



Integrated Pest Management Program

Department of Plant Science and Landscape
Architecture

Fruit Update – 7/30/26

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Summer Rots

Another reminder to stay covered for your summer rots. These last rain events have introduced quite a bit of moisture into our orchards and will likely increase the disease we've been seeing. My scouts and I have seen some Bitter Rot again this season. However, many of you are doing a good job staying covered. We do not look as bad as this time last year.

Sooty Blotch; Flyspeck



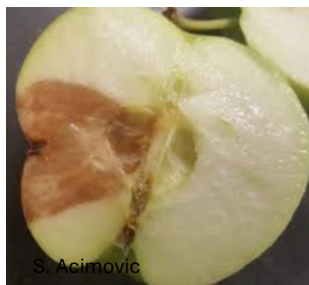
UMass

Bitter Rot



S. Acimovic

White Rot



S. Acimovic

Black Rot



H. Faubert

For information on materials and efficacy, please consult the [New England Tree Fruit Management Guide's Spray Table](#).

Downy Mildew in Grapes

The wet, warm weather favors this disease's formation. It can spread quickly and can even infect your fruit if fungicide cover is not maintained directly post bloom through harvest. If fruit is infected, berries will begin to shrivel, darken and eventually fall off onto the vineyard floor. Summer pruning and an adequate fungicide schedule will usually keep the disease under control. For details on rates and materials, please consult the [New England Small Fruit Management Guide](#).





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Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Stink Bug captures are starting to increase. This is one of our late season pests. Although populations in most locations remain relatively low, some of our orchards have reached threshold. If you are not trapping for this pest, you should get out and scout. This is one of the pests that can severely impact our fruit quality and getting to the finish line for much of our tree fruit. For materials and rates, please consult the [Tree Fruit Management Guide](#).



Spotted Wing Drosophila

SWD trap captures remain incredibly low across the state. I've gotten calls from farmers asking why this is as they are not finding any in their fruit either. This is good news. The experiment station, Dr. Claire Rutledge, has been doing great work with the parasitoid wasps. Our hope, and what we see supports this, is that the parasitoids are out there doing their job. Monitoring should continue through till the need of your season either way. If anyone is noticing high SWD pressure at your farm, please let me know.

Either way, the threshold for this pest remains the same (1/trap). Once you reach threshold, an insecticide should be applied. IRAC groups 4a, 3, 5, and 3A provide the best management efficacy. Please consult the [New England Small Fruit Management Guide](#) for more information.

Brown Rot

The second critical period for brown rot control is 3 weeks prior to harvest. During this time fruit is susceptible to infection. This continual rain and warm weather are the perfect conditions for this disease. Please maintain your fungicide covers through harvest. For a list of materials and rates please refer to the [New England Management Guide](#).



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Reminder about Tissue Sampling:

Just a little reminder.....tissue sampling should be part of your nutrient management program. It is the best tool that we have to understand the nutritional statuses of our plants. Combined with regular soil testing, it allows for informed decisions and optimal plant nutrient levels.

- Optimal Timing for Analyses:

- Tree Fruit – 60-70 days post petal fall
- Grapes – bloom or version*
- Brambles – late July to mid-August*
- Blueberries – late July to mid-August*
- Strawberries – at renovation

- How to Collect Samples:

- Tree Fruit – collect leaves from this year's growth from the middle of a shoot (avoid vigorous suckers)
- Berries – collect the most recently matured leaves
- Grapes – collect petioles from young fully expanded leaves

Samples need to be rinsed and dried before being shipped or dropped off to the UConn Soil Nutrient Analysis Laboratory (SNAL). Instructions for sampling and submission forms can be found here at the SNAL website: <https://soiltesting.cahnr.uconn.edu/analysis/> I can assist with this process if you are unsure; please reach out.

Registration is now open for the **2026 New England Vegetable and Fruit Growers Conference**. This conference takes place December 15-17 in Manchester, New Hampshire. This is the New England Extension network's best effort to provide you with essential programming and networking. Please consider joining. Program information and schedule will be available soon.

Registration: <https://newenglandvfc.org/>

Announcement: Farm Recovery and Support Block Grant

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has announced the Farm Recovery and Support Block grant for farmers who suffered losses from weather events in 2023 and 2024. Applications are not open yet but please review the information provided and be prepared to submit your applications when the portal opens.

More Information: <https://portal.ct.gov/FRS>

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