



Healthy Fruit

Volume 10, 2002

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

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Current DD Accumulations

Location	32	43	50
Belchertown UMass Cold Spring Orchard (CSO) (01/01/02 – 05/20/02)	-	495	244
(04/04/02 – 05/20/02, 04/04 Green Tip date)	872	-	-

UMass Extension Floriculture Program May be of Interest

What: Garden Center Design, Layout & Marketing Workshop

When: Wednesday, July 10, 2002, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Where: Location: Bemis Farms Nursery, Spencer, MA

Judy Sharpton, Growing Places Marketing will present a hands-on workshop on to help garden retailers focus on specific improvements for their businesses. Workshop participants will bring photos and scale drawings of their retail business. Each participating business will receive a preparation packet to assist them in preparing their individual workshop materials. As a follow-up Judy will provide phone consultation on the areas of focus for the remainder of 2002. This workshop will be limited to 15 businesses. Each business can bring a maximum of three people.

Workshop fees: \$125 if one person attends from a business, \$200 per business if more than one attends (maximum 3 attendees). Make checks payable to University of Massachusetts. Send to: UMass Extension Floriculture Program, Garden Center Workshop, Room 203 French Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. For more information contact Paul Lopes 508-295-2212 ext. 24 or Tina Smith 413-545-5306 or visit our website www.umass.edu/umext/floriculture.

Thin Now or Forever Hold Your Peace

All indications are that the next few days present as close to ideal a fruit thinning window as we are going to get this season. Fruitlet size in all but the coldest areas will be in the 5-10 mm range, and the forecast calls for sunny skies and temperatures in the 70's. If you have not already applied a thinning spray, this will be your best shot. If you applied a petal-fall spray, after evaluating the results (but may be too early to tell), you now have a second shot. We are under the impression it has not been the best pollination period, and near-freezing temperatures (and in cold spots, below freezing) may have an impact on final fruit set. If fruit is in that 5-10 mm range, it is growing and likely to remain unless you help it shed. You need to look at your blocks closely in determining the need and rates for thinning applications. This is particularly true in potential frost-damaged blocks. Otherwise, a moderate thinning approach with Sevin (use XLR Plus, 1 quart/100 gallons dilute) and/or NAA (5-10 ppm) is suggested. Weather and fruit size may be favorable for the use of Accel too, either alone or with Sevin if more aggressive thinning is desired.

If using with Sevin, reduce the rate of Sevin to 1 pint per 100 gallons. As always, read and follow label directions, and thinning sprays should be applied dilute.

Diseases – Are We Under Control?

We are clearly approaching the end of the primary apple scab season in most of the state. If you have been following a 7-10 day protectant schedule, or a more extended 10-14 day program that includes kick-back fungicides, and scab pressure is low in your orchard, then – dare we say – you are probably out of the woods. But, if you think you slipped, you may want to maintain some fungicide coverage until you are certain no scab infections are showing up. (You should keep an eye out for lesions for the next ten days or so, as they should be showing up now from early infection periods.) The strobilurin fungicides Flint or Sovran would be good choices for these application(s).

Peaches at shuck-split are susceptible to brown rot infection if rain and warm temperatures occur. Peach scab is also an issue where it has been a problem. A good shuck-split fungicide spray

includes Bravo or Echo with Captan. After shuck split do not use Bravo or Echo, but substitute Indar. Good insecticide coverage is important, as insect stings on fruit are sites for infection by brown rot. Bacterial spot continues to be an issue on susceptible peach/nectarine varieties with rain and wind in combination. Immediately apply oxytetracycline (Mycoshield) or copper (Tennacop only, if available) after a wetting event.

Growth Control Options Continue

Apple blocks with light fruit set or excessive vigor are good candidates for various growth control methods. If an Apogee application was already made at petal fall, the second application (2-3 oz Apogee per 100 gallons dilute) is due soon. Ethephon (Ethrel) may be used 2-4 weeks after bloom to promote flower bud development and reduce growth. And finally, scoring or ringing are viable options at this point for controlling growth. For more information on any of these growth control methods, see the Fact Sheet section of the UMass Fruit Advisor, <http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/>.

C-C-C-Cold Curculios

Despite the Siberian weather conditions of the past week, there was an interval, probably on Thursday 5/16, where some feeding and egg-laying activity occurred; Ron Prokopy reports up to 6% injury on a perimeter row of Liberty in Belchertown. Growers should cover when the fruit reach the critical 8 mm size and favorable weather (>60F, humid, especially with falling barometric pressure) is predicted. A full-orchard spray is recommended for the first treatment; not only will this take care of any sawfly, plant bug, leafroller, etc., activity, it will also deter curculio which may fly into the center of the orchard looking for larger fruit. Border sprays may be sufficient after that.

Later Leafminers

Some mines were observed in Connecticut Valley orchards on Monday 5/20, ranging from very early to mid-stage sap-feeding mines. If you haven't yet made a treatment decision, monitor now; for Provado or SpinTor to be effective, they really should be applied before the tissue-feeding stage, and that will occur very soon! The traditional threshold for mines has been 13 mines per 100 leaves for the first generation; this threshold was reached in locations where trunk trap captures were quite high - 50 or more

moths per trap - but not where captures were lower. But emergence, egg-laying, and mine development are all likely to be very extended this year, so continue monitoring for a few more weeks if you haven't reached the threshold now. The window for using Agri-Mek will also be closing soon; in order to be properly taken up into leaf tissue, this material needs to be applied within 2 weeks of petal fall, when rapid leaf growth is taking place. Agri-Mek will also control red mites, so it might be a good choice for growers with both leafminer and mite problems.

Mites

Localized areas of mite activity are visible, perhaps resulting from adverse conditions when oil was being applied. Check older fruit cluster leaves for the next few weeks to assess your mite situation, and treat if more than 1-2 mites per fruit cluster are found.

Green Fruitworm

A few green fruitworm larvae have been found in some orchards, generally where no pre-bloom insecticide was applied. No incidence of severe damage has been noted, and these larvae will generally be taken care of by the petal fall insecticide.

Borers

Pheromone traps are available for dogwood borer, lesser peachtree borer, and peachtree borer (=clearwing borer); if you would like to monitor moth flight in your orchard, these traps should be hung out now. This will aid in the timing of trunk treatments for these potentially very damaging insects. Lorsban and Thiodan are effective at controlling borers, but remember that Lorsban is labelled post-bloom as a trunk application only; be very careful not to contact any fruit with the material!

Mating confusion has been a very successful technique for managing peachtree and lesser peachtree borers; the loss of Lorsban for post-bloom canopy sprays makes mating confusion a viable alternative. The cost is about \$40 per acre and the labor involves setting out about 100-150 pheromone dispensers per acre. The dispensers are available from Great Lakes IPM and likely from most chemical distributors also. If you are planning to do mating disruption of lesser peachtree borer, the dispensers should go out within the next week or two; greater peachtree borer can wait until mid-June.