



# Healthy Fruit

Volume 12, 2004

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

Issue 17, July 13, 2004

## [Orchard Radar for west-central Massachusetts \(Belchertown\)](http://pronewengland.org/content/AllModels/Mamodel/RadarMa-belchertown.htm)

<http://pronewengland.org/content/AllModels/Mamodel/RadarMa-belchertown.htm>

## [Orchard Radar for eastern Massachusetts \(Waltham\)](http://pronewengland.org/content/AllModels/Mamodel/RadarMa-waltham.htm)

<http://pronewengland.org/content/AllModels/Mamodel/RadarMa-waltham.htm>

### Upcoming meetings/events

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Time	Information
July 14	MFGA Summer Meeting	UMass Cold Spring Orchard Belchertown, MA	10 AM	Jon Clements (413) 478-7219
July 27-28	Cornell/Geneva Field Days	Geneva Experiment Station, Geneva, NY	8 AM - 4 PM	<a href="http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/pubs/press/2004/040622FruitFieldDays.html">http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/pubs/press/2004/040622FruitFieldDays.html</a>
August 4	UNH Twilight Meeting	Woodman Horticultural Farm, Durham, NH	5:30 PM	George Hamilton, (603) 641-6060

Two meetings noted above ought to be of great interest to Massachusetts growers. First, the **Cornell/Geneva Field Days** is a two-day invitation to tour field plots and learn about the latest research and extension efforts being carried out by researchers on the Geneva and Ithaca campuses. The first day (July 27) will focus on tree fruit whereas July 28 will feature small fruit. For more information, see the website noted above. Second, at the **UNH Woodman Horticultural Farm** in Durham, NH on August 4, a special guest speaker from Penn State will present information on high-tunnel and plasticulture production of fruits and vegetables. UNH researchers will also give tours of their plots on the Farm. Both meetings will be well-worth attending during this slow time of the year.

### Insects

As usual, **apple maggot fly** (AMF) numbers have been variable. Some monitored blocks have reached threshold (1-2 flies for un-baited spheres, 4-5 for volatile-baited spheres), while other blocks have few if any captures. If you are not monitoring with sticky red spheres (and you should be!) you should have insecticide coverage for AMF on now.

## Diseases

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Current weather conditions are conducive to summer disease (sooty blotch, flyspeck, fruit rots) development. From now until harvest, some magnitude of fungicide protection against summer diseases should be maintained, depending on how much precipitation and humidity (= leaf wetness) occurs. A good rule of thumb is to have effective protectant fungicide (Captan, Topsin-M, Flint, Sovran) coverage starting now and continuing at 2-3 week intervals (depending on wetting) from now until harvest (watching pre-harvest intervals). Summer pruning and fruit thinning are also good horticultural practices to reduce the risk of summer disease infection.

## Horticulture

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Beginning in late July, and continuing into early August, leaf samples can be collected for tissue analysis to help determine fertilizer needs for 2005. Blocks should be sampled at least every 3-4 years. The procedure is to collect 75-100 leaves by cultivar/block from the mid-terminal location, carefully wash and dry the leaves, and then submit them to a lab for analysis. The UMass Soil and Plant Tissue Testing Laboratory (<http://www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest/>) is recommended. Visit their website or see attached for more information,

**Note:** Healthy Fruit will begin publishing every other week; the next issue will be July 27.



Apple maggot fly on yellow sticky trap, July 13, 2004 (photo © Jon Clements)

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