/02 – 04/01/02)	66	9

Current Bud Stages

Location	McIntosh Apple	Gala Apple	Pear	Peach	Sweet Cherry	Plum
Belchertown UMass CSO (04/01/02)	Silver Tip	Green Tip	Swollen Bud	Swollen Bud	Dormant	Bud Burst

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Time	Information
April 9, 10	Pesticide Applicator Training Workshop	UMass Eastern Region EXT Center 240 Beaver St. Waltham, MA		Natalia Clifton 413-545-1044
April 9	Fruit Team Twilight Meeting	UMass CSO 393 Sabin St. Belchertown, MA	5:30 PM	Jon Clements 413-478-7219
April 10	Fruit Team Twilight Meeting	Brooksby Farm 38 Felton St. Peabody, MA	5:30 PM	Jon Clements 413-478-7219
April 11	Fruit Team Twilight Meeting	Young's Family Farm 242 W. Main St. Little Compton, RI	5:30 PM	Heather Faubert 401-874-2750
April 12	Orchard Marketing and Financial Management	Redhook Ale Brewery Corporate Drive Portsmouth, NH	9:30 AM	Mike Sciabarrasi 603-862-1700 Jon Clements 413-478-7219

It's That Time Again!

Welcome to the first issue of Healthy Fruit for 2002. As in past years, we are planning to have the information prepared so that it can be assembled, and mailed electronically Tuesday afternoon and in the mail by 5 PM Tuesday for delivery Wednesday or Thursday at the latest.

If you are not now included in the email distribution list, and want to be, please email Doreen York (dyork@pssci.umass.edu) and she will add you to the list.

Orchard Marketing & Financial Management

This timely and worthwhile Program is scheduled for April 12, 2002 in Portsmouth, NH. You are encouraged to attend! Featured speakers are Desmond O'Rourke, internationally renowned authority on world apple markets and trends, and Jim Schupp and Bill Lord, local experts on growing and marketing profitably in New England. The Program will focus on: the world and national apple market situation; New England apple markets and opportunities; market strategies for New England growers;

production practices that will increase the bottom line; and reducing financial risk with crop insurance. For the \$10 registration, refreshments and a buffet lunch will be served at the **R e d h o o k A l e B r e w e r y** . (www.redhook.com/brewpubs/portsmouth/). You should have already received an announcement in the mail – if not, let us know if you need more information and/or registration information. (Brochure also available on the UMass Fruit Advisor, www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/) Program sponsored by the Northeast Center for Risk Management Education, and UNH and UMass Cooperative Extension.

Short Time-Frame to Secure NAP Coverage

According to an USDA/Farm Service Agency press release, growers have until April 18, 2002 to apply for the Non-insured Assistance Program for 2002. This includes fruits and vegetables. FSA Hampshire/Hampden County Executive Director Ted Smiarowski says, “The new regulations governing NAP give producers the opportunity to purchase affordable protection against crop losses.” Previously, “NAP coverage was only available when losses occurred in a widespread area -- now, area crop loss provisions have been eliminated, so each qualifying loss can be addressed based on it’s own merits.” says Smiarowski. For more information about NAP, contact your local USDA Service Center.

Time Flies Whether or Not You're Having Fun

Although trees in all but the earliest portions of the state are still either dormant or showing Silver Tip, a few really warm days will push tree development (and pest development) rapidly. If you haven't done so already, now is a good time to recalibrate your sprayer and make sure all screens are clear, all hoses are solid, etc. Remember that some materials (e.g., Surround) can cause wear on nozzle orifices, so worn nozzles should be replaced as needed. Refer to the New England Apple Pest Management Guide for details about sprayer calibration.

Pear Psylla

Pear psylla adults begin to fly as soon as the temperature reaches about 50/F, and begin laying eggs not long after that. Thus, the oil spray on pears, which is primarily an egg-laying deterrent, is usually the first insecticide application needed in our orchards. Since nighttime temperatures in early spring are generally still too cool to allow an oil application, some eggs will inevitably be missed, but a timely oil application when the weather allows (temperatures not lower than 38/F within 24-48 hours), will still have a significant effect on slowing down psylla activity. The rate of oil used is dependent on the bud stage - 3% at dormant, 2% at green cluster till swollen bud, and 1% at swollen bud to white bud.

White Traps and Red Traps

This is the time for setting out white traps for tarnished plant bug and red traps for leafminer, since both of these insects will be

active as soon as the weather warms up a bit more. Plant bug traps should be hung at about knee height toward the outside of the tree, and should be set out at about one per two acres. This insect had been something of a no-show in most local orchards in recent years, but in 2001 there was a big increase in plant bug numbers, and some growers had noticeable damage at harvest. Due to the relatively mild winter, overwintering mortality of plant bugs would not be expected to be high, so hang traps and keep an eye out.

Leafminer traps should be hung at about knee height on the trunk of the tree, facing south, so that the trap will catch moths that land on the trunk to rest in the sunshine. These traps generally do a good job in telling us the size and activity period of the early leafminer flight, and are a fairly good early indicator of upcoming leafminer problems.

You Can't Get Them from Here

We have heard that Gempler's apparently no longer sells the red or white visual traps. Great Lakes IPM does carry them; the telephone number for them is 989-268-5693. Please note that the number given for Gempler's in the Annual March Message gave an incorrect area code.

Label, Label, My Kingdom for a Label

Thanks to Glen Morin for pointing out that the section on Guthion in the 2002 update of the New England Apple Pest Management Guide is apparently not correct. He informs us that EPA's "proposed final" changes to the Azinphosmethyl label ARE NOT yet in effect. Although the public comment period is now completed, the registrant and EPA have not yet agreed on a final label. Hence, the same label as last year is still in effect. As noted in the March Message, "the registrant is optimistic that no label changes will take effect for the upcoming growing season.

Multi-talented Copper

A green-tip to 1/4"-green application of copper to apples is good for three things:

- 1) A scab protectant spray during this early period when we are not quite sure if any scab spores are mature and released, thereby posing the threat of early infection. Kind of like insurance.
- 2) A fireblight preventive spray in orchards with a history of fireblight and/or in young orchards with dwarf rootstocks and susceptible cultivars, like Gala on M.26.
- 3) A micro-nutrient spray. Most leaf analyses we've looked at are deficient in copper. As a nutrient, copper serves many functions, however, most important is that a deficiency can reduce fruit set. There are many formulations of copper available, and all should be applied dilute and with oil as a spreader. (Minimum one quart per 100 gallons -- avoid low temperatures when applying oil to green tissue.) Application of copper after 1/4" green tip increases the risk of fruit russet.