



## Healthy Fruit, Volume 20, Number 1. April 3, 2012

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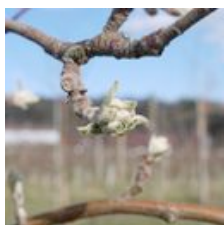


### Current (through April 2) degree day (DD) accumulations

Location: UMass Cold Spring Orchard, Belchertown, MA

Base 43: 217

Base 50: 122

### Current bud stages

Location	Honeycrisp apple half-inch green	McIntosh apple half-inch green +	Black Pearl cherry bud burst	PF-14 Jersey peach early pink
UMass Cold Spring Orchard, 2-April 2012				

### Upcoming meetings

**April 12:** USDA Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Training Program, Marlboro, MA. 12:30 PM to 5 PM. More information: <http://extension.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/events/usda-gap-training-program>

**April 17:** UMass Fruit Team Twilight Meeting, UMass Cold Spring Orchard, 393 Sabin St., Belchertown, MA. 5:30 PM

**April 18:** UMass Fruit Team Twilight Meeting, location TBA. 5:30 PM

**April 19:** UMass/URI Fruit Team Twilight Meeting, location TBA (in Rhode Island)

### **The way I see it**

We may have dodged a cold bullet last week -- except for cherry growers (see picture at end of HF) -- however, we have a long ways to go. Cold weather has slowed bud development to a crawl, and the cold, windy conditions are starting to show (some browning) on spur leaves. Frankly, I hope it warms up a bit and stays there. Might be a good idea to apply a pre-bloom nutrient spray (see HORTICULTURE) when it warms up a bit to strengthen the beaten-down buds.

This may be your last Healthy Fruit unless you send in your check with the form attached. If I am in a good mood next week, I will send out a freebie, but after that you need to be in the PAID database. :-)

### **2012 New England Tree Fruit Management Guide Available**

Be sure to order your 2012 New England Tree Fruit Management Guide soon given the early start to the growing season. Attached is an order form.

### **NEWA network expanded in Massachusetts**

The Network for Environment and Weather Applications (NEWA) has expanded in 2012 to include 41 locations. (About 1/2 are at airports, the other half are physical weather stations at farms.) Anyone can access NEWA at <http://newa.cornell.edu/>. NEWA includes various weather data, degree-days, and various pest forecasts including apple insects and diseases. NEWA is a valuable resource in helping you plan your pest management activities. Be sure to check it out.

### **INSECTS**

- upcoming warm weather and phenology (tight cluster) means a good time to put a 2% oil spray for mites on; after tight cluster (pink), drop the rate to 1%
- if you have a problem with tarnished plant bug (unlikely) or rosy apple aphids (seems to be increasing) apply an insecticide at late tight-cluster to pink; good-excellent options for tarnished plant bug include: Ambush, Asana, Danitol, Warrior, and Beleaf. For rosy apple aphid applied at late tight cluster: MPEDE + Oil, Lorsban, Assail, Calypso, and Beleaf
- it's probably time to think about hanging traps for Oriental Fruit Moth; pheromone traps are the best way to monitor presence (and lesser-so, abundance) and time insecticide sprays

## DISEASES

- we have not had a scab infection period yet, however, with warmer weather forecast and increases ascospore maturity, we WILL have on during the next significant wetting event; be well-covered with a protectant fungicide prior to the rain
- peaches in bloom will need to have a brown rot spray on during wet weather; don't underestimate the importance of beginning brown rot control NOW. Best fungicides include: Indar, Rovral, Rally, Elite, Adament, and Bravo.

## HORTICULTURE

- soak tree roots in water for 24-48 hours before planting; this fully 'hydrates' the tree, very important given how dry the soil is now
- apply a foliar spray of micro-nutrients to apples at tight cluster to pink to strengthen flower buds; use 3 lb. spray urea, 1 lb. Solubor, and 1 qt. zinc chelate EDTA per 100 gallons water; might be very useful this year to help flower buds recover from the cold

## Useful links

- UMass Fruit Advisor: <http://umassfruit.com>
- Scaffolds Fruit Journal: <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/scaffolds/>
- Network for Environment and Weather Applications (NEWA): <http://newa.cornell.edu>
- Follow me on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/jmcextman>) and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/jmcextman>)
- UMass Vegetable & Fruit IPM Network (on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/umassipmteam>)



Sweet cherry flowers showing dead (blackened) stigma/style/ovary flower parts, at UMass Cold Spring Orchard April 2, 2012. It's estimated app. 80% or more of the flowers are damaged.

*The next Healthy Fruit will be published Tuesday, April 10 or thereabout, 2012. As always feel free to get in touch with any member of the UMass Fruit Team (<http://extension.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/about/members>) if you have questions or comments.*



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## Fruit Publications

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Program

### Fruit Publications Order Form

Please note the following:

*Healthy Fruit* and *Fruit Notes* subscribers will receive issues either as printed copies in the US Mail **OR** as electronic copies. *Berry Notes* and *Grape Notes* subscribers will receive electronic copies.

*Healthy Fruit* Paper copy -- \$70, Electronic copy -- \$50

*Fruit Notes* Paper copy -- \$25, Electronic copy -- \$20

*Berry Notes* Electronic copy -- \$10

*Grape Notes* Electronic copy -- \$10 donation

New England Tree Fruit Management Guide -- \$50

New England Small Fruit Pest Management Guide -- \$16

Donation to the UMass Fruit Program

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