

Healthy Fruit, Issue 9, May 28, 2008

Current DD accumulations

Location	Base 43F	Base 50F	Base 33F*
Belchertown, UMass CSO observed (01/01/08 – 05/27/08)	596	318	946 (99%)
Belchertown, UMass CSO SkyBit (01/01/08 – 05/27/08)	565	--	-- (96%)

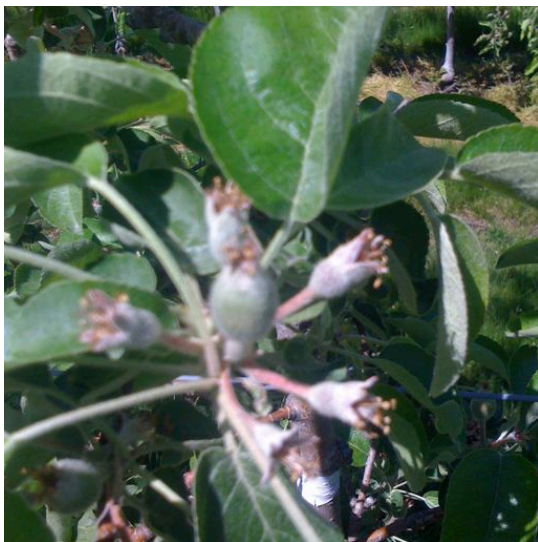
* from April 16, green-tip date, for apple scab ascospore maturity (% mature spores)

Upcoming meetings/events

Date	Meeting/event	Location	Time	Information
June 17, 18, 19	Fruit Team Twilight Meeting(s)	TBA	5:30 PM	Jon Clements 413-478-7219
July 17	Summer Meeting of Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Assoc.	UMass Cold Spring Orchard, Belchertown, MA	TBA	Jon Clements 413-478-7219

Two pesticide re-certification credits offered at each Fruit Team Twilight meeting.

The way I see it: observations from Belchertown



Apple fruit size is approaching 10 mm, but with lots of variation. Thinners were applied late last week, and we should start to see some results soon. (At left, king fruit is 10 mm while lateral fruit is much smaller and does not appear to be growing. This spur will end up with one fruit, indicating good thinning. Note the red stems too, indicating the fruit is going to drop.) It is not too late for follow-up thinning applications, and the window after today (windy) looks good, with warm days and cool nights. This should give moderate response to your thinning sprays. Now is probably the time to be reasonably aggressive if you have not already applied a thinning spray, or feel rather strongly you need more thinning. This may be very good timing to use 6-BA (Maxcel), combined with carbaryl (Sevin XLR) if particularly aggressive thinning is needed.

With the rain we had yesterday I am declaring primary scab season over at least for Belchertown. Based on the degree-day model, 99% of the overwintering spores should have been mature and/or released. Most growers will still include a fungicide in the 1st cover spray, which is a good idea, particularly in cooler areas and if you see any lesions from primary infections. (In which case you will probably want to include back-to-back fungicides in the 2nd and 3rd covers.) The primary scab season was fairly 'easy,' so I expect we will see little scab in orchards this season.

There was significant risk for fire blight infection yesterday in apples with open bloom. All the conditions for infection with the Maryland (MaryBlyt) model were met, and the Cougarblight model showed High to Extreme risk in all orchards. I hope those of you with open bloom were able to apply streptomycin. Ironically we may never know for sure if the risk was truly great unless we see an outbreak in untreated orchards. (You can see all the weather data and model output from Belchertown here: <http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/hrcweather/>)

Codling moth trap catch numbers were high over the weekend, see accompanying trap catch update, and surely plum curculio were somewhat active. Otherwise, the insect complex remains on standby until we get some more warm weather. I think everyone is going to maintain insecticide coverage for another one or two spray for curculio alone.

Pears are averaging about 12 mm fruit size. As usual, they seem to be setting in clusters. An application of NAA (Fruitone-L) at 10-15 ppm is advised if you have too many pears. Maxcel (6-BA) is also labeled for pears, and you will get results when applied at temperatures in the mid-70's.

Peaches are mostly at full shuck split and beyond. They are very susceptible to plant bug injury, including tarnished, and 'oak-hickory.' Please see Guest article on 'Stone Fruit Catfacing Insects.'

Cherry fruit size is up to 15 mm on earlier blooming varieties such as Chelan. Maintain some insecticide coverage for plum curculio. Now is still the time to treat for black cherry aphid -- Assail, Lorsban, or M-Pede being good control options. The risk of brown rot infection is minimal now until fruit ripen, but cherry leaf spot still needs to be controlled with Bravo, Captan, Indar, etc. Just think, cherry harvest will start in about a month! J. Clements.

Trap catch update: codling moth

Substantial numbers of codling moth adults were trapped in one pheromone trap in Belchertown this past week. You could expect adult flight to peak in the next couple weeks, as well as egg laying begins. Insecticide sprays directed toward plum curculio now will generally control the moths. Those that sneak through will mate and form the 2nd generation, which can be more problematic in late summer in terms of fruit injury. (Peaking in August -- sprays targeting apple maggot help then.) Now is probably not the time to slack off on insecticide sprays where codling moth are numerous.



Guest article: 'Stone Fruit Catfacing Insects'

Reprinted from NH Integrated Pest Management Newsletter, Vol. IV, No. 5, May 22, 2008

by Alan Eaton

We have several species of insects with piercing-sucking mouthparts, that injure young peach & nectarine fruit, causing "catfacing". The term comes from the scarred appearance of fruit on which these insects have fed. Some of these are stinkbugs, which typically attack from late June until harvest. I'll probably give more detail on stinkbugs in a later issue. For now, I want to concentrate on several species that are earlier, and we collectively call "oak-hickory plant bugs". OHPB's look like pale, greenish or yellow greenish versions of tarnished plant bug. They are most active starting about the time of shuck split, and typically peak in mid or late June. Their usual hosts are oaks and/or hickories, so orchards surrounded by oaks or hickories have a much higher risk of

injury from them than blocks that are distant from those sources. To my knowledge, no one has figured out a threshold for these hit-and-run pests. They are winged, and feed a bit on the fruit, then move on. Standard insecticide choices for tarnished plant bug or stink bug should work fairly well on these insects. Shuck split through late June is generally the risk period. For some blocks, there is little or no need to treat.

Horticultural exercises

- We have got less than 2 inches of rain in Belchertown this month. Don't underestimate the need for irrigation (if you have it) to help move nutrients around and supply the trees with much needed water. When the weather is warm, and foliage is expanded, consider at least an inch of water (rain) is needed per week to keep the trees truly happy.
- Calcium sprays should start with the 1st or 2nd cover spray. Calcium chloride is cheapest. Use 2 lb./100 gallons dilute starting now. (Don't mix with Solubor.) For more information on calcium sprays, see the UMass Fact Sheet F-119R 'Foliar Calcium Sprays for Apples,' <http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/factsheets/folcalcium.pdf>
- 1st and 2nd leaf trees need to be 'stripped' of shoots that compete with the leader. Use pruners or just carefully 'strip' the competitors out by hand, when they are 2-3 inches long and the new growth that is going to form the leader is clearly defined. A picture(s) is worth a thousand words:



Before stripping...



After stripping...

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