



# Healthy Fruit

Volume 12, 2004

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

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## [Orchard Radar for west-central Massachusetts \(Belchertown\)](http://pronewengland.org/content/AllModels/Mamodel/RadarMa-belchertown.htm)

<http://pronewengland.org/content/AllModels/Mamodel/RadarMa-belchertown.htm>

## [Orchard Radar for eastern Massachusetts \(Waltham\)](http://pronewengland.org/content/AllModels/Mamodel/RadarMa-waltham.htm)

<http://pronewengland.org/content/AllModels/Mamodel/RadarMa-waltham.htm>

### Upcoming meetings/events

| Date    | Meeting/Event       | Location                                     | Time  | Information                    |
|---------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| July 14 | MFGA Summer Meeting | UMass Cold Spring Orchard<br>Belchertown, MA | 10 AM | Jon Clements<br>(413) 478-7219 |

*This is your **LAST CHANCE** to register for the MFGA Summer Meeting, next Wednesday, July 14, Cold Spring Orchard, Belchertown, MA. We must have your lunch reservation by July 7! Please call Doreen York (413-545-2254) to make your reservation ASAP.*

### Insects

**Japanese beetles** have started to make an unwelcome appearance. Left unchecked, they can do significant damage in young orchards. Cherries, peaches, and some apple varieties (Honeycrisp in particular) are attractive to Japanese beetles. Most contact poisons (organophosphates, carbamates, pyrethroids) are effective, however, high rates and good coverage are necessary. Surround and/or pyrethrum or NEEM-based products are organic control options.

Early sap feeding mines of 2<sup>nd</sup>-generation **leafminer** should be showing up anytime soon. Be sure to check 20 leaves per tree (underside of leaves, picked randomly) on at least 5 trees spread throughout the block. If mine numbers reach 50 per 100 leaves (0.5 per leaf) on McIntosh, and 100 per 100 leaves (1 per leaf) on non-McIntosh some treatment is appropriate. Material choices include: Assail, Intrepid, Lannate, Provado, Spintor, and Vydate. Vydate and Lannate are harsh on predatory mites. Sprays should be applied before mines begin to show up on the upper leaf surface.

In general, pre-bloom **mite** treatments continue to hold mites in check. However, as the summer progresses, growers are advised to monitor normally problematic cultivars and blocks carefully. Some sort of miticide rescue treatment is called for if 5 or more mites are found per leaf. If numerous eggs are found, but treatment threshold has not been reached, wait a few days and check the block again. Remember that all miticides (other than oil) should be rotated to delay development of mite resistance.

## Miticide comments or special considerations

- Acramite: Maximum one application per year. Best if used with a wetting agent.
- Apollo: Not effective against ERM adults. Do not use either Apollo or Savey more than once every other year to deter resistance development.
- Kelthane: Some mite populations are resistant. May cause fruit injury under slow drying conditions. Manufacturer recommends combining with a spreader/sticker. Quick acting, and 7-10 day residual.
- Nexter: Toxic to foraging bees. Only highest rates effective against Two-spotted mites. Allow 30 days between applications and not more than 2 applications per year.
- Savey: Does not control adult mites. Do not use either Apollo or Savey more than once every other year to deter resistance development.
- Summer oil: Can help extend previous mite suppression, but not effective in controlling an established and building population. Also can cause fruit injury on sensitive cultivars.
- Valero: Effective on mite eggs, nymphs and adults, but little or no residual. Thorough coverage is essential.
- Vendex: Relatively slow acting.
- Zeal: New this year. Effective on egg and larval stages. Limited to one application per season.

## Diseases

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Peach fruit become susceptible to **brown rot** as they mature. Sprays should begin 2 or 3 weeks before harvest and repeated at 5 to 10 day intervals. Indar, Orbit, or Elite are preferred brown rot controls, however, sulfur or Captan are acceptable options.

## Horticulture

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Don't underestimate the importance of **summer pruning** apples and peaches to improve fruit quality and productivity, as well as a complement to dormant pruning. July is the time to start summer pruning, and in the ideal world, the whole orchard should get some summer pruning. In young trees, focus on building structure and tree shape. In mature, bearing apples, summer prune to remove excessive, vigorous growth and improve light and spray penetration. Summer pruning is an effective cultural practice for preventing or reducing sooty blotch and flyspeck. Don't hesitate to remove some larger wood if it meets the objective of opening up the tree. Finally, on peaches, focus on reducing height and improving light penetration to the interior of the tree. For an excellent summary of the "Effects of Summer Pruning on Apples and Peaches," see: [http://www.penpages.psu.edu/penpages\\_reference/29401/2940143.html](http://www.penpages.psu.edu/penpages_reference/29401/2940143.html).

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