Integrated Pest Management Program
Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

Fruit Update – 4/11/25

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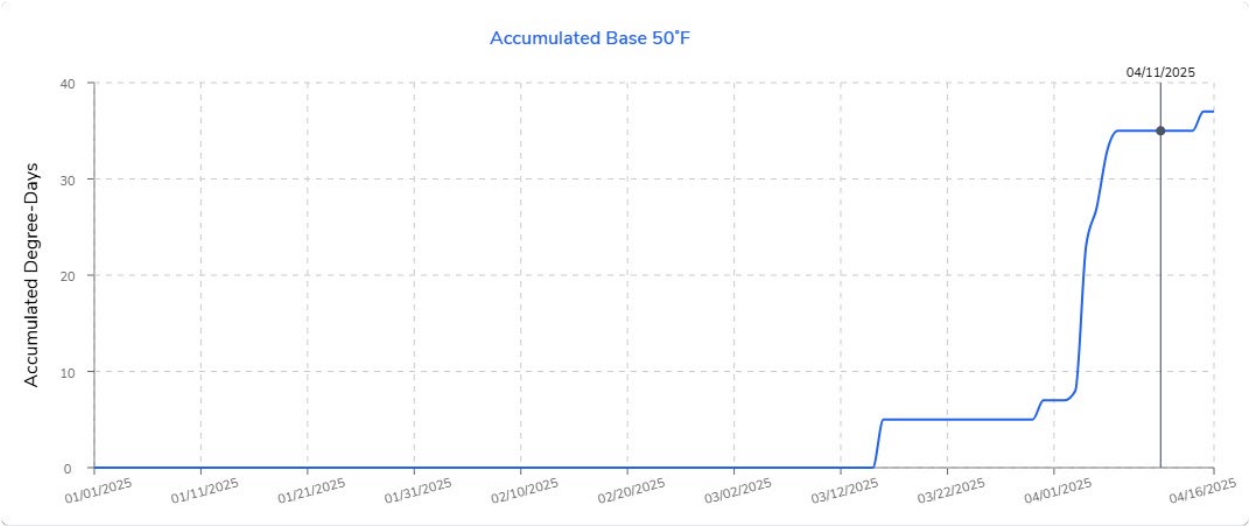
Degree Day Accumulation: We are currently at 35 DD. That's up 12 DD from this time last week. Looking forward to the 16th, we'll only be at 37 DD – still moving slow.



Weather: We had some low nighttime temperatures this week. Checking with NEWA, the lowest we saw in the state was 26 degrees. Much of the state had an average low temperature of 28 degrees. I know there were some questions about re-covering strawberries. If you didn't, there should be no real need to worry.

Phenology:

Apricots – 50% bloom reported in central CT.

Peaches – There is quite a bit of variation. The peaches I saw were just at first pink.

Zestar Apples – Trees in central CT were ~ ½" green-tight cluster

MacIntosh Apples – Trees in central CT were at green tip.

Blueberries – Varietal dependent – the furthest along I saw had bud scales separating.

Brambles – ~ ½" green in central CT

Apple Scab:

Ascospore maturity and discharge at near or at 1% still. We are beginning another 3-day combined infection event. The risk of infection is low, not impossible.

Ascospore Maturity Summary

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Daily Discharge Thresholds: ≥ 10% > 20%

Date	Ascospore Maturity	Daily Ascospore Discharge	Cumulative Ascospore Discharge
Apr 9	1%	0%	0%
Apr 10	1%	0%	0%
Apr 11 Forecast	1%	0%	0%
Apr 12 Forecast	1%	<1%	<1%
Apr 13 Forecast	1%	<1%	<1%
Apr 14 Forecast	2%	0%	<1%
Apr 15 Forecast	2%	0%	<1%
Apr 16 Forecast	2%	0%	<1%

Infection Events Summary

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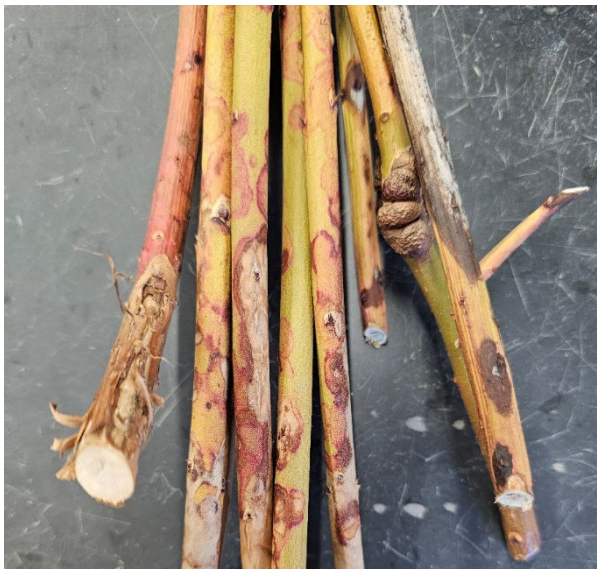
Events: Dry Wet

Date (2025)	Infection Events	Average Temp (°F) for wet hours	Leaf Wetness (hours)	Hours > 90% RH	Rain Amount
Apr 9	no	-	0	0	0
Apr 10	no	48	5	0	0
Apr 11 Forecast	combined	45	14	0	0.11
Apr 12 Forecast	combined	38	20	0	0.55
Apr 13 Forecast	yes	-	0	0	Night: 55% Day: 20%
Apr 14 Forecast	no	-	0	0	Night: 11% Day: 11%
Apr 15 Forecast	no	-	0	0	Night: 49% Day: 43%
Apr 16 Forecast	no	-	0	0	Night: 17% Day: 2%

Blueberry Stem Diseases:



Now is a great time to take a look at your blueberry canes. With the lack of foliage, stem diseases including Phomopsis, Fusicoccum and others can easily be identified. This is Fusicoccum.

From UConn IPM site:

Infection usually occurs between bud break and flowering when there is tender young tissue present, although new infections can occur throughout the growing season. This disease is favored by wet weather and temperatures between 50 to 72°F.

Symptoms. The first symptom usually seen is “flagging,” or sudden wilting and death of one stem during the warm days of the summer. The leaves on these stems turn reddish-chocolate brown and will remain attached to the branch. This sudden wilting is caused by one or several cankers completely encircling the stem.

Cankers are usually at the base of the plant but can be a few feet above ground. Stem cankers begin in the fall as small, water-soaked spots. By December, they have turned red. In the spring, they grow to reddish-brown spots up to 4” in length. This canker is usually centered around a leaf scar and often has a target pattern. As the canker grows, the center turns gray and dies, while the edges remain red. Tiny black dots, the fungal spore-producing structures, can be seen in the center of the older cankers.

There are no materials labeled for Fusicoccum in our region. However, materials used to control early, primary Mummy Berry infections or Anthracnose, will likely have some activity against this pathogen and should be applied prior to infection. Check the New England Guide here.

Strawberries:

Two early insect pests to keep an eye out for are cyclamen mite and tarnished plant bug. See below.

Cyclamen Mite – These mites are tiny and a located in small developing leaves in the crown of your plants. Usually, you’ll need a 15x hand lens to see these. If you know they are an issue, you may consider control options. See the New England Guide for more information and control options.

Tarnished Plant Bug – TPB is a bit larger and easier to see. These pests feed on developing flower buds, flowers and fruit. See the New England Guide for more information and for control options.

No insecticides during bloom.

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