



Healthy Fruit

Volume 12, 2004

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

Issue 19, August 10, 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 18	NEFCON Field Day*	Apex Orchards, 153 Peckville Rd., Shelburne, MA	9:30 AM – 1 PM	Glen Morin (413) 367-9578

**We will tour field trial plots of various fungicides, insecticides, miticides, growth regulators and other products that play an important role in tree fruit production in New England.*

*Free B-B-Q lunch will be provided and 2.0 pesticide license recertification credits will be available for those who attend. **Please RSVP** (413-367-9578, 413-367-0313 fax) **by Monday August 16th if planning to attend.***

Insects

This week will probably be the last ‘hurrah!’ as far as insect pests are concerned. Reports that **apple maggot fly** is still out and about is a word of warning to have some insecticide protection as we approach harvest. Be wary of pre-harvest intervals. Also, mites – **both European red and two-spotted spider** – have flared up in some locations. Although the threshold is higher this time of the year, hot weather could cause some real problems by harvest. If in doubt, spot treatments of mite hot spots would be a good idea. Another late-season insect pest to watch out for is **European corn borer**. Some orchards have a perennial problem with this pest. A spray of B.t. (Dipel) or SpinTor will control corn borer.

Diseases

It’s been plenty moist this summer so you can bet summer disease (**sooty blotch and flyspeck**) pressure has been high. Maintain some fungicide coverage (watch pre-harvest intervals) as long as we have wetting. Late-harvested varieties such as Fuji are likely to need fungicide coverage into early September.

Horticulture

It’s still not too late 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.

Based on the Cornell model to predict last date of harvest for CA McIntosh, that falls on September 20 for Belchertown. This is a few days earlier than 'average,' so be prepared. In fact, anecdotal evidence suggests everything – including peaches – is a little early this year. This week is the week to apply **ReTain** on McIntosh for pre-harvest drop control in many Massachusetts orchards. Some pointers for McIntosh application include:

- ReTain should be applied 4 weeks before the start of anticipated harvest – better a little earlier than later; ReTain has a 21 day pre-harvest interval
- Use one pouch (333 grams formulated product/acre) in sufficient water for good foliage wetting; do not alternate-row spray
- Use an organosilicone surfactant (Silwet L77, etc.) according to label directions
- ReTain should have several hours of good drying for uptake; do not apply when rainfall is imminent; optimum conditions, however, are slow drying
- Apply alone with surfactant (do not tank mix with other products)

Bonus Article

Farmers Sought to Grow Trout in Farm Ponds

Many farm ponds in Massachusetts can be used to grow trout in cage culture. Trout can be marketed to local restaurants, game clubs, used for fee fishing ponds, or for stocking local fishing derbies. Fish cages are simple to build, require limited maintenance and provide an introduction to the possibilities of fish farming.

The Western Massachusetts Center for Sustainable Aquaculture (WMCSA) is looking for farmers to grow trout in their farm ponds in 2005. Growers will receive testing of their pond water, training in trout culture, materials and instructions to build a trout cage, and 100 fingerling trout. Participating growers will attend a winter workshop, pay a small fee and complete a survey at the end of the project. Craig Hollingsworth will coordinate the project, and Keith Wilda, Director of WMCSA, will provide training sessions at the Cranberry Station in Wareham and at the WMCSA in New Marlborough (Berkshires).

Farm ponds need to be a minimum of 8 feet deep, minimum of 5000 square feet of surface area (100' x 50'), have vegetation in or around ponds edge, be spring or brook fed year round and meet water quality standards, determined by water testing performed by WMCSA. A questionnaire to help determine whether a farm pond is suitable for trout growth will be sent upon request.

Wilda and Hollingsworth hope to receive a grant to help support the project, and are looking for interested farmers to enlist their support on the grant application. Email: chollingsworth@umext.umass.edu (preferred) or leave address information at: (413) 545-1055)

Note: The next Healthy Fruit will be published August 24.

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