



# Healthy Fruit

Volume 12, 2004

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

Issue 18, July 27, 2004

## [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
August 4	UNH Twilight Meeting	Woodman Horticultural Farm, Durham, NH	5:30 PM	George Hamilton, (603) 641-6060
August 18	NEFCON Field Day *	Apex Orchard, Shelburne, MA	9:30 AM – 1 PM	Glen Morin (413) 367-9578

\*If planning to attend the NEFCON Field Day, contact Glen Morin by 8/16 (413-367-9578, 413-367-0313 fax) to make a FREE lunch reservation, catered by Bub's B-B-Q.

### Insects

**Apple maggot fly** continues to be out and about. Continue to check red sphere traps and apply insecticides if one or more AMF are captured on unbaited red spheres. (Many orchards are likely to have reached this threshold.) Remember that you can safely discount captures that occur within 7-10 days of a recent insecticide spray unless heavy rain has fallen in the interim. Maintain insecticide coverage (Imidan, Guthion, Avaunt, Assail, Danitol, etc.) as necessary, particularly on early-ripening varieties, but watch pre-harvest intervals. (Note: this week's Scaffolds Fruit Journal <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/scaffolds/> has an excellent discussion on apple maggot fly.

**Mites** have been spotty, both between and within orchards. Thank the largely cool, wet summer we have had. If mites flare up during August – and it happens often – treatment options are many, including, but not limited to Nexter (replaces Pyramite), Zeal, Acramite, and Savey. Spot treatments may be necessary/desirable in classic 'hot spots.' Miticides work on different life stages, so be sure to read the label for details and pre-harvest intervals.

**Japanese Beetles** are also reportedly spotty – in some orchards they have been abundant, in others, few and far between. At least one grower has reported a preference by Japanese beetles for Honeycrisp apples. Excessive feeding can reduce leaf area and reduce growth in young trees.

If a problem, don't let them get out of hand – Guthion, Imidan, and Sevin are good control options, however, Asana and Danitol also give excellent control. Beware some pesticides (Sevin, Asana) may be detrimental to mite predators, so weigh that in your decision to control and choice of spray chemical. Surround is an organic option for controlling Japanese beetles.

## Diseases

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We hate to sound like a broken record, but current weather conditions are conducive to **summer disease** (sooty blotch, flyspeck, fruit rots) development. From now until harvest, some magnitude of fungicide protection against summer diseases should be maintained, depending on how much precipitation and humidity (= leaf wetness) occurs. A good rule of thumb is to have effective protectant fungicide (Captan, Topsin-M, Flint, Sovran) coverage starting now and continuing at 2-3 week intervals (depending on wetting) from now until harvest (watching pre-harvest intervals). Summer pruning and fruit thinning are also good horticultural practices to reduce the risk of summer disease infection.

## Horticulture

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From now until mid-August is the time to collect **leaf samples** for nutrient analysis. All blocks of apples, peaches, and cherries should be sampled every three years, or more often when deficiency symptoms, poor tree performance, or fruit quality problem show up. The University of Massachusetts Soil and Plant Tissue Testing Laboratory <http://www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest/> has a plant tissue testing service. The cost is \$20.00 per sample, including nitrogen. Detailed information on how to collect and submit a leaf analysis sample is available on their website.

A reminder: foliar **calcium sprays** should be ongoing. All fresh McIntosh, Cortland, or Empire going into storage should be getting frequent (every 10 days) calcium sprays. Bitter pit prone varieties, such as Honeycrisp, Northern Spy, Cortland, Jonagold, and Braeburn should be getting calcium sprays whether sold immediately or stored. Foliar calcium options include calcium chloride, calcium nitrate, or formulated products such as Sett or Stop-It. If using calcium chloride or calcium nitrate, the suggested rate at this time of the year is 3 or 5 lbs., respectively. (In 100 gallons dilute.) For more information, see F-119R 'Foliar Calcium Sprays for Apples' on the UMass Fruit Advisor (<http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/>)

Consider the fact that harvest of peaches, blueberries, and strawberries has been a little bit ahead of schedule. Apples may be a little early too. If planning on using **ReTain®** for pre-harvest drop control, be ready with ReTain and Silwet on hand – it may need to be applied a little earlier than usual this season -- more information in the next Healthy Fruit.

**Note:** The next Healthy Fruit will be published August 10.

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