








Issue 6, April 27, 2004

Current DD accumulations

Location	Base 32 F	Base 43 F	Base 50 F
Belchertown, UMass CSO observed (01/01/04 – 04/26/04)	--	299	158
Belchertown, SkyBit E-Weather (01/01/04 – 04/26/04)	--	205	--
Belchertown, UMass CSO observed (04/13/04 – 04/26/04)	378 (19*)	--	--
Belchertown, SkyBit E-Weather (04/13/04– 04/26/04)	-- (2*)	--	--

* % mature scab spores

Current bud stages

Location	McIntosh apple	Honeycrisp apple	Pear	Redhaven peach	Cavalier sweet cherry
Belchertown UMass CSO (04/26/04)					
	tight cluster	tight cluster	bud burst	early pink	bud burst

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

Upcoming meetings/events

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Time	Information
May 11	Fruit Twilight Meeting	UMass Cold Spring Orchard, Belchertown	5:30 P.M.	Jon Clements 413-478-7219
May 12	Fruit Twilight Meeting	Highland Farm, Holliston	5:30 P.M.	Jon Clements 413-478-7219

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Orchard radar

Some of you may be familiar with Glen Koehler's (U. of Maine)'Orchard Radar.' For several years, Glen has been posting weather-based models for orchard management to a website. Until now, these have been mostly Maine sites, however, thanks to a recent grant, he has expanded to include sites throughout New England, including two in Massachusetts, Belchertown and Waltham. The website address for these sites are:

- Belchertown: <http://pronewengland.org/content/AllModels/Mamodel/RadarMa-belchertown.htm>
- Waltham: <http://pronewengland.org/content/AllModels/mamodel/RadarMa-waltham.htm>

You should check them out when you have a chance, and read the background information at <http://pmo.umext.maine.edu/apple/allmodels/RadarIntro.htm>. Both Glen and myself are interested in your feedback. J. Clements

TracApple 2004

TracApple 2004 is a personal computer recordkeeping and reporting program for apple growers developed by the NY State IPM Program. At recent twilight meetings, I demonstrated TracApple and distributed free copies – thanks to funding from USDA/Risk Management and the New England Small Farm Institute – to interested growers. (It costs \$20 from the NY State IPM Program.) Although it has a few limitations for MA growers because it is tailored for New York, it is still a great tool for pesticide application recordkeeping and reporting. Proper recordkeeping is important to minimize legal risk and for purchasing crop insurance. I still have some copies of TracApple available for MA growers – let me know if you'd like a copy. Note that you must have Microsoft Excel installed (or purchased) to use TracApple. J. Clements

Early season insects

Ron Prokopy still reports that **tarnished plant bug** immigration into orchards he is monitoring is 1/3 to 1/2 more than he has seen in several years. This means the potential for bud and fruit injury is high – he advises growers to be attentive to the situation, and where fruit injury has been a problem in the past, treatment is suggested during the tight-cluster to pink stage. The synthetic pyrethroids (Asana, Pounce, etc.) have excellent efficacy against plant bug, however, they are detrimental to mite predators. Guthion and Imidan also work, and may be preferred. The new insecticide Warrior has good efficacy, and may be worth a try. Note that post-bloom treatment for plant bug is ineffective, as fruit damage occurs during pink and bloom

Leafminer trap captures have been high in “chronic hot spots.” Red sticky traps are the monitoring tool of choice now, and are a good way to get a handle on a potential leafminer problem. If a threat for a problem exists – by noting trap captures now, and mine development post-bloom – you should plan on treating with an effective insecticide such as Actara, Assail, Provado, Agri-mek, etc. approximately two weeks after petal-fall.

Ron Prokopy also reports that **plum curculio** immigration into monitored orchards has already been significant. This is the earliest immigration he has seen in several years, and means they have over-wintered well despite the record-cold winter. Just keep this in mind as you prepare for a petal-fall spray for curculio. J. Clements, R. Prokopy, and K. Leahy

Scab infection risk entering accelerated phase

As you are probably aware, as tight-cluster and pink bud stages approach, apple scab ascospore maturity accelerates, and hence the risk for infection becomes greatest during wetting events. (Based on current degree-day accumulations, 10 to 20% spore maturity is a good estimate for right now.) At this point you should always be well covered with a protectant fungicide before any rain events are predicted. If in doubt about the level of protection during a wetting event – i.e., lots of rain, new foliage growth, seven or more days since the last spray, etc. – including a fungicide with some kickback as a tank mix with the protectant is recommended. From now through bloom is NOT the time to skimp on being covered for scab. J. Clements and D. Cooley

An evening on cut flowers

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

3:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Andrew's Greenhouse, Southeast St., Amherst, MA

Are you growing cut flowers for a farmers market or retail stand? If so, then plan to join the UMass Extension Floriculture team for a tour of Andrew's cut-your-own annual and perennial gardens where we will discuss soil fertility and pest management for cut flowers. After dinner Dr. Susan Han will demonstrate the proper harvesting stage and handling procedures for field-grown cut flowers to maximize their keeping quality. Andrew's Greenhouse is a first generation greenhouse and cut flower business located on a 150 acre farm in South Amherst. Registration is \$35. For more information contact Tina Smith at tsmith@umext.umass.edu, 413-545-5306 or Paul Lopes, lopes@umext.umass.edu, 508-295-2212 ext. 24.
