Integrated Pest Management Program
Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

Fruit Update – 4/24/26

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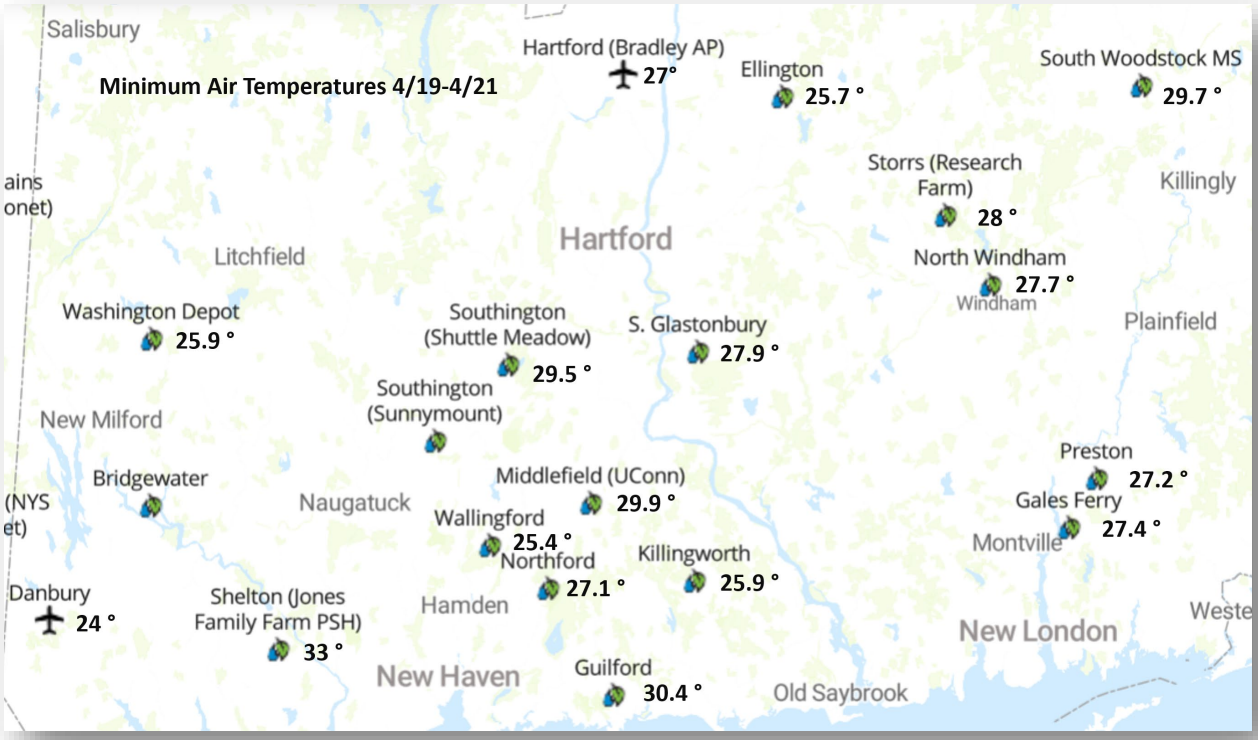
Freeze Damage Report:

By now, we're all aware the cold temperatures early this week have resulted in significant damage to our fruit crops. We are really only seeing damage in tree fruit. I have received no reports of damage to any small fruit crops. Below is a map of the lowest temperatures seen in the state from Sunday-Tuesday.



The low temperatures ranged from 24-33°F. This was highly variable and location dependent. From what I can tell, the lowest temperatures were seen in lower elevation areas. This is no surprise. The damage reports range from minimal to severe. Larger farms with multiple microclimates saw a high degree of variability in damage. Smaller farms saw more widespread, consistent damage. Based on reports, we see the need to take formal damage reports to share with our Department of Agriculture. Please fill out the survey below.

Please click here to report your damage.

Apple Scab

Ascospore Maturity Summary

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Daily Discharge Thresholds: ≥ 10% > 20%

Date	Ascospore Maturity	Daily Ascospore Discharge	Cumulative Ascospore Discharge
Apr 22	40%	0%	22%
Apr 23	45%	0%	22%
Apr 24 Forecast	50%	0%	22%
Apr 25 Forecast	50%	7%	29%
Apr 26 Forecast	53%	13%	42%
Apr 27 Forecast	57%	<1%	42%
Apr 28 Forecast	62%	0%	42%
Apr 29 Forecast	66%	0%	42%

According to our model, we're just under halfway through our primary scab season with approximately 42% of spores released. There is a large ascospore discharge predicted for this Sunday. However, our model shows minimal likelihood of an infection event. Still, it is a good idea to stay covered as things can change quickly.

Infection Events Summary

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Events: Dry Wet

Date (2026)	Infection Events	Average Temp (°F) for wet hours	Leaf Wetness (hours)	Hours > 90% RH	Rain Amount
Apr 22	no	41	11	11	0
Apr 23	no	37	8	8	0
Apr 24 Forecast	no	-	0	0	0
Apr 25 Forecast	no	-	0	0	0.04
Apr 26 Forecast	no	-	0	0	Night: 35% Day: 58%
Apr 27 Forecast	no	-	0	0	Night: 27% Day: 21%
Apr 28 Forecast	no	-	0	0	Night: 17% Day: 15%
Apr 29 Forecast	no	48	5	5	Night: 27% Day: 41%

As always, consult the New England Management Guide for information on materials and rates. Remember to rotate your materials.

Fireblight

We've reached bloom for many of our apples. Our early varieties are already in full bloom. Generally, we need to be thinking about Fireblight management as soon as a single flower is open. However, chemical management should always be informed by the models. Our models are predicting minimal infection risk.

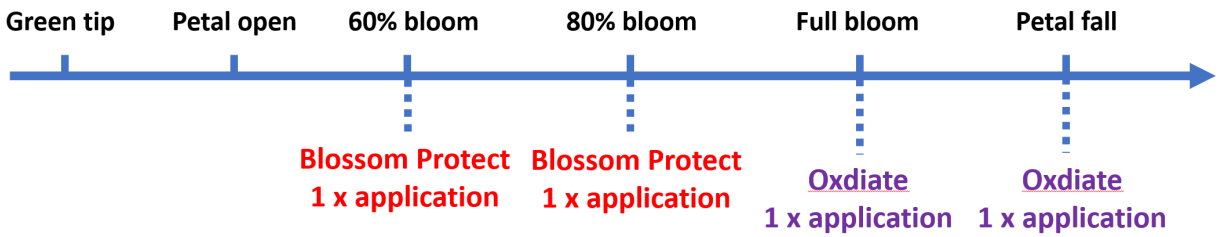
Results Table — Download CSV

Forecast Details

Date (2026)	Cougar Blight V8 Daily TRV (Risk Levels: Marginal / High / Extreme)	Infection Potential EIP value (Risk Levels: Low / Moderate / High / Infection)
April 22	0	0
April 23	19	0
April 24 Forecast	19	0
April 25 Forecast	19	0
April 26 Forecast	19	0
April 27 Forecast	0	0
April 28 Forecast	0	0
April 29 Forecast	0	0

* Indicates incomplete accumulation of the 4-day DH total. The DH value may reach "Caution", "High" or "Extreme" levels before spanning the 4-day accumulation cut-off time of Cougarblight.

When an infection event is predicted, antibiotic applications are generally recommended. Rotation with a copper product is an option, but only for those operations that are fine with some degree of russeting. For organic growers, biologicals such as Blossom Protect can be applied to help reduce the likelihood of infection. It is recommended that Blossom Protect be applied twice during bloom (at 60% and 80% bloom). An organic 2+2 program has been working out well for growers organic across New England, with control on par with Streptomycin applications. The protocol is below, courtesy of Dr. Quan Zeng.



A rate of 1.25 lbs of Blossom Protect tank mixed with 5 lbs of Buffer Protect NT per 100 gallons/acre is recommended. A 1:256 dilution of Oxidate at 100-200 gallons per acre is recommended. This protocol is not only for organic growers but can be introduced into

conventional management programs to help reduce the likelihood of developing antibiotic resistance.

For more materials and rates, please consult the New England Management Guide.
