



Fruit Update – 3/28/25

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Oil and Other Spray Applications

Since Green Tip is just around the corner, we should be planning to make moves on our oil applications. This is a great time to work towards controlling mites, aphids, and scale insects, especially if you had an issue last year. Just keep an eye on the temperatures. Applications need to be made when it is warmer (50-70°F), and it remains warm (>40°F) for about 24 hours after the application.

Consider your copper and sulfur product applications as well. For those of you who struggled with Peach Leaf Curl last year, we want to get a copper product on before First Pink. Otherwise, you'll have to wait to make an application in the fall, which might be needed anyways if you had a severe infection last year.

Mummy Berry

Forsythia blooms are just around the corner. This means that we need to make sure to get down a 2-4" layer of mulch on our blueberries if you haven't done so already. Forsythia bloom times coincide with the maturity of the overwintering spores that are currently on the ground under your bushes.

We are a bit away from having the conditions required for infection (50-62°F) which makes this the perfect time to apply that mulch.

Blueberry Pruning

Blueberry Bushes can still be pruned, up until they begin to grow this spring. Below is a quick reference for pruning.

- Total canes per plant: aim for 18
- Maintain 3 canes per 1 year of growth
- No canes over 6 years in age
- Each year, remove the 3 oldest and select 3 new ones to replace them
- Remove any diseased, broken, low or crossing branches.
- No heading cuts!

Note: If you are not getting new shoots generating from the base of your plant, you likely have either a pH issue or need nitrogen.



Integrated Pest Management Program

Department of Plant Science and Landscape
Architecture

Farm Bill Updates

I've gotten a few questions about changes to the Farm Bill signed into law on December 21, 2024. This extension is for one year and continues safety net, price support and conservation programs.

Here is a link to a page where you can explore these programs: <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/farm-bill>

Needs Assessment - Soils

Our new Soil Health Extension Educator, Amelia, is looking for your input. Please take a few minutes to complete the Needs Assessment linked below to give the team a better understanding of your soil health needs.

Help shape the future of soil health programming at UConn Extension!

We're conducting a survey to better understand your experiences, needs and interests to inform new soil health programming. Your input is highly valuable to help plan and design training, events, resources and guidance.

As a thank-you for completing the survey you will have the chance to enter a prize drawing to receive either a \$30 Johnnys Seeds or \$30 Premier 1 gift card!

Take the survey here: [Click to Start](#)

If you have any questions about the survey or the program, please contact:

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