



UMass  
Extension

# Healthy Fruit

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Program

## Healthy Fruit, Volume 20, Number 3. April 17, 2012

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### Current (through April 16) degree day (DD) accumulations

Location: UMass Cold Spring Orchard, Belchertown, MA

Base 43: 317

Base 50: 181

### Current bud stages

Location	Honeycrisp apple early pink	McIntosh apple late pink	Rainier cherry bloom	BlazingStar peach late bloom
UMass Cold Spring Orchard, 16-April 2012				

## **Upcoming meetings**

**April 18:** UMass Fruit Team Twilight Meeting, Dowse Orchards, 98 North Main St., Sherborn, MA. 5:30 PM

**April 19:** UMass/URI Fruit Team Twilight Meeting, Jaswell's Farm, 50 Swan Rd., Smithfield, RI. 5:30 PM

*For more information on twilight meetings, see last page of this Healthy Fruit or go to <http://umassfruit.com>*

### **The way I see it**

McIntosh king bloom is open at the UMass Orchard in Belchertown -- the earliest I have seen it in the 12 years I have been keeping records. Most stone fruit is in full bloom or past. Notable damage to sweet cherry flowers is evident, but I am optimistic we will still have some cherries. Native pollinators were very busy yesterday (Monday).

There has been significant frost/freeze damage to apple buds in some orchards in eastern Massachusetts, but it is very site-specific. See comments by Duane Greene below on managing frost-damage apple orchards.

We still have not had a scab infection period, although fire blight was of high concern yesterday (mostly with pears). The window for applying strep to open bloom was mostly yesterday (Monday) -- the risk will diminish rapidly now with cooler weather forecast for the foreseeable future. Don't forget to use the NEWA web site to help assess disease risk ([newa.cornell.edu](http://newa.cornell.edu)). See the guest article on using NEWA.

### **2012 New England Tree Fruit Management Guide Available**

Be sure to order your 2012 New England Tree Fruit Management Guide soon given the early start to the growing season. Attached is an order form.

### **Cherry Planting Systems and High Tunnel Production Demonstration Workshop**

Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension will host a hands-on workshop on the afternoon of April 24, 2012 to demonstrate dwarf cherry production in a high tunnel system. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about *and see* the installation of a Haygrove high tunnel over Cornell's sweet cherry planting system trial at the Crist Home Farm, in Walden, Orange County, NY. The meeting agenda includes:

- Introduction to the Cherry Demonstration Planting – Steve Hoying, Horticulturalist, Cornell HV Lab, Highland, NY.
- Introduction to the Haygrove High Tunnel System – Harry Edwards, Haygrove Tunnels, Mount Joy, PA.
- Demonstration of Haygrove high tunnel construction – there will be opportunities to pitch in and try your hand at it! Come prepared to give a try yourself!
- Planting systems, pruning strategies, nutrient and water management in high-tunnel cherry production - Steve Hoying, Horticulturalist, Cornell HV Lab, Highland, NY.

- The Cherry Web Site (<http://www.giselacherry.com/>) – Win Cowgill, Regional Fruit Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Flemington, NJ. (Growing cherries successfully on size controlling stocks requires attention to detail and specific horticultural skills. The goal of the [giselacherry.com](http://www.giselacherry.com) website is to help you succeed in growing an orchard of cherry trees on Gisela rootstocks.)

The meeting is free and will begin at 1 PM on April 24<sup>th</sup> and will continue through the afternoon. The cherry planting is located at Crist Brothers Orchard, 141 Berea Road, Walden, NY. The orchard is south of the main farm entrances and on the opposite side of Berea Road (east side). Enter the deer fence and drive to the top of the hill.

Coordinates for the planting can be found at: <http://maps.google.com/maps/place?ftid=0x0:0x0&q=41.547709,-74.159628&gl=us&t=h&cad=src:ppiwlk&ei=XUCNT8fdPIGn8gaptf2MDA&dtab=2>

## INSECTS

- Oriental fruit moth (OFM) capture was high in Belchertown early in the week. These adults are laying eggs in peach and apple (lesser so) growing terminal branches. These larvae will cause damage to the foliage (terminal tip ‘flagging’), however, the real damage comes later to fruit when this generation of OFM hatches out and lays eggs in developing fruit (June-July). A petal fall spray normally reduces this first population of OFM, but secondary sprays or mating disruption need to be deployed to keep OFM bearable.
- otherwise, the petal fall spray will target the usual suspect, plum curculio. More on that later.

## DISEASES

- we WILL have a major scab infection period this weekend. Ascospore maturity is approaching 50% and none have been released to date. Make sure you are covered up very good -- the ‘captomez’ combination of Captan plus Penncozeb/Manzate, etc. is the best choice right now for this spray. Other options include Sovran or Flint or Inspire Super or some combination thereof.
- stone fruit bloom will be susceptible to brown rot infection this weekend. It will be marginally too cool for brown rot to really like it, but still best to apply a fungicide (Indar, Rovral, Rally, Elite, Adament, and Bravo) spray just prior to the rain.

## HORTICULTURE

- begin petal fall application of Apogee. See Duane Greene’s thoughts (which follow) for details.

### Duane Greene’s thoughts on bud frost/freeze damage and how to proceed

The series of cold nights that we have experienced during these past few weeks has inflicted an unknown amount of damage on flowers and spurs. This damage may be scattered. Sometimes this damage does not manifest itself until near full bloom and even then the amount of damage may not be fully realized. If you have a thermometer in your orchard and you know that your trees were not exposed to abnormally low temperatures you may proceed with minor precautions. Those who did experience cold and the potential damage I urge you to use make careful observations. Damaged spurs

may appear as small flowers, short pedicels on flowers, unopened flowers, small and abnormally colored and shaped spur leaves as well as the browning and yellowing of flowers and conductive tissue. If you have leaf damage you can almost be assured of reduced set even if flowers and spurs appear to be relatively unaffected. They are the only source of carbohydrate for the developing fruit during the thinning period.

Of equal concern to me this year is the weakening of flowers which manifest themselves by having a relatively short period of pollen receptivity. This means that the bloom period and how you prepare for it may be extremely important and the window of opportunity may be narrower than usual. This probably is not the year to economize and reduce the number of honeybee hives that you rent.

We are approaching the time when Apogee can and should be applied. If you are fortunate enough to have a supply of Apogee I urge you to use it with discretion. We do not recommend use of more than 6 oz/100 gal in any one application and we generally suggest 3-4 oz in the initial application. There are documented reports that 12 oz/100 g can reduce return bloom. We recommend use of no more than 6 oz/100 gal and usually our recommendation is 3 to 4 oz/100 gal in the first application. Apogee can also increase fruit set. Usually we try to avoid this effect but this year you may want to consider using it as an aid in increasing fruit set in cold damaged blocks. Early application is appropriate. It takes at least 10 days for Apogee to become effective so the earlier you can get started the better. Apply as soon as you have adequate leaf area to absorb Apogee. If you can find 1 inch of growth at pink then I would consider spraying.

### **Guest article – Learn to Use NEWA, Our Weather/Pest Forecasting Website**

Win Cowgill and Jack Rabin, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Plant & Pest Advisory, Fruit Edition (edited for local use by Jon Clements in parenthesis)

Visit the NEWA site <http://newa.cornell.edu>, and browse through the materials found on the new Snyder Farm Weather-Pest Forecasting Portal -- including instructions in an online slide viewer and a downloadable PDF instruction file as well as an information poster:

<http://snyderfarm.rutgers.edu/weather-pest-forecasting.html>

Select the weather station closest to you for the latest weather data and forecasts. The weather forecast weather is drawn from the National Weather Service, <http://nws.noaa.gov>.

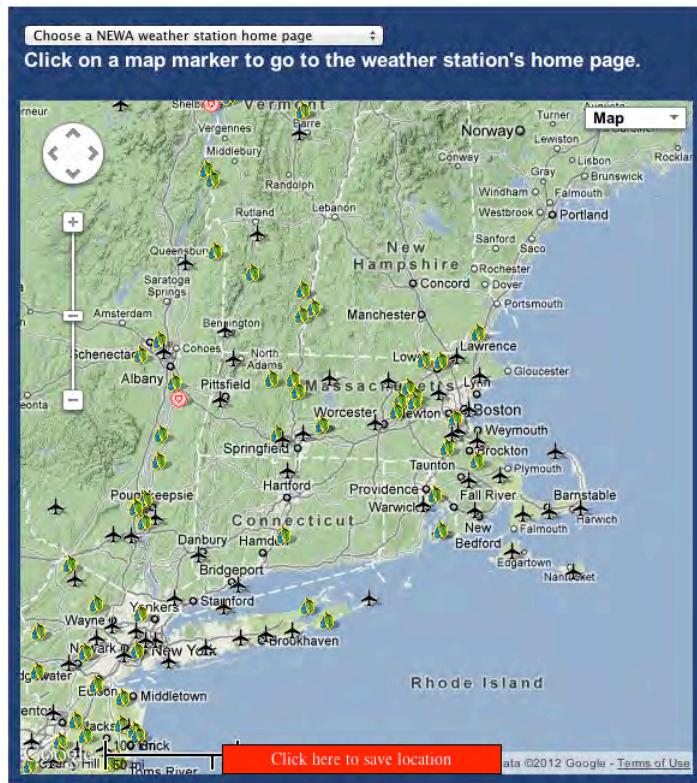
NJAES (and UMass) has a number of faculty and staff knowledgeable and willing to assist growers on the pest forecasting and predictive systems.

- Win Cowgill for apples (Jon Clements at UMass)
- Joe Mahar for vegetables (Ruth Hazzard at UMass)
- Andy Wyenandt for potato and tomato (Ruth Hazzard at UMass)
- Peter Oudemans for small fruit & wine grapes (Sonia Schloemann at UMass)

This team will be providing outreach to apple (all other tree fruit), grape, and vegetable growers through weekly reports, newsletters, and workshops.

NEWA complements and adds value to existing Rutgers (UMass) IPM scouting and advisory programs - it does not replace them. NEWA forecasts are not available for corn earworm, blueberry pests, or peach. (Although we expect the system to evolve and include more pest forecasts/models.)

We think you will find using NEWA worth the effort. Talk to our NJAES (and UMass) ag agents and specialists to learn how to best use this new technology, complementing your farm's pest management program.



## Useful links

- UMass Fruit Advisor: <http://umassfruit.com>
- Scaffolds Fruit Journal: <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/scafold/>
- Network for Environment and Weather Applications (NEWA): <http://newa.cornell.edu>
- Follow me on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/jmcextman>) and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/jmcextman>)
- UMass Vegetable & Fruit IPM Network (on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/umassipmteam>)

*The next Healthy Fruit will be published Tuesday, April 24 or thereabout, 2012. As always feel free to get in touch with any member of the UMass Fruit Team (<http://extension.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/about/members>) if you have questions or comments.*

**April 17,18,19 -- 2012**



## **Extension Fruit Program Twilight Meetings**

in cooperation with Massachusetts and  
Rhode Island Fruit Growers' Associations

### **Tuesday, April 17 – UMass Cold Spring Orchard**

391 Sabin St., Belchertown, MA

413-323-6647

<http://www.coldspringorchard.com>

Host: UMass fruit team

### **Wednesday, April 18 – Dowse Orchards**

98 North Main St., Sherborn, MA

508-653-2639

<http://www.dowseorchards.com>

Host: Alex and Jonathan Dowse

### **Thursday, April 19 -- Jaswell's Farm**

50 Swan Rd., Smithfield, RI

<http://www.jaswellsfarm.com>

401-231-9043

note: April 19 Meeting in collaboration with Rhode Island Fruit Growers' Association -- Massachusetts Fruit growers are encouraged to attend

- Tree fruit twilight meetings start promptly at 5:30 PM.
- 1 (one) pesticide recertification credit will be offered.
- There will be a \$25 meeting admission charged at the door. (\$20 for Massachusetts and Rhode Island Fruit Growers' Association FULL members.)
- A light meal or snack will be served at all meetings.
- For more information, call Jon Clements (MA): 413-478-7219, or Heather Faubert (RI): 401-874-2967

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## Fruit Publications

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Program

### Fruit Publications Order Form

Please note the following:

*Healthy Fruit* and *Fruit Notes* subscribers will receive issues either as printed copies in the US Mail **OR** as electronic copies. *Berry Notes* and *Grape Notes* subscribers will receive electronic copies.

<i>Healthy Fruit</i>	Paper copy -- \$70, Electronic copy -- \$50	_____
<i>Fruit Notes</i>	Paper copy -- \$25, Electronic copy -- \$20	_____
<i>Berry Notes</i>	Electronic copy -- \$10	_____
<i>Grape Notes</i>	Electronic copy -- \$10 donation	_____
New England Tree Fruit Management Guide	-- \$50	_____
New England Small Fruit Pest Management Guide	-- \$16	_____
Donation to the UMass Fruit Program		_____

**Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

To receive the electronic copy, you must include your email address below.

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