



Healthy Fruit

Volume 12, 2004






Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

Issue 2, March 31, 2004

Current DD Accumulations

Location	Base 43F	Base 50F
Belchertown, UMass CSO observed (01/01/04 – 03/29/04)	94	38

Current Bud Stages

Location	McIntosh apple	Honeycrisp apple	Pear	Redhaven peach	Cavalier sweet cherry
Belchertown UMass CSO (03/29/04)					
	silver-tip	dormant	dormant	dormant	dormant

Current bud stages also available on UMass Fruit Advisor, <http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/>

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Time	Information
April 13	Fruit Team Twilight Meeting	Bashista Orchards 159 East St. Southampton, MA	5:30 PM	Jon Clements 413-478-7219
April 14	Fruit Team Twilight Meeting	Kimball Fruit Farm 184 Hollis St. Pepperell, MA	5:30 PM	Jon Clements 413-478-7219
April 15	Fruit Team Twilight Meeting	Jaswell's Farms 50 Swan Rd. Smithfield, RI	5:30 PM	Heather Faubert 401-874-2750
April 21- 22	Spring Grape Grower Workshop	Various locations, Southeast New England		Sonia Schloemann 413-478-7219

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Apple scab: renewed concern?

To borrow a term for the 'war on terror,' the recent 'chatter' coming out of New York/Cornell about apple scab and the upcoming growing season has been interesting. It stems from two facts: a wet 2003 growing season where scab was more prevalent than desirable (i.e., inoculum for 2004), and building resistance to SI (and other) fungicides. Hence, their pathologist's advice is to be very conservative in managing primary scab in 2004, and it seems applicable to MA orchards.

Here are their recommendations for 2004, as originally printed in Scaffolds Fruit Journal (Vol. 13, No. 1, March 22, 2004) and summarized by Michael Fargione of the Hudson Valley Regional Fruit Program. Note that the first two are management actions that need to happen in the next couple weeks in most MA orchards.

- Apply a urea spray (40 lb/A) to the leaf litter before green-tip in orchards that were clobbered with scab last year to reduce inoculum production in the leaf litter, thereby reducing pressure on fungicides (A urea application now will help reduce spore load in the critical pink-bloom period).
- Apply a fungicide at green tip or at least before the first scab infection period (Copper may be a good choice in orchards at high-risk for fire blight or where long-term use of predominantly mancozeb plus Si's has allowed superficial bark cankers caused by *Botryosphaeria* species to develop).
- Follow up at 5-7 day intervals (or before rains) with applications of captan, mancozeb, or Polyram.
- Use either a strobilurin fungicide or an SI+contact fungicide starting at pink or bloom to initiate mildew control and to enhance scab control during the period of peak risk for development of fruit scab. (The SI will help with scab control only where scab is still sensitive to SI fungicides).

Peach leaf curl spray NOW!

Peach orchards not treated with a fungicide either last fall after leaf drop or this spring before bud break are susceptible to contracting peach leaf curl fungus. Believe us, it's not pretty and you do not want to get it! Fungicides must be applied before bud swell -- NOW! Copper is effective and has the added benefit of reducing bacterial spot inoculum. Bravo and Ziram are also very effective peach leaf curl preventive sprays.

Pear psylla on the move soon

Pear psylla adults become active on bright, sunny days when the temperature is greater than 50 F. An oil spray anytime now (3 gallons oil/100 gallons water) will inhibit egg laying by adults. Sometimes a second application is necessary if adults are still present within a week or so of the first application. (If 2 applications are anticipated, use 2 gallons oil/100 gallons water.) Oil has the added benefit of suppressing European red mite too.

Southeast grape grower workshop: April 21 & 22, 2004

This two-day workshop will include 4 vineyard tours, presentations on selected viticulture topics relevant to New England Growers (by specialists from Penn State, Cornell, Rutgers, and more), and round table discussions about important issues facing our local industry. These include crop management issues and industry development and promotion issues. There will be some discussion about the possibilities of developing a multi state consortium to support grape education and research. Sponsored by the Southern New England Grape Growers' Association

and UMass Extension. Two Pesticide Recertification Contact Hours (Credits) have been awarded for this meeting and are valid for growers from all New England States and New York. For more information and registration information, see the UMass Fruit Advisor (<http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/>) or contact Sonia Schloemann, 413-545-4347, sgs@umext.umass.edu.