



Healthy Fruit

Volume 10, 2002

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

Issue 2 - April 9, 2002

Current DD Accumulations

Location	32	43	50
Belchertown UMass Cold Spring Orchard (CSO) (01/01/02 – 04/09/02)	-	81	9
(04/04/02 – 04/09/02, Green Tip)	59	-	-

Current Bud Stages

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

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Time	Information
April 10	Fruit Team Twilight Meeting	Brooksby Farm 38 Felton St. Peabody	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

Get'em in the Ground

If you've got nursery trees on-hand waiting to go in the ground, our advice is to do it ASAP. Early planting gives more time for roots to grow in the cooler soil, as well as a longer overall growing season in the 1st leaf. Research has shown that early planting – as well as larger caliper trees, fertilization, and irrigation – will result in faster tree growth and higher early yields. So if the ground is workable, JUST DO IT! A little phosphorous, in the form of triple-superphosphate or MAP (monoammonium phosphate), in the rooting zone (planting hole) of newly planted trees would also be a good idea. And irrigation (preferably trickle) is a must for trees on dwarf stocks, such as M.9, B.9, and G.16.

Forsythia are in Bloom

What's that got to do with anything? Lots, if weed control is on your agenda. Now is the time to think about a pre-emergent herbicide application if you've had trouble with annual grasses (crabgrass) and broadleaf weeds (pigweed) in your 'weed-free' tree rows. Good pre-emergent herbicide options this time of year include: for established orchards, Karmex 80WP (for broadleaf weeds), and Sinbar 80WP, Solicam 80PF, Devrinol 50 PF, or Prowl 3.3EC for grasses. If seedlings are already emerging, or perennial weeds are present and actively growing, include Roundup 4SC for contact activity. A truly weed-free strip is especially important during the bloom period and in young orchards to assure good tree growth and reduce stress. As always, be sure to read the label for specific crop recommendations and precautions for use.

What They See Is Not What They Get

Visual Traps: White traps for plant bug (knee high, or as close to that as possible, on the outer part of the canopy), and red traps for leafminer (low on the trunk, facing south), should be hung out by the end of this week for best effectiveness. Since both of these insects can occur in a spotty distribution, some growers have found it worthwhile to do fairly intensive trapping - that is, setting out traps at the recommended rate of one trap per two acres orchard-wide - rather than just a few traps covering the whole orchard. Spot treatments may be appropriate if activity seems to be confined to a limited area. Trap captures can be supplemented by your own observation; look for plant bugs on bud clusters and in the ground cover, especially on flowers; and look for leafminer eggs on the 4th-7th fruit cluster leaf at pink, or for the mines around petal fall.

Pear Psylla: Nighttime temperatures may be high enough (high 30's) in some areas to permit an oil application for pear psylla. So far no evidence of significant egg-laying has been seen in any orchard we've observed this week, although adults have been seen at the Cold Spring Orchard in Belchertown and have likely been active elsewhere. Warm daytime temperatures will get psylla moving!

San Jose Scale: It's a bit early for oil applications on apple, but a few days of warm weather could move things along quickly. Oil at half-inch green will help control San Jose scale as well as giving some suppression of red mite eggs. There does not appear to be any benefit to scale

control from adding Lorsban with the oil. Another pre-bloom option for scale control is Esteem; this material has been substantially reduced in price, so that it may be a more realistic option now, especially if weather conditions make the half-inch green oil spray difficult. Keep in mind also that scale generally occurs in limited areas and does not move quickly from one area to another, so spot treatments are usually appropriate.

Scab Spores Immature

Squash mounts performed on apple scab from Amherst, MA on 4/9/13 showed very little development so far. Between 95 and 100 % of the spores were immature. It is likely that the dryness is delaying development. Scab is only a concern at this date in places where scab was a problem last year.

Managing Scab Resistance

There was an excellent article on managing scab resistance in the most recent issue of Scaffolds (No. 4), written by Dave Rosenberger, Wolfram Koeller, and Bill Turechek of New York State, with a great deal of background and useful information on how to manage SI resistance and prolong the usefulness of the new strobilurin fungicides, Flint and Sovran. This article is available for reading and downloading at: <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/scaffolds/>.