



Healthy Fruit

Volume 10, 2002

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

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Current DD Accumulations

Location	32	43	50
Belchertown	-	615	320
UMass Cold Spring Orchard (CSO) (01/01/02 – 05/28/02)			
(04/04/02 – 05/28/02, 04/04 Green Tip date)	1,089	-	-

Note: this will be the last Healthy Fruit degree-day report for 2002

Thinning – Down But Not Out

The remainder of this week is likely to be your last best opportunity to chemically thin. Fruit size centers around 10-12 mm. and getting larger. The fruit set situation is variable across the State, with many blocks of apples setting up heavy whereas others (particularly frost-damaged) appear to be on the lighter side. One trend we've noticed is the lack of king bloom set, which has made thinning more difficult. At this time, Sevin alone or in combination with NAA is your best bet. Use Sevin XLR Plus at 1 pint. per 100 gallons dilute. NAA rates should be in the 5-10 ppm range. Sevin alone will be a moderate thinning approach whereas in combination with NAA will be more aggressive. With showers and thunderstorms predicted this week, keep in mind that as long as your thinning spray has dried, you do not need to re-apply if wetting occurs. Also, it will take 7 days before the results of your thinning application are visible—fruitlets that are not setting will be yellow or reddish, will have stopped growing, and stems will remain straight. Fruitlets that are setting will be more green in color, increasing in size, and have curved stems. Good luck!

Curc at Wurr

Growers who have fruit at the critical 7-8 mm stage (this has occurred in most areas of Massachusetts) should be concerned about curculio with the current pattern of warm, humid, intermittently rainy weather. By the end of last week, injury in unsprayed Liberties in Belchertown had reached 9%; this number very likely increased over the weekend. Commercial orchards have had very little injury to date, perhaps because of excellent insecticide coverage.

Two more waves of PC immigration into orchards occurred in the past week, one yesterday and one in the middle of last week. These invasions were not as substantial as the previous two or three, but were still significant. The bottom line at this time is, stay alert, and if fruit are the appropriate size, stay covered!

Leafminers

We may not be out of the woods with leafminer yet; the apparent trend is that they are showing up in moderate numbers where trap captures were high - 30 to 50 and up. But emergence may be extremely strung-out, and mine development may be rapid in the next week or two. Check the later fruit cluster leaves, especially the 6th and 7th leaf out for presence of mines. It may also be wise to do some whole-cluster samples, since it is possible that egg laying occurred on some newer leaves as well.

Monitoring on 5/27 and 5/28 continued to show new mines although no monitored orchard reached the threshold this week that was not already at the threshold last week. Some orchards have a few tissue-feeding stage mines evident, which makes successful control of the current generation less likely. In such orchards all is not lost, however; wait for the first appearance of summer generation mines - probably in about three weeks - and plan a split application to better control the more spread-out emergence of this generation. Delaying treatment may actually help some growers by pinpointing the exact areas in need of treatment since leaf mines in orchards we are monitoring have a very spotty distribution this year.

Aphids

Some rosy apple aphids can be found on susceptible varieties like Cortland, but numbers are low and damage is not evident. Apple grain aphids are also starting to appear - very late, since they're usually present in the orchard before bloom; these aphids sometimes curl the leaves in a manner similar to rosy aphids, but they do not damage fruit like rosies do. We consider them to be quasi-beneficial because they encourage predators to lay eggs and stay around to feed on green apple aphids, mites, and maybe woolly aphids as well. Syrphid fly and ladybird beetle eggs have been very abundant in many monitored orchards. Monitor peach trees for green peach aphids also at this time.

Borers

Lesser peachtree borers and dogwood borers have begun flying. Egg laying will begin soon. Insecticide applications should go on around 4 weeks after flight begins to control the hatching larvae. Lorsban has excellent residual activity on bark, but may only be used after petal fall as a trunk application. Thiodan is also labeled as a trunk spray for borers and needs to be well-timed for best effectiveness.

Mites

A few weeks ago we mentioned that the threshold for mite control at this time is a low one - 1-2 mites per fruit cluster. Bear in mind, though, that this means a *persistent pattern* of 1-2 mites per cluster; that is, that you can more or less pick a fruit cluster at random and find a mite or two on it. Finding an occasional mite is not a reason for spraying, but it is a reason to

do more intense monitoring to determine whether the pattern is widespread or confined to an area, or perhaps even to a few trees.

Betty Lord Passes

We are saddened to report that Bill Lord's wife Betty passed away earlier this month. As most of you know, Bill was the Extension Fruit Specialist for many years. Many of you knew Betty, because she often attended meetings with Bill. Her warmth and her wit will be sorely missed by Bill and their family and by all who knew her. If you wish to express your condolences to Bill, his address is: **William J. Lord, 6 Duxbury Lane, Longmeadow, MA 01106-2006**. Bill's email address is **williaml@pssci.umass.edu**. Bill has asked that, in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to the **Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association Horticultural Research Fund, P.O. Box 9632, North Amherst, MA 01059-9632**.

