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### Fruit Bud Development

Fruit buds did advance during the past week even though day time temperatures have not been that warm with the exception of last Thursday and Saturday. General apples are at the half inch to early tight cluster stage of development but if you look hard enough some tight bluster bud development can be found on early cultivars. Pears would still be classed as being at the bud burst stage which would be the same for cherry and plum.

### 2011 Degree Day Accumulations

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

Table 1.0 Degree day accumulations as of May 2, 2011. All data taken from the Kentville weather station except for observations from April 11th to 28th 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)	118.1	114.2	168.9	110.9	124.4
Insect development (Base 10°)	30.2	36.1	53.9	30.1	35.4

### DISEASES

#### Scab

The infection period that began last Tuesday April 26 at 6:00 am finally came to an end around noon on Thursday April 28<sup>th</sup>. The 54 hour wetting period with an average temperature of 10°C was classed as a heavy infection period. Hopefully growers were able to get a fungicide on to control this infection period. There have been several showers since last Thursday however the wetting periods have not been long enough for an infection period. It is still a bit early for effective use of a DMI class of fungicide

(Nova and Nustar) or strobilurin fungicide (Sovran, Nustar Pristine) for scab control. It would be better to wait until next week when buds are at the tight cluster to pink stage of development.

### **Powdery Mildew**

In orchard blocks that had heavy mildew infection last year, growers should consider starting a control program now. Mildew will start showing up on buds that were infected last year. Fungicides application will eliminate spore production from these infections there by stopping or reducing the spread of this fungal disease. The pink to post bloom period is the period when shoot growth is most susceptible to mildew infection. Remember that mildew spreads more rapidly under warm humid conditions; it does not like cool wet weather. Fungicide options for mildew and scab control are Nova, Nustar, Sovran Flint and Pristine. To slow or prevent the development of resistance Nova, Nustar, Sovran and Flint should be mixed with a half rate of one of the following: Maestro/Captan, Manzate, Dithane or Polyram. Never use more than 2 back to back sprays of the DMI (Nova, Nustar) or strobilurin (Flint Sovran) or more than four sprays of a Si or strobilurin in a growing season.

### **Fire Blight**

Bud development is advanced to the stage where the application of copper to reduce the bacteria from cankers presents a risk of fruit resetting. Fire blight infection will not take place until the bloom period at which time we will keep you informed on the risk of an infection and the need for streptomycin sprays.

### **Brown Rot**

Stone fruit are only at the bud burst stage therefore there is no need to apply fungicides for brown rot control. Spray applications of a fungicide should begin when the buds are at the white bud stage.

### **INSECTS ACTIVITY**

It is still a bit early in the season to be worried about controlling pest with the exception of European red mite. Although I have looked for rosy aphid, it has likely hatched as well as winter and pug moth. These pests will be easier to access in the bud separation stage of growth.

### **European Red Mite**

Application of Superior oil could begin now when good spray conditions exist. The oil needs to be applied to egg hatch which occurs around the pink stage of flower bud development. The rate of oil at this time is 65L/ha. The oil needs to be applied with a

minimum of 1000L of water per hectare to be effective. The oil has to cover the eggs thus even water has to be applied to cover all of the spurs and limbs.

## **HORTICULTURE**

### **Pruning**

The snow load in orchards prevented many growers from getting an early start on pruning and I am sure that pruning will continue right up until bloom. Those growers that are behind should make sure that their young trees are pruned as soon as possible. Delaying the pruning will result in less shoot growth.

### **Tree Guards**

It is best to remove the tree guards off of young trees. The bark stays moist under these guards which could lead to canker problems.

*Contributions and consultations were made in the preparation of this newsletter with the Orchard Outlook Committee*

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