



Vol. 11 No. 4

April 27, 2011

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Fruit Bud Development

With warmer temperatures this past weekend and on Monday apple buds progressed to the green tip stage on most cultivars and areas of the Valley. Pear buds are at the bud burst stage as well as cherries and plums. Fruit trees were at this stage on April 7th of last year.

2011 Degree Day Accumulations

(Temperature data provided by Jeff Franklin, AFHRC, Kentville)

Table 1.0 Degree day accumulations as of Apr 25, 2011. All data taken from the Kentville weather station except for observations from April 11th to 25th inclusive which were taken from the Greenwood Airport. Degree day accumulations are calculated using the single sine method and are based on a start date of January 1, 2011.

Category	2008	2009	2010	2011	5 year average
Plant development (Base 5°C)	95.8	72.4	141.3	72.1	99.5
Insect development (Base 10°)	24.8	17.2	44.9	16.3	27.7

DISEASES

Scab

Now that green tissue is visible on both apples and pears, scab infection can take place under the right weather conditions. The wet weather yesterday and today has resulted in the first infection period of the year. At the time of the Orchard Outlook meeting the wetting period was 26 hours and ongoing. The wetting period began at 6:00 am in Kentville with an average temperature of 8.9°C. Some growers were able to apply a fungicide prior to the infection period and those that did not will need to apply one as

soon as possible. An infection based upon a 6:00 am start time would have been established by 9:00 pm Tuesday. A fungicide application applied this afternoon would control the infection.

Growers that are following organic regime will need to be applying Kumulus and Microscopic sulphur on a regular bases to control apple and pear scab. These only act to protect and wash off easily thus will need to be reapplied after a significant rain fall. Lime sulphur is also an option as it has some after infection activity.

Fire Blight

Growers that had fire blight infection can apply a fixed copper spray prior to tight cluster and preferably not much beyond half inch green up to reduce the bacteria numbers produced from over wintering cankers. Copper can also serve as a protectant spray for fire blight but it has not reached back activity. If a fungicide is needed for the present infection period then do not use copper. If the window of growth allows, apply it as the next spray.

INSECTS

At this stage in tree fruit activity there is very little insect activity. Erika Bent did a report at this morning's meeting and she has been finding lots of European red mite eggs. It was felt that last year's longer growing season and late season warm temperatures contributed to the high number of eggs. Growers should consider the use of an oil spray to reduce the early season population of mites and avoid stress on the trees. Orchards that have a high population of overwintering eggs will most likely require a post bloom or summer miticide treatment following an oil treatment. The rate of Super Oil 70 sec is 65 L/ha and this should be applied with a minimum of 1000 L of water per hectare to be effective.

New Pesticides

The following two pesticides received registration after the revision to the 2011/2012 Orchard Management Schedule for Apple and Pears were completed.

Syngenta Crop Protection Canada, Inc. received registration for the fungicide Inspire™ on apples and pears. The disease controlled are apple and pear scab, powdery mildew and the secondary summer diseases, flyspeck, sooty blotch, Brooks spot and rusts. Syngenta rates its control of scab as being very good and good against powdery mildew. It belongs in the group 3 class of pesticides which is the same as that of Nova and Nustar so resistance management is very important. Syngenta is recommending only two applications per season and that they not be made back to back starting around ½ inch green for scab and tight cluster for powdery mildew. An application of Inspire should be followed by a fungicide of another class before the second Inspire application is made. It can be applied by itself but for improved control tank mixing e with one of the following

Vanguard, Dithane, Manzate, Maestro Pencoze or Supra Captan. It has a 48 kick back period. The re-entry interval is 12 hours and days to harvest 14 days.

Petro Canada received registration for Spray Oil 13E which is a mineral oil. On apples and pears it has registration for the control of the scale insects European red mite and pear psylla. It can also be used on peach plums and sour cherry for European red mite and scale. As a dormant or pre tight cluster application the rate is 60 L /ha. It can be also used as a summer oil treatment which is new for Canada. As a summer spray it can suppress European red mite and powdery mildew. The summer rate is 10 L/100l or 30 L/ha.

HORTICULTURAL TIPS

Pruning Honeycrisp: Douglas Nichols and Charlie Embree

Incorporate Spur Wood Removal to assist Crop Load Management

Due to inherent low vigour, the growth and fruiting habit of Honeycrisp requires cultivar specific pruning and training techniques. In apple, the lateral limb fruiting habit is such that, fruit spurs usually form on one year wood and bloom the following spring. Fruiting laterals should remain in production for 2 or 3 years. The pruning system engaged must leave a sufficient number of new shoots each year, to insure the continued production of new fruit spurs.

A field study was conducted between 2006 and 2010 to determine the impact of three levels of spur-wood removal on lateral shoot renewal, annual blossom intensity and fruit size of Honeycrisp in three commercial Annapolis valley orchards.

Removal of 50% of the spur-wood stimulated shoot growth and reduced blossom intensity. Spur-wood was only adjusted in the first year of the five year study. Regardless of the severity of the initial pruning, after three seasons spur wood removal should be repeated to maintain vegetative shoot growth and reduce the amount of fruiting spur wood.

Weed Control

Grass and weeds have been growing for a while and growers could begin to apply herbicides for vegetation control. There have been a number of articles on the negative effect of glyphosate on tree health. When using any of the glyphosate products avoid spraying the trunk of the trees and lower limbs.

Tree Planting

Growers that will be planting trees this spring should only plant them when the ground is dry enough to work. Those that had spring fumigation done need to wait until the fumigant can no longer be detected in the soil.

Fertilizer Application

Fertilizer application should be applied as soon as possible.

NSFGA Spring Workshop April 27, 2011

Afternoon Session - Eisses Farms Ltd., 1190 Thorpe Rd., Centreville
(Meet by the big red barn)

1:30 PM: Demonstration of the Darwin Mechanical Thinner

Evening Session - Waterville Fire Hall

7:00 PM: Welcome and Introduction

7:05 PM: Mechanical Thinning - John Cline, University of Guelph

7:35 PM: New Orchard Management Schedule, New Registrations - Bill Craig, AgraPoint

7:50 PM: Brown Marmorated Stink Bug - Dr. Suzanne Blatt, AFHRC

8:10 PM: Honeycrisp Crop Load Management Update - Doug Nichols, NSFGA

8:30 PM: Response of Ambrosia to ReTain

Use of Plant Bioregulators (PBRs) on Northern Spy - John Cline,
University of Guelph

Sponsored by: NM Bartlett Inc. and AgraPoint

NSFGA Cherry Workshop May 3, 2011

8:30 AM: Sharp Tour the NC140 Cherry Rootstock Trial at *AFHRC Kentville*

Cornwallis Room

Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research Centre (AFHRC), Kentville

9:00 AM: Welcome and Introduction

9:05 AM: Cherry Nutrition - Dr. Greg Lang, Michigan State University

9:35 AM: Insect Pests of Cherry - Dr. Suzanne Blatt, AFHRC

10:05 AM: New Stone Fruit Management Schedule, New Registrations - Bill
Craig, AgraPoint

10:20 AM: Break

10:35 AM: Diseases of Cherry - Dr. Gordon Braun, AFHRC

11:05 AM: Training Systems for Cherry - Dr. Greg Lang, Michigan State

11:35 AM: Soils/Irrigation for Cherry - Keith Fuller, AFHRC

12:00 PM: LUNCH on your own

Orchard Visits - discussions to include soil fertility, weed management, tree training, pruning.

Orchards:

1:30 PM: Rob Peil, Starr's Point

2:15 PM: Andrew Bishop, Lower Canard

3:00 PM: Blake Sarsfield, Medford

4:00 PM: Waldo Walsh, Rockland

*Editor: Bill Craig
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