Integrated Pest Management Program
Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

Fruit Update – 5/29/26

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Grape Flea Beetle:

Grape Flea Beetle larvae have been observed in a few locations. See below for some information and recommendations. Usually, this pest is not very impactful.

From UConn HGEC:

In the early spring, the adults emerge from overwintering sites, feed upon grape buds, mate and lay eggs. The larvae emerge in about two weeks and begin feeding on leaves. Between late June and late July, the larvae will drop to the ground to pupate. Adult beetles emerge in late July and feed on grapevine leaves, but they do not mate or lay eggs. In the fall the adults move to overwintering sites. There is one generation per year in Connecticut. Usually, infestations are localized. However, in plantings located near favorable hibernating quarters such as wasteland, woodland, and abandoned vineyards, feeding can be severe, especially in the border rows.

Chemical Management Options:*

- Danitol 2.4EC, 10.67-21.3oz (21)
- Delegate 25WG, 3-5 oz (3)
- Imidan 70WP, 1.33 (7)-2.12 lb (14)
- Leverage 360, 3.2-6.4 oz (3)
- Sevin 4F, 2 qt (7)
- DiPel DF, 0.5-2 lb (0)
- Entrust SC, 4-8 oz (0)

*All labeled for use until bloom. Materials listed will also work to control Climbing Cutworm, Banded Grape Bug, and Grape Plume Moth. See the New England Guide for rates.

Aphids:

I've noticed early colonies of Green Apple Aphids on apple shoot tips and leaf curling at Rosy Apple Aphid feeding sites. I have not yet observed Woolies. If these pests escaped your dormant oil applications, an organophosphate insecticide, 1-2% insecticidal soap, or a summer horticultural oil are the best options. If leaves have already curled, aphids are protected, and a systemic insecticide should be used. Please see the New England Guide for materials and rates.

Botrytis – Brambles:

Botrytis infections are common, even when we don't have fruit out there yet, as early as bloom. The best control for this is to maintain open plantings and keep up on your annual pruning. However, preventative fungicide applications are warranted starting at bloom and when we have wet weather for both summer bearing and fall bearing varieties. The New England Guide suggests applications are to be made at 5% bloom and again at full bloom, repeating as needed with wet weather. Below are materials (with rates) that are rated as Very Effective against botrytis. As a reminder, rotating your materials is required!

- Botrystop (OMRI) – 3 lbs *Note: Do not use a stomatal flooding or penetrant adjuvant*
- CaptEvate – 3.5 lbs *Note: For raspberries only*
- Elevate – 1.5 lbs
- OSO (OMRI)
- Ph-D – 6.2 oz
- Pristine – 18.5-23 oz
- Rovral – 1-2 pt

Tarnished Plant Bug:

Tarnish Plant Bugs will feed on developing flowers and fruit, causing deformation or cat-facing. Controlling weeds around the planting area can help to reduce pressure. Scouting for this pest is essential. See below for a protocol on sampling. If an insecticide is required, plan to mow your aisles afterwards to control insects that are migrating.

Table 20. Monitoring for tarnished plant bug in strawberry.

NUMBER OF FLOWER CLUSTERS INFESTED			
NUMBER OF CLUSTERS EXAMINED	CONTROL NOT REQUIRED	KEEP SAMPLING	CONTROL REQUIRED THRESHOLD: 0.15 NYMPHS/CLUSTER
15	0	1 to 2; check 5 more	3 or more
20	0	1 to 3; check 5 more	4 or more
25	1 or less	2 to 3; check 5 more	4 or more
30	2 or less	3; check 5 more	4 or more
35	3 or less	4; check 5 more	5 or more
40	3 or less	4; check 5 more	5 or more
45	4 or less	5; check 5 more	6 or more
50	5 or less		6 or more

From the New England Guide:

To save time, a sequential sampling plan may used to determine how many clusters should be sampled. By using Table 19 above, you can make a spray/no spray/keep looking decision by first examining a minimum of 15 clusters. If you find 0 TPB nymphs, you can stop and make a "no spray" decision. If you find more than 0 but less than 3, you should continue sampling. If you find 3 or more TPB nymphs, control is required in order to avoid economic damage to your crop. If the maximum of 50 flower clusters are sampled and no decision is indicated, the grower should sample again in 1 or 2 days. This method allows scouts to spend less time monitoring in fields where populations are very low, or very high. More time is spent sampling fields where TPB populations are close to the threshold.

Other Quick Notes:

Scab – We are showing 100% spore release. I know some of you will continue to maintain cover for another week or so. That's fine. I'm starting to see the first scab lesions of the year show up on some of our unmanaged trees. We will all know how we did soon.

Fireblight – This is only an issue for those with lingering bloom. This shouldn't be too many of you. However, the risk is predicted as High/Extreme currently. This event lasts until June 1. I've gotten some calls about newly planted trees with delayed bloom. These need to be managed just the same.

Thinning – I've talked with some of you already about thinning. Some of you are done, some are still working. Again, the key window for thinning is when our fruit is between 8-12 mm. Check last week's Fruit Update for more information.

Lastly, **there will be no 2026 Connecticut Pomological Society Summer Meeting**. This was a tough decision for the executive committee to make. I was told there have been a year or two in the past where the meeting did not occur. So, we look forward to next year and to our meeting this winter.
