




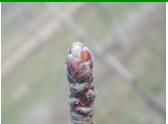



Issue 4, April 13, 2004

This may be your last Healthy Fruit!!! see page 2

Current DD Accumulations

Location	Base 43F	Base 50F
Belchertown, UMass CSO observed (01/01/04 – 04/012/04)	143	58

Current Bud Stages

Location	McIntosh apple	Honeycrisp apple	Pear	Redhaven peach	Cavalier sweet cherry
Belchertown UMass CSO (04/012/04)					
	silver-tip ++	silver-tip	dormant	swollen bud	dormant +

Current bud stages also available on UMass Fruit Advisor, <http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/>

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Time	Information
April 14	Fruit Team Twilight Meeting	Kimball Fruit Farm 184 Hollis St. Pepperell, MA	5:30 PM	Jon Clements 413-478-7219
April 15	Fruit Team Twilight Meeting	Jaswell's Farms 50 Swan Rd. Smithfield, RI	5:30 PM	Heather Faubert 401-874-2750
April 21- 22	Spring Grape Grower Workshop	Various locations, Southeast New England		Sonia Schloemann 413-478-7219

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A reminder – this may be your LAST Healthy Fruit...

...if you have not subscribed yet. For 2004, a subscription to Healthy Fruit costs \$50 whether you choose to receive by mail, e-mail, or FAX. Attached or enclosed is a subscription form. Please return with your payment ASAP to continue to receive Healthy Fruit for the 2004 growing season.

Apple crop insurance changes – request for comments

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) has published a proposed rule in the Federal Register for modifications to the current apple crop insurance provisions. This is a result of much grumbling by fresh-fruit apple growers that crop insurance has not met their needs when a loss occurs. In a nutshell, the proposal is to cover all natural perils that prevent an apple from grading US Fancy. The plan is easier to understand and provide greater protection, however, it is likely to be more expensive. The new insurance provisions are scheduled to take effect in 2005. RMA is requesting comments on the proposed rule until April 28. It is available from RMA Online, <http://www.rma.usda.gov>.

Planting apple trees?

If you are planting apple trees this spring, all things being equal, the sooner you can get them in the ground, the better. This of course assumes the soil is not too wet. Early planting equals longer growing season. Be sure the graft union is placed 3 inches above soil level, and allow for settling if using an auger. (One of the bigger mistakes we've seen over the years is planting too deep, which results in excess vigor of the scion.) A soil test is a good idea: pH should be around 6.5, and phosphorous (P) should be in the medium-high range. If P is low, supplement the new planting with P-containing fertilizer such as triple-super-phosphate, mono-ammonium phosphate (MAP), or compost. Finally, make sure the trees are headed (about hip height), and vigorous, upright feathery that are more than 1/2 the diameter of the leader are removed with a bevel cut.
J. Clements

Gypsum survey – apple grower feedback (still) needed

If you did not fill out the gypsum survey last week, please take a minute to do it: here is a link to an electronic survey: <http://www.massfruitgrowers.org/survey/gypsumsurvey.html>. Your assistance and interest is appreciated.

Apple scab disease management – full circle???

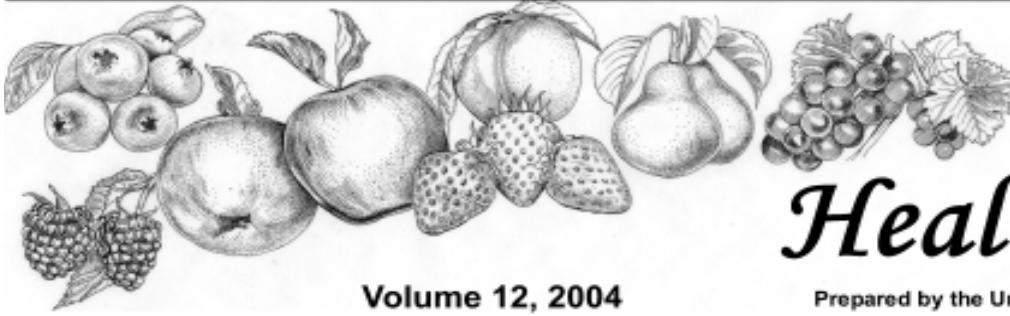
Managing apple scab has come full circle during the last 25 years – except some of the fungicides available in 1980 have disappeared. Meanwhile, some of the more commonly used fungicides in recent years, Rubigan, Nova and Procure, may be losing effectiveness. The expense of new fungicides, like Sovran and Flint, and the potential for resistance developing to them, limit their use. So, we're left with some old stand-bys: captan, the EBDCs, copper and dodine.

That means that the general approach to managing scab should change this year where it hasn't changed already. We're back to a largely preventative approach to scab management. And given last year's wet weather, there is probably a lot more scab inoculum this spring than there usually is. Unless an orchard was scouted after harvest and before leaf fall (probably few if any were) to determine how much scab was present, it's best to assume that scab continued to develop late into last fall. That means doing something about scab relatively early, at green tip. Good snow cover and moist spring mean that the inoculum has developed well, and the first mature ascospores are ready for release now.

So, it's time to get some fungicide onto the trees. Copper, as Kocide, COCS or other labeled formulation, is a good early-season material. It can also help with fire blight, and reduces some canker pressure. Syllit (dodine) is also good at this time, as long as there is no indication that scab resistance has developed. Finally, the EBDCs such as Dithane, Manzate, Penncozeb or Polyram make a good early season fungicide. Captan should not be used where oil is in use during the early season. All of the materials listed are best-used before a rain. Kickback is limited to a day or less from the start of a rain, making post-infection applications tricky at best. If you plan to use Sovran or Flint this year, save it for later (tight cluster through bloom) when scab pressure is high. D. Cooley



Massachusetts fruit growers (clockwise from left) Phyllis and Mo Tougas, Tim Smith, UMass Extension Specialist Jon Clements, and Bruce Carlson enjoy dinner and entertainment at the International Dwarf Fruit Tree Association Annual Banquet in Bolzano, Italy last month. Photo by Win Cowgill.



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Fruit Publications Subscription Renewal -- 2004

Because of financial constraints, we have made some changes in the subscription processes for *Healthy Fruit*, *Fruit Notes*, and *Berry Notes*. Specifically, electronic users will be charged for immediate access to these publications. Otherwise, *Healthy Fruit* and *Berry Notes* will be made freely available on the web one month after publication, and *Fruit Notes* will be freely available on the web six months after publication. For a single subscription, individuals will receive *Healthy Fruit* or *Fruit Notes* either as printed copies in the US Mail **OR** as electronic copies via email as pdf files. *Berry Notes* will be published only in electronic format.

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