



# Healthy Fruit

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Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

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### Mid-Summer Hort Tips

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- C Remove clothespins that were attached earlier to establish wide crotch angles on young apple trees. Clip onto shoot tip to help weigh young shoots down – add additional clothespins if necessary.
- C Rip-out upright, competing one and two year old shoots in the tops of young apple trees – no need to use pruners, just ‘rip-em out’ with a fast, downward motion. It’s fast and effective for maintaining dominance of the leader and keeping the top of the tree ‘calm.’ (As opposed to using a more invigorating, dormant pruning cut.)
- C Prune sweet cherries after harvest. This will help prevent the development of bacterial canker (*Pseudomonas sp.*), which actively spreads to pruning cuts made during the winter or early spring. (For more information, see ‘Bacterial Canker of Sweet Cherry, OMAFRA Facts Sheet 88-0886, <http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/crops/facts/88-086.htm>) And pruning the leader now is especially effective at minimizing re-growth in the top of dwarf sweet cherries on Gisela rootstocks.
- C Literally lighten up those peaches. Summer pruning of vigorous, upright shoots in the interior of the tree – especially in young trees – will create a better light environment inside the tree, and promote growth of more vigorous, fruit ‘hangers.’ Also, shading is a cause of twig dieback, hence a source of disease infection down the road. Prune or rip-out shoots all the way to the scaffold, do not leave stubs and do not make heading cuts.
- C Last chance for a light application of nitrogen fertilizer on young apple trees, especially on lighter soils. Rule of thumb for young apple trees is 0.05 lb. total actual nitrogen per year of tree age – therefore, two year old apples would get 0.1 lb. = 5-6 oz. ammonium nitrate (34-0-0) total, split over two applications. Do not fertilize older apples unless foliar analysis from last year indicates they are deficient.
- C Continue foliar calcium sprays. Calcium chloride is the cheapest form of calcium. Apply at a rate of 2.5 to 3 lbs. per 100 gallons dilute. Avoid concentrate spraying and application during very hot weather as foliar injury is more likely, and do not mix with Solubor.
- C Scout blocks of young apple trees on dwarf rootstocks for dogwood borer injury. Look for frass or goeey exudate at the base of trees, particularly in burr-knots. Macoun and Honeycrisp on M.26 or M.9 seem to be particularly attractive to borers. If infested, a Lorsban trunk spray is indicated.

### Apple maggot

Some flight has begun, but no orchard has yet reached or even approached the threshold on unbaited red sphere traps. Predictions based on soil moisture suggested that fly emergence would be early, while predictions based on soil temperature suggested that they would be late. If the early trap capture pattern holds good, they will actually be pretty nearly “normal”! Be sure to monitor from now on to see when treatment is needed.

### Mites

Generally, mites are still notable by their absence. At this time of year, we can tolerate a bit more mite injury, but it’s still necessary to keep on top of the situation. Where mites have occurred, they have often been limited to small areas or certain varieties, so that spot treatments would be appropriate.

### Aphids

Predation appears to have increased substantially over the past week, and aphid control has been excellent. Ladybug, syrphid, and cecidomyiid larvae have all been abundant.

### Leafhoppers

Along with potato leafhoppers, some orchards are seeing a pretty good influx of rose leafhoppers as the summer adults immigrate from rose onto apple. Certain varieties seem to be preferred, notably Macoun and Gravenstein, so keep an eye on young Macoun trees (or young Gravvies, if you have them!).

**Annual Summer Meeting**  
Of the  
**Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.**

*July 10, 2002*

University of Massachusetts Cold Springs Orchard Research & Education Center  
Sabin Street, Belchertown

**Updated Program**

- 10:00 AM**     **Tour of Cold Springs Orchard Research & Education Center**
- 12:15 PM**     **Lunch**
- 1:15 PM**     **Welcome - Introductions and Brief Remarks**  
*Tim Smith, President, Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association*
- 1:30 PM**     **An Introduction to the New Pesticide Storage and Storage Facility**  
*William Coli, University of Massachusetts IPM Coordinator*
- 2:00 PM**     **Observations on the Fruit Industry in Spain and Italy**  
*Elena Garcia, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT*
- 2:30 PM**     **Labor Update**  
*John Young, New England Apple Council*
- 2:45 PM**     **Update on MFGA's New Marketing Initiative**  
*Jon Clements, University of Massachusetts*
- 3:15 PM**     **Adjourn**