



# Healthy Fruit

Volume 11, 2003

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

Issue 13 – July 1, 2003

## Current Degree-day Accumulations<sup>1</sup>

Location	Base 43F	Base 50F
Belchertown, UMass CSO observed (01/01/03 – 06/30/03)	1277	766
Belchertown, UMass CSO, SkyBit™ (01/01/03 – 06/30/03)	1233	NA
Belchertown, UMass CSO, observed (05/25/03 petal fall – 06/30/03)		497 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Base 43 and Base 50 from January 1 used in insect models.

<sup>2</sup> 340 Degree Days Base 50 (development total) used for plum curculio spray cut-off. Development total reached 06/24/03.

**Note: this will be the last degree-day accumulation published in Healthy Fruit for 2003.**

## Upcoming Meetings/Events

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Time	Information
July 15	Pesticide Handling Facility Demonstration	UMass Cold Spring Orchard Belchertown, MA	TBA	William Coli 413-545-1051
July 24	Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Assoc. Summer Meeting	Apex Orchard Shelburne, MA	10 AM	Wes Autio 413-545-2963 <a href="http://www.massfruitgrowers.org">www.massfruitgrowers.org</a>

**\*Please note the MFGA Summer Meeting date has been changed to July 24<sup>th</sup>.**

## A Follow-up Application of Apogee

Frequent and ample rain during the spring and the arrival of warm temperatures are conditions that favor vigorous vegetative growth. Now may be a good time to consider a third application of Apogee. This is particularly true if fruit set is light, trees are budded on vigorous rootstocks, the scion variety is vigorous, or the trees are planted in soil that encourages vegetative growth. Lower rates can usually be used at this time in the season. We suggest using a rate of 2 to 3 oz./100 gal based upon a tree row volume (TRV) dilute rate. Therefore, if target trees have a TRV of 200 gal/acre, we suggest applying 4 to 6 oz. of Apogee on that acre, regardless of the amount of water that it is delivered in. As with previous applications, maximum growth reduction will be achieved if a water conditioner and a surfactant are included with Apogee. If warm temperatures and sufficient rain continue, another application of Apogee will probably be necessary at the end of the month.

If you are uncertain if a follow-up application is necessary, examine your trees carefully. Resumption of growth generally starts to occur on buds in the upper third of the tree and then proceeds to buds located in less vigorous portions of the tree. If you see some buds resuming growth, more are likely to follow. It is time to reapply Apogee when you see the first few buds starting to grow since it takes Apogee 10 to 12 days following application to establish growth control.

***These recommendations are not a substitute for pesticide labeling. Read the label before applying any pesticide - it is the legal document.***

## Independence Day for Plum Curculio

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Based on degree day accumulations and direct observation, it appears that we are finally done with the overwintering generation PC for this year. Ron Prokopy reports that he had observed PC immigration at the end of last week, with fresh injury still found on Thursday and Friday. However, except perhaps for some of the latest portions of the state, growers need no longer concern themselves with PC until next year.

## Leafminer

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Early emergence of first summer generation leafminer adults has begun in earlier-developing parts of the state. Growers are advised to thoroughly check all blocks that were not treated in some way for overwintering generation LM and take note of mines per leaf. Where counts are high, there is the potential to need treatment when the new crop of sap-feeding mines begins to show up.

## Apple Aphids

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Where aphid colonies have been noticed, eggs of syrphid fly predators have also been seen. This, coupled with frequent rain showers that would wash off any honeydew from fruit/foliage, probably indicates that no treatment will be required for aphids. When the original Apple IPM project started in 1978, it was commonly accepted that sprays would be needed for aphids. At this point, treatment seems to be more the exception, rather than the rule.

## Apple Maggot Fly

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It's time to drag the AMF traps out of storage, clean them up and reapply sticky (everyone's favorite job!!). Although it's still a bit early to anticipate AMF adult emergence, hanging traps in early maturing blocks will give you plenty of forewarning about the need to protect against AMF. Recall that males emerge first. They can be recognized by their smaller size and rounded abdomens compared to the larger females whose abdomen is pointed. Determination of sex is important since you can ignore first trap captures on the non-egglaying males.

## Summer Crop Insurance/Risk Management 'Blitz'

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Fruit growers have mixed feelings about crop insurance. Is it worth the cost? Does it pay off? Or not? What's my risk for not having it? All are good questions. But, there is no doubt crop insurance can be an effective risk management tool. Starting this week, 'Healthy Fruit' will include information about crop insurance as part of an overall farm/orchard risk management strategy. Like any farm management decision, information is key to making the right decision.

## Why Producers Don't Purchase Crop Insurance

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The following is a very brief summary of a 2001–2002 producer survey done in New Jersey by Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Eighty farmers were surveyed in 16 New Jersey Counties: 42 had crop insurance (53%), 38 did not. You may find it interesting, and it likely reflects the current situation in Massachusetts and New England.

*Why farmers did not get crop insurance...*

- 17 were unaware of crop insurance programs available
- 14 said crop insurance was not an efficient form of risk management
- 2 farmers said it was too expensive
- 3 farmers had PYO operations only, and felt crop insurance did not work for their farm

*Changes in crop insurance that farmers feel need to be made...*

- 11 farmers felt that more education on crop insurance was necessary
- 13 farmers said that crop insurance policies must be simplified
- 4 farmers said there should be separate crop insurance programs for retail and wholesale producers
- 9 farmers said they would like to see more coverage options

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