



# Healthy Fruit

Volume 14, 2006

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Program

**Healthy Fruit, Issue 17, August 8, 2006**

<http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/>

## **Upcoming meetings/events**

| Date       | Meeting/<br>event                 | Location                                     | Time | Information                        |
|------------|-----------------------------------|--|------|------------------------------------|
| Aug.<br>9  | Tree Fruit<br>Twilight<br>Meeting | UNH Woodman Horticultural Farm<br>Durham, NH | --   | George Hamilton<br>603-641-6060    |
| Aug.<br>29 | Grape<br>Meeting                  | Jonathan Edwards Winery<br>N. Stonington, CT | 3 PM | Hilary Sandler<br>508-295-2212 x21 |

## **The way I see it -- J Clements**

Peach harvest is at the beginning of full swing, with the traditional early-season peach varieties Candor, Risingstar, Garnet Beauty, and Senty already picked or currently being harvested. Redhaven are probably 10-14 days away from harvest. Peach growers should maintain fungicide sprays for brown rot as the fruit are most susceptible as they ripen. The SI's -- Orbit, Indar, Elite -- are most effective, however, some rotation of chemistries is advised. Pristine, a relatively new fungicide is a good choice for brown rot control.

Apple growers are starting to gear up for harvest, with the one of the first activities being ReTain application. The mid-month period (August 15-22) will be the prime application timing for McIntosh.

It's not too late to collect leaves for foliar nutrient analysis if you have not already done so.

We are probably at the peak time for apple maggot fly activity so be sure to maintain some insecticide coverage. Now is the time you want to watch PHI's closely on recommended AMF insecticides: Imidan (7 days); Guthion (14 days); Assail (21 days); Calypso (30 days).

Finally, I travelled to western New York last week to attend the Cornell/Lake Ontario Fruit Program tour of orchards in Wayne County. Despite the 100 F. heat, Cornell researchers and Extension agents, industry people, and growers put on an excellent show of the latest hi-density orchard systems, pest management practices, and equipment demonstrations all capped off by a chicken BBQ. If you have a chance to go to this annual event (different locations in western New York) I would highly recommend it.

Note that the next Healthy Fruit will be published August 22.

## **ReTain application: timing and details -- J Clements**

I already suggested the ReTain application window for regular McIntosh opens about August 15 and closes about August 22. Most Massachusetts orchards should be able to adjust their timing accordingly depending on locale and weather. ReTain is very effective at preventing pre-harvest drop and improving McIntosh fruit quality when applied approximately 21 days before anticipated harvest.

ReTain can also be applied to Cortland and Macoun, albeit a week or so later than McIntosh. Keep in mind ReTain should only be used on healthy trees (i.e., no drought or mite stress) and with a good crop load. And, it does have a 7 day pre-harvest interval. As a reminder, some other requirements for ReTain application include:

- 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 L-77, Sylgard 309, Break-Thru, RNA Si 100) according to label directions
- ReTain should have 6-8 hours of good drying for uptake; do not apply when rainfall is imminent; optimum application conditions, however, are slow drying
- Apply alone with surfactant (do not tank mix with other products)
- On Gala, a half-rate of ReTain is suggested and has shown to be effective at preventing splits and greasiness. A full rate, however, seriously inhibits red color development on this apple

## **McIntosh harvest timing -- J Clements**

For what it is worth, every year I run the Cornell/Blanpied-Silsby model to predict the last date for CA harvest of McIntosh. The model is based on the full bloom date, the mean daily temperature for 30 days after bloom, and an 'adjustment' for region. (I use the western Lake Ontario adjustment, as I believe they are very close to us compared to Hudson Valley [ahead] and Champlain Valley [behind].)

The formula for Lake Ontario is:  $201.56 - 0.16FB - 1.08MT - 30$ , where FB is the day in May +3 (don't ask) of McIntosh full bloom, and MT = average mean temperature for 30 days following bloom. For Belchertown, full bloom was May 7 (+3) = 10 (FB). MT = 57.6. Substituting FB and MT in the formula above gives a result of 138 days, which is the number of days from full bloom (May 7) to the last day of acceptable CA harvest, which is September 22 (Voila!). This means for Belchertown, the last day we should be picking Macs for CA is 9/22. Last year, the date was 9/23, so it suggests we might be *slightly* ahead of last year.

Obviously summer weather plays a role too, which the formula does not account for. Still, it's a useful exercise from year-to-year. Use the starch-iodine test, taste, drop rate, marketability, and your instinct to ultimately plan your harvest.

## **Vineyard Twilight Meeting for New England Wine Grape Growers -- S Schloemann**

**Please come to a vineyard Vineyard twilight Twilight meeting for New England Wine Grape Growers.**

Special Guest Speakers Dr. Turner Sutton from North Carolina State University and Dr. Andrew Landers from Cornell University will bring their expertise to this meeting. Dr. Sutton will review disease management challenges for 2006 with a special focus on harvest rots. Dr. Landers will

demonstrate proper sprayer configuration for several types of vineyard sprayers with a special focus on minimizing drift and optimizing deposition in the target zone.

This is intended as a very practical session where growers will share information and learn concrete methods to improve disease management in their vineyards.

Cost: \$40. Please pre-register (so we can plan for food) by contacting Hilary Sandler at [hsandler@umext.umass.edu](mailto:hsandler@umext.umass.edu) or 508-295-2212 x21 by August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Program**

3:00 *Welcome and registration*

3:15 *Veraison Disease Management Review for 2006, (Dr. Turner Sutton, NCSU)*

4:00 *Vineyard Walk-around, (Tim Barry, Jonathan Edwards Winery).*

5:00 *Sprayer Technology Workshop, (Dr. Andrew Landers, Cornell Univ.)*

6:45 *Informal Discussion and Light Fare*

7:00 *Wrap up*

### **Location**

74 Chester Maine Road

North Stonington, CT 06359

Phone: 860.535.0202

<http://www.jedwardswinery.com/>

### **Fee**

\$40

**Pre-registration is strongly advised but not required.**

Please contact Hilary Sandler at [hsandler@umext.umass.edu](mailto:hsandler@umext.umass.edu) or call 508-295-2212 x21 for more information.

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