Integrated Pest Management Program
Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

Fruit Update – 4/3/26

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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. Waiting longer to uncover your plants will only serve to reduce your yields this season.

Mummyberry

The forsythia are in bloom. Overwintering Mummyberry spores are maturing and getting ready to be released with rain. Mulch applications should be made as soon as possible if not already done. If you struggle with Mummyberry, spring fungicide applications may be needed. Applications can begin at budbreak and should continue through bloom.

FRAC groups 3, 7, 9 and 11 are effective at controlling the primary disease cycle infections. Indar (3), Inspire Super (3,9), Luna Tranquility, (7,9) Orbit/Tilt (3), Proline (3), Quash (3) are all rated as very effective.

For rates and more information consult the New England Management Guide.

Anthracnose in Brambles

Our early bramble varieties are pushing out shoots and leaves already. Early season anthracnose management should begin when canes reach 6-8 inches in height. A second application can be made once canes reach12-15 inches in height.

FRAC groups M01, M02, and M04 are all rated as having some effectiveness against anthracnose. Group M02 is rated as having the best efficacy; however, the window for using these materials ends with new can emergence. You'll need to look at groups M01, M04, 3, 9, and 11.

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

Early Scab Management

Green tip has arrived for some of our varieties and locations. 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 I 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 spires 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

Ascospore Maturity

Date	Ascospore Maturity	Daily Ascospore Discharge	Cumulative Ascospore Discharge
Apr 1	2%	<1%	<1%
Apr 2	2%	0%	<1%
Apr 3 Forecast	2%	0%	<1%
Apr 4 Forecast	3%	0%	<1%
Apr 5 Forecast	4%	3%	3%
Apr 6 Forecast	4%	<1%	3%

Infection Events

Apr 5 Forecast	combined	53	19	9	Night: 55% Day: 96%
Apr 6 Forecast	yes	-	0	0	Night: 19% Day: 1%

Ascospore maturity and release are still very low. However, April 5-6 will bring an infection event. I know some of you have already made your first spray applications this week. Remember, spray applications should be timed around infection events. Be aware of what types of materials you are

applying and the mode of action that they have. Materials listed below have high efficacy for scab management. Please ensure that materials are rotated.

- Captan (M4)
- Mancozeb (M3)
- Syllit (M7)
- Cevya (3), Indar (3)
- Aprovia (7), Excalia (7), Fontelis (7), Sercadis (7)
- Scala (9), Vangard (9)
- Flint (11), Flint Extra (11), Sovran (11)
- Omega (29)
- Inspire Super (3+9)
- Luna Tranquility (7+9)
- Luna Sensation (7+11), Merivon (7+11), Pristine (7+11)

For more information on Materials and rates, please consult the New England Management Guide.

Insects

We are still a bit early for most of our insect pests. However, we need to be thinking about early scouting and getting our monitoring traps out.

Rosy Apple Aphid – Colonies may be present this early but are usually not noticeable until half-inch green. It is important to scout for these colonies early on and make spray applications before colonies cause leaf curl. Once leaves start to curl, the efficacy of insecticide applications drops significantly.

Oriental Fruit Moth, Codling Moth – These traps should be set out by bloom. The more accurate our biofix dates are, the better management decisions we can make later on in the season. If anyone is in need of traps/lures for any of these early pests, please reach out and I will get some to you.
