



Healthy Fruit, Volume 20, Number 18. September 4, 2012

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The way I see it

Fruit maturity lags a bit but is moving along. Cooler weather over the weekend resulted in some good color development in Macs, but when it gets warm and muggy again I believe the color goes away (somewhat). I think we have another good 10 days of Mac picking, but plan on being done (or mostly so) by the 15th. Mac drop has clearly accelerated, but ReTain-treated Macs seem to be holding OK. Gala are finally ready to pick, and Honeycrisp should really be on the last pick or two (maybe). Blondee is a yellow Gala-type apple that looks real good this year. (I finally made sure it was thinned adequately, it really needs that.) Next week we should be able to start Cortland, and Macoun the week of the 16th. Keep moving. J. Clements

Apple maturity report

The maturity report should be somewhat self-explanatory. Note that directions for doing the starch-index (if you want to do it yourself) are housed here:

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

Date	Variety	Location	Diameter (inches)	Red color (%)	Firmness (lbs.)	Brix	Starch index	Comments
9/4	Lindamac	Belchertown	3.4	70	14	11	4.2 (3.5-6)	should be picked ASAP, no ReTain
9/4	Honeycrisp	Belchertown	3.25	50	14.6	13	6 (4-7)	last or next-to-last pick, no ReTain
9/4	Buckeye Gala	Belchertown	3.0	95	17.3	12	4.4 (3-7)	ready for first pick, largest fruit, no ReTain

Date	Variety	Location	Diameter (inches)	Red color (%)	Firmness (lbs.)	Brix	Starch index	Comments
9/4	Blondee	Belchertown	3.1	NA	17.1	12	6	nice bright yellow apple, with mild flavor; should be picked ASAP

Guthion's last gasp...

Just in from EPA, courtesy of Penn State Extension Fruit Times News <http://extension.psu.edu/fruit-times/news>

Update on Azinphos-methyl Status

Posted: August 31, 2012

The Environmental Protection Agency just released an update on the status of azinphos-methyl (Aug 30, 2012, EPA Pesticide Program Updates, From EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs: www.epa.gov/pesticides). The full text of the announcement is posted below.

AZINPHOS-METHYL USES CANCELLATION SEPTEMBER 30, 2012; USE OF EXISTING STOCKS ALLOWED THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2013

After considering comments from growers and other stakeholders, EPA has completed a final risk-benefit analysis for the remaining uses of the organophosphate insecticide azinphos-methyl (AZM). AZM can present health risks to workers and can cause negative ecological impacts, while effective alternatives to this insecticide are available to growers. EPA has decided to maintain the September 30, 2012, effective date for cancellation of the remaining uses of AZM, on apples, blueberries, sweet and tart cherries, parsley, and pears.

Due to unusual bad weather conditions in 2012, EPA will modify the cancellation order to allow growers to use only existing stocks of AZM in their possession for another year, through September 30, 2013. All the required mitigation measures now reflected on AZM labeling will remain in effect during this use. Distribution or sale of AZM after September 30, 2012, remains prohibited. This decision will not result in greater use of AZM than originally anticipated, and provides a safer alternative to disposal arrangements.

First registered in 1959, AZM has been used to control insect pests on a wide variety of agricultural crops and on ornamentals, tobacco, and trees. In the late 1990s, EPA began reevaluating AZM with the full involvement of a wide range of stakeholders. In 2001, certain uses were immediately canceled or phased out over a four-year period because of concerns regarding worker health and negative ecological impacts.

In 2006, EPA announced a final decision to phase out the remaining ten AZM uses in three phases, with the last uses ending September 30, 2012. This phase-out helped facilitate the transition to safer alternatives, and includes mitigation measures such as reduced application rates and buffer zones around water bodies and occupied dwellings. In July 2012, EPA released and sought comment on an updated grower impacts assessment for the remaining uses of AZM, which has been useful to the agency in developing this final decision on AZM.

EPA's final AZM risk-benefit analysis will be available on the azinphos-methyl page in Chemical Search (www.epa.gov/pesticides/chemicalsearch/) and in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0365 at www.regulations.gov. Further information is available in AZM docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2005-0061 at Regulations.gov.

Guest article

Foliar Nitrogen for Sweet Cherry Now for Increased Yields in 2013

Win Cowgill, County Agricultural Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension-New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Reprinted from Plant & Pest Advisory, Fruit Edition, September 4, 2012 <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/plantandpestadvisory/>

Foliar applications of urea nitrogen have been shown to aid fruit size in sweet cherry and increase cold hardiness. Dr Greg Lang, Michigan State University reported on this work both at the International Fruit Meeting in California and 2007 and repeated the work in 2008. Here are the details:

The current suggesting to cherry growers is apply two fall foliar applications of low-biuret (spray grade) urea, applied at about 15 to 20 lbs. per acre per application. Spray volumes have been as low as 50 GPA up to 250 GPA and with a curtain sprayer. Standard is probably 100 GPA. Dr. Lang reports that they actually got the least amount of marginal leaf burn with the low volume since there was no pooling along the leaf margins.

The nitrogen application definitely increases the flowering spur N going into winter and can improve spur leaf size the next spring. This translates into larger fruit size.

The best timing is in early September, with a second application two weeks later. They did application-timing research with applications made through October but saw the best increase in leaf nitrogen levels from the earlier treatments (September). The September applications were also best for improvement in cold acclimation. Dr. Lang Reports that this is just one year's data, but it was so strikingly consistent that he feels the mid-Sept through mid-Oct is looking more like the best window for Michigan growers. (They usually expect leaf senescence from Halloween through the 2nd week of Nov). In New Jersey we expect the same results depending on how well we have controlled cherry leaf spot and the nutritional status of the tree and leaves.

At the Rutgers Snyder Farm I have applied 20 lbs urea/100 gallons, spraying at tree row volume dilute on both sweet and tart cherries with no foliar burn annually in late September, in 2008-2011. A second application is applied 10-14 days later. In my cherry research plots at the Snyder Farm I also controlled cherry leaf spot through out the summer and fall months with regular fungicide applications and have also made my first

application of Bordeaux mix (using Cuperfix and safened with Canola oil) to control Bacterial Canker. I will make one more spray in September and two more in October.

Useful links

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



Blondee apple at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard, 4-September 2012

The next (and last for 2012) Healthy Fruit will be published Tuesday, September 18 , 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.