



## Healthy Fruit, Issue 2, April 8, 2008

### Current DD accumulations

Location	Base 43F	Base 50F
Belchertown, UMass CSO observed (01/01/08 – 04/06/08)	89	25
Belchertown, UMass CSO SkyBit (01/01/08 – 04/06/08)	43	--

### Current bud stages

Location	McIntosh apple	Honeycrisp apple	Bartlett Pear	PF-14 Jersey peach	Cavalier sweet cherry
Belchertown, UMass CSO (04/06/08)					
	silver tip	dormant	early swollen bud	early swollen bud	dormant

### Upcoming meetings/events

Date	Meeting/event	Location	Time	Information
April 15	Fruit Team Twilight Meeting	<b>Cider Hill Farm</b> , 45 Fern Ave. Amesbury, MA	5:30 PM	Jon Clements 413-478-7219
April 16	Fruit Team Twilight Meeting*	<b>Alyson's Orchard</b> , 615 Wentworth Rd., Walpole, NH	5:30 PM	George Hamilton 413-478-7219
April 17	Fruit Team Twilight Meeting**	<b>Steere Orchard</b> , 150 Austin Ave. Greenville, RI	5:30 PM	Heather Faubert 401-874-2967

Two pesticide re-certification credits offered at each Fruit Team Twilight meeting. You must be on time to receive credit

\* In cooperation with University of New Hampshire and University of Vermont Extension

\*\* In cooperation with University of Rhode Island Extension

## **The way I see it**

Two things on my mind: first, note **Blast from the past** (below). I am going to try to insert these on a regular basis, pulling them from the Fruit Notes Archive. According to an e-mail from Wes Autio, “**Fruit Notes** was the first UMass publication to be digitized under the Boston Library Consortium/Internet Archive Digitization Project. This projects goal is to digitize volumes of historical significance to the various institutions in the consortium. We are very pleased to have **Fruit Notes** recognized this way.

“Within this archive, you can search the Table of Contents, either a few years at a time or within all years at once. You also can search within the text of the articles. Adobe pdf, flip-page, and DjVu versions of all articles from 1935 to 2004 are available.”

<http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/fruitnotes/archive/index.html>

We hope that you enjoy this resource and find it to be useful.

Second, as tree planting time nears, I would like to point you to an important decision-making tool on the web, ‘Apple Scion/Rootstock planning for Michigan’ and associated tree spacing calculator. Don’t be misled by the title, the tree spacing calculator is mostly appropriate for any humid growing environment in the Northeast. With the calculator, you can input the most important factors that determine tree spacing: scion, rootstock, soil, irrigation, management intensity, orchard system, and tree height. The result is recommended tree spacing -- feet between trees by feet across rows, number of trees per acre -- for your choice(s). Anyone planting trees this spring should give it try to justify their tree planting density decision. The apple tree spacing calculator can be found here:

<http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/clements/appletreespacing.htm>

J. Clements.

## **Risk for economic loss to apple scab highest at green tip**

*Reprinted from Mike Fargione’s daily e-mail, March 31, 2008, Cornell Cooperative Extension Hudson Valley Regional Fruit Program.*

At this year’s Fruit Growers School, Dr. Dave Rosenberger, Plant Pathologist at Cornell’s Hudson Valley Lab, explained why the risk of economic losses from apple scab are greatest when infections begin at green tip (GT):

- They result in the production of spores (from conidia) during bloom when fruit and leaves are approaching maximum susceptibility, and growers may try to stretch timing between fungicide applications to coincide with petal fall.
- Early infections allow more scab generations to occur before summer heat shuts down epidemics.
- There is no way to stop the epidemic in orchards with SI resistance, so high rates of captan will be needed throughout the summer.
- Where SI fungicides still work, early infections apply selection pressure for resistance development.

Dr. Rosenberger’s recommendations for early season scab control included:

- Protect orchards at silver tip or green tip, NO EXCEPTIONS!
- A copper spray at GT is as good as a mancozeb spray at that time.
- Mancozeb at 3 lb/A is probably adequate at GT.
- At half-inch green, consider mancozeb+captan combinations except where oil sprays negate the

use of captan. Possible rates include 3 lb/A mancozeb + 1 to 3 lb/A Captan 50W (3 lb/A Captan 50W = 30 oz/A Captan 80W).

- Be conservative if inoculum levels are large by considering inoculum-reducing urea ground sprays before budbreak, the use greater fungicide rates and tighter spray intervals from silver tip through petal fall.

### ***Pear psylla active***

It's likely pear psylla adults will become very active this week based on the weather forecast. They overwinter as adults in bark crevices, etc., and will start laying eggs soon upon waking up. A pre-bloom oil spray(s) can be useful to inhibit egg laying. At the swollen bud stage, oil at 1-2 gal/100 gal is suggested. One spray (at the higher rate, 2 gal) or two sprays (1 gal) a week apart are recommended when daytime temperatures exceed 50 F. Other insecticide options for pear psylla control from the swollen bud through white bud stages include pyrethroids, Actara, Esteem 35 WP, and Surround (organic). Pyrethroids are not the best IPM option, and in all cases, rotation of chemicals is advised because psylla can become resistant quickly. J. Clements

### ***Tree fruit insect management considerations***

Thanks to the apple-crop e-mail discussion group, <http://www.virtualorchard.net/applecrop.html>, I ran across this excellent pre-season article on 'Insect Pest Management Considerations' by Rick Wienzierl, University of Illinois Extension entomologist and specialist in fruit and vegetable production. The article includes: a link to a 2007 article on pheromone traps; oil application at dormant/delayed dormant; and comments to alternatives to organophosphate insecticides. I am not going to reprint the whole thing, but check it out here:

- <http://www.ipm.uiuc.edu/ifvn/volume14/frveg1402.html#fruit>

We all miss Ron Prokopy's 'March Message,' but Rick's style and informative article are a close second. Please take a look at it.

Chris Doll's Notes are worth reading too. Chris is a retired extension specialist, with a very practical approach:

- <http://www.ipm.uiuc.edu/ifvn/volume14/frveg1402.html#notes>

His Notes are always interesting reading with every issue of the 'Illinois Fruit and Vegetable Notes.'

- <http://www.ipm.uiuc.edu/ifvn/index.html>

J. Clements

### ***Blast from the past***

from *Fruit Notes*, April 18, 1958, <http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/fruitnotes/archive/>

"Several years ago, Dr. A. B. Burrell, from New York, in a talk at the annual meeting of the M.F.G.A reported that it cost more for scab control if there were scab infection on spur leaves or early in the season. He advised early scab control and a strict protectant program through the primary infection period. This is still good advice for Massachusetts growers in 1958 even though there is a light scab carryover." -- C. J. Gilgut

### ***Polaris IPM newsletter***

Kathleen Leahy, independent orchard consultant, DBA Polaris Orchard Management, has announced the availability of her weekly (app.) e-mail IPM Newsletter. The annual subscription is \$80, and will

include members-only access to her website, <http://www.polarisipm.com>. If you are interested in subscribing, please contact Kathleen directly -- polaris2@rcn.com.

### ***Apple trees that need a home***

I received this e-mail from Mike Smolak in Andover, MA late last week:

**From:** [SmolakFarms@aol.com](mailto:SmolakFarms@aol.com)  
**Date:** April 4, 2008 12:13:27 PM EDT  
**To:** [clements@umext.umass.edu](mailto:clements@umext.umass.edu)  
**Subject:** Apples Trees That Need a Home

Dear Jon:

I booked an order from Adams County Nurseries that was an oversight on my part. They are as follows:

200 Pioneer Macs on M 26  
200 Shizuka on M 26  
200 Cameo on M 26  
200 Empire on M 26

Does anyone need any of these?... Please call Adams County Nurseries at (717) 677-8106 Reference the order from Smolak Farms.

Thank you,  
Michael Smolak

If anyone can help Mike, please get in touch with Adams County Nursery. Pioneer Mac is a late maturing McIntosh that is not prone to pre-harvest drop; Shizuka is comparable to Mutsu (maybe better as it may be more blister spot resistant); Cameo is a much improved Delicious-type apple with very good storage life; and Empire, as we all know, is an improved McIntosh-type apple. I ran these through my recently revised tree spacing calculator (<http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/clements/appletreespacing.htm>) and came up with a spacing of 7 ft. by 16 ft. (400 +/- trees/acre) assuming vertical axis, moderate fertility soil, and tree height of about 12 ft. So there are about 2 acres worth of trees here. J. Clements

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