



Fruit Update – 4/4/25

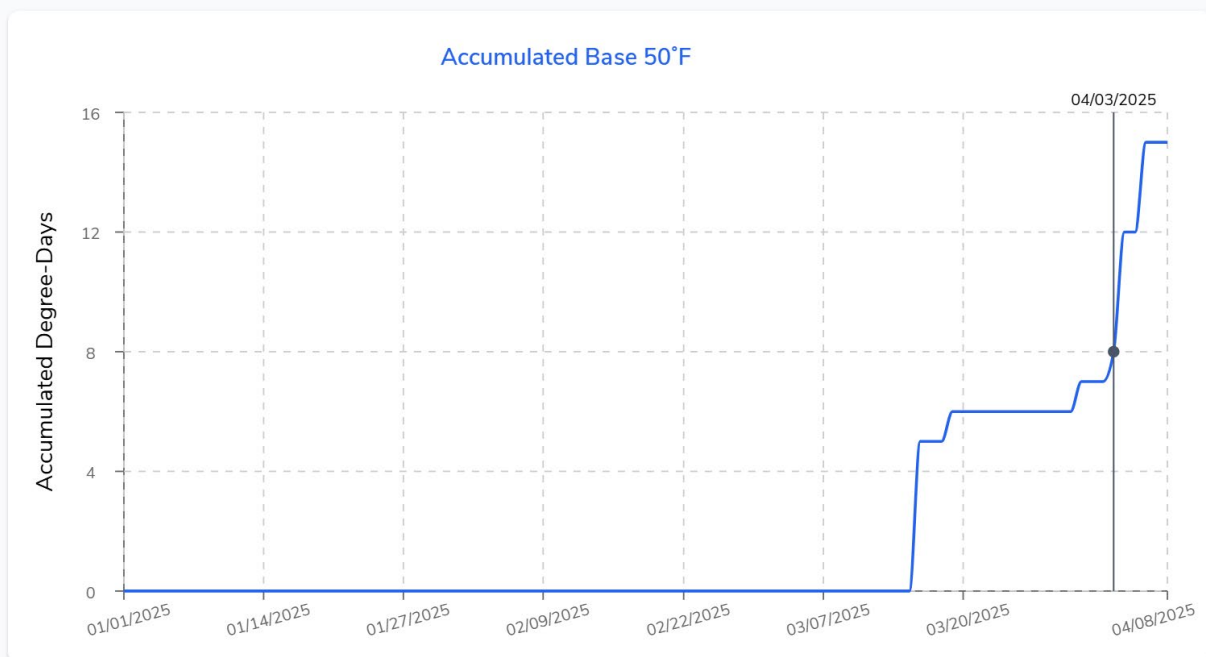
Evan Lentz – Assistant Extension Educator

Degree Day Accumulation:

Our current degree day (DD) accumulation is only 8 (base 50 from Jan. 1). Compared to this time last year, we are much further behind. Last year, DD accumulation for 4/5/24 was 73. I'm sure we are all appreciating the slower start.

Accumulated Degree Days

[Download PNG](#)



Uncovering Strawberries

Many of you have likely already removed the straw mulch from your strawberries. It is recommended that the straw be removed when soil temperatures reach 40 degrees, and you have noticed that the plants have begun growing. After checking NEWA, it appears most of our soils are now above 40 degrees (42-46 degree average). Waiting longer to uncover your plants will only serve to reduce your yields this season.



Early Scab Management

I still have not seen green-tip on any of the farms I've been to. As soon as we have green tissue, we'll all be looking to begin our scab management programs. In addition to traditional primary scab spray applications, inoculum reduction is a viable strategy for scab prevention in the early spring. To employ this strategy, two activities are recommended. Consider combining these practices for even better prevention.

- 1) **Leaf Shredding** - Although this can be done in November and/or April, the principles are the same. Shredding the leaves in drive rows has been shown to reduce scab spores by nearly 85%. Flail shopping between trees can also reduce this inoculum by about 50%. Smaller leaf pieces will break down quicker. The shredding can also serve to flip leaf material over, preventing spores from releasing into the air.
- 2) **Urea Applications** – Feed grade urea can be mixed in a 5% solution with water and sprayed on the leaf litter on the orchard floor (44 lbs. per 100 gal.). Spray the surface of the orchard floor at a rate of 100 gal. per acre. This serves to dry out/destroy the fruit structures formed on the leaf litter.

More information can be found here: <https://www.umass.edu/agriculture-food-environment/fruit/fact-sheets/reducing-apple-scab-risks-saving-scab-sprays>

Needs Assessment – Soil Health Extension Services

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.

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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