Integrated Pest Management Program
Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

Fruit Update – 4/17/26

Evan Lentz – Assistant Extension Educator

Phenology and Weather – Potential Frost Risks

Warmer than average temperatures this week have really pushed the phenology of all our fruit crops forward, beyond what is "typical" for this time of year. Although the warm weather is welcomed, this puts us in a tough position as far as potential for injury from spring frosts. Looking to next week, some pretty chilly nights are predicted and there is certainly the potential for damage.

Early peaches are in full bloom; early apples are already at pink. A low of 27/28°F is enough to kill 10% of our flowers. I'm seeing a potential low of 28°F where I am on Monday evening. Sunday-Tuesday pose concern. Please keep an eye on the weather and make preparations as needed. Below is a resource with information on critical temperatures and spring frosts.

Understanding Spring Frosts: Critical Temperatures, Freeze Injury, and Frost Protection

---

Foliar Nutrients in Apple and Pear for Crop Load Enhancement

A few of you have asked about when to apply foliar boron, zinc, and nitrogen. Now is the time. At pink, a foliar spray of Zinc-EDTA at label rate, Boron as Solubor at 1 lb/100 gal, and Nitrogen at 3 lbs feed grade biuret urea/100 gal can be applied to improve crop load.

Boron is essential for pollen tube growth, bud development and fruit set. Zinc also plays a role in pollination, fruit set and early season growth. However, it is important to note that you should be informing these decision with annual tissue test results. This allows for the most informed decisions season-long and minimizes the risk of toxicity.

Apple Scab

The weather forecast from last week has changed quite a bit. In addition to the warm temperatures, we've seen some sporadic rainstorms, mainly occurring over the past couple of nights. This moisture poses a challenge for our scab management programs. Looking at the NEWA model, we can see that spores are continuing to mature (29% as of today) and approximately 22% of ascospores have been released. Yesterday and today have daily ascospore discharge predictions of 7-9%. April 19th will bring a fairly large ascospore release, around 14%.

Ascospore Maturity Summary

Download CSV

Daily Discharge Thresholds: ≥ 10% > 20%

Date	Ascospore Maturity	Daily Ascospore Discharge	Cumulative Ascospore Discharge
Apr 15	17%	<1%	5%
Apr 16	23%	9%	14%
Apr 17 Forecast	29%	7%	22%
Apr 18 Forecast	34%	<1%	22%
Apr 19 Forecast	38%	14%	36%
Apr 20 Forecast	40%	<1%	36%
Apr 21 Forecast	42%	0%	36%
Apr 22 Forecast	47%	0%	36%

It is important to note that ascospores are not released during the dark hours of night. From what I understand the NEWA models do not take this into consideration when making predictions about infection events and severity. Being that most of the wetting events have occurred during the evening, actual risks might be a bit less than is presented here by NEWA. However, it is essential to maintain coverage during our primary scab season so that we do not have to contend with secondary infections later in the season.

Infection Events Summary

Download CSV

Events: Dry Wet

Date (2026)	Infection Events	Average Temp (°F) for wet hours	Leaf Wetness (hours)	Hours > 90% RH	Rain Amount
Apr 15	combined	61	10	8	0.1
Apr 16	combined	64	3	2	0.01
Apr 17 Forecast	yes	61	2	2	0.08
Apr 18 Forecast	no	51	5	5	0
Apr 19 Forecast	combined	49	20	9	Night: 25% Day: 85%
Apr 20 Forecast	yes	-	0	0	Night: 27% Day: 7%
Apr 21 Forecast	no	-	0	0	Night: 2% Day: 0%
Apr 22 Forecast	no	-	0	0	Night: 13% Day: 17%

Infection events, shown in red above, are based on the Revised Mills Table and are calculated beginning with 0.01 inch of rain. The word "Combined" means the wetting event on this day is being combined with another wetting event using the following rule: two successive wetting periods, the first started by rain, should be considered a single, uninterrupted wet period if the intervening dry period is less than 24 hours. **When an infection event is in the 5-day forecast, the actual weather data logged may or may not translate into an actual infection event. Therefore, the table output may change once actual weather data are logged.**

According to the model, we've been in a combined infection period for a few days. Another infection event is predicted to take place from Sunday to Monday. Please maintain coverage. Consult the New England Management Guide for Information on materials and rates.

Grapes – Bud Break

Grapes have progressed a lot over the last week. I've seen bud swell and even bud burst in multiple grape varieties. Early season control of diseases like Black Rot, Phomopsis, and Anthracnose begin at or shortly before 10 cm shoots. Those of you who struggled with any of these diseases in the last year, should keep early-season control on your radar. If you have questions about materials or rates, please consult the New England Management Guide.

Below is the link for the fungicide efficacy table from the New England Guide as well. This will be good to review for the upcoming season.

Fungicide Efficacy Table

Peach Thinning with Accede

Some of our early varieties of peaches are already in full bloom. Others are close behind. Thinning is likely on many minds. Many of you have been interested in utilizing Accede, a newer product from Valent. Our neighbors at Cornell, by way of UMass, have a recommendation for those of you trying out this material for peach thinning for the first time this year. Please see below.

CCE ENTCHP Tree Fruit E-Alert - April 14, 2026:

"Our current recommendation for Eastern New York peaches is to make a single application in 100 gallons of water per acre timed for 30% (range 10%-80%) open bloom at the middle rate of 450 ppm (app. 15 oz. of Accede SG in 100 gallons of water per acre). Time the application for slow drying conditions, generally early morning or following the heat of the day."

Additionally, anyone who has used Accede in the past or plans to this year for thinning apples or peaches, please let me know how it goes. The Connecticut Pomological Society is looking to put together a grower panel on experiences using the new material for one of our upcoming meetings.

Integrated Pest Management Program
Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture