



Integrated Pest Management Program

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UConn Extension

Fruit Update: April 29, 2022

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Foliar nutrient applications:

This has been a cool spring overall although bud development hasn't been slowed. With apples at or close to pink, you may want to consider an application of **nitrogen**. This will help to strengthen the flowers through bloom, as well as aiding in fruit set and fruit size. The highest nitrogen demand is bloom through the end of shoot growth. An application of urea at 3#/100 at pink is recommended and can go in with your fungicide and insecticide. Follow this up with 5#/100 at petal fall if bloom is dragged out. Foliar urea is not recommended for pears or stone fruit.

Boron plays a significant role in pollen tube growth, bud development and fruit set. A foliar application of Solubor at 3#/Acre at tight cluster-pink is recommended. If the trees are deficient (foliar analysis from last year would answer that question), follow up at 1st and 3rd covers.

Zinc plays a role in pollination, fruit set and early season shoot growth. Foliar application of Zn EDTA at TC and 2nd cover at the rate of 3 qt or 3#/acre; or Zn sulfates or mancozeb which has zinc in it.

Please note that micronutrient applications should only be made in blocks that have a need based on tissue analysis. There is a thin line between toxicity and deficiency with micronutrients because plants use it in small quantities.

Nitrogen on Strawberries. Strawberry plants take up and store nitrogen from late summer & early fall fertilizer applications. When there is adequate supply in the plants, good growth can be expected the following year. However, the majority of vegetative growth does not occur until after harvest when the plants send out runners. Up until that point, most of the plant's energy is going into fruit production.

However, if this present weather pattern continues and you are not sure whether your plants took up enough nitrogen last fall, and if you are concerned about poor growth, an application of LESS THAN 30 lbs. of actual nitrogen per acre may be warranted.

Mating disrupters for Codling moth and Oriental fruit moth should be on before the flowers open. If you do not have a problem with OFM, then use the CM disrupters. If you know you have had issues with both in the past, use the combination disrupters, Isomate CM/OFM TT (Pacific BioControl) or Cidetrak CM-OFM Combo (Trece). For additional information [click here](#).

Threshold: The first year mating disrupters are used you may need a treatment if trap captures are above threshold. After that you should see shut down and any trap captures should be below threshold. Use CM and OFM lures separately in traps with a threshold of 5 captures/trap/week (CM); any more than occasional (OFM), for a treatment.

Dogwood borer mating disrupters should be up very soon. They are very effective in blocks of 5 acres and more. Other options: (1) painting diluted white latex paint on the lower trunk, particularly on your new and young apple trees, and on trees with burrknots. This makes the trees less appealing to the DWB, but painting alone is not likely to provide totally control.

(2) An Assail trunk spray, to the lower 4 feet of the trunk, applied once either pre-bloom or post-bloom is moderately effective.

An **Apogee/Kudos** (Prohexadione-calcium) application for the reduction of vegetative growth of apples, will reduce **Fireblight** of shoots, and should be applied at pink when temperatures are greater than 65°F for best results. Do not use on trees that are not mature and have not filled their allotted space.

Diseases of strawberry and blueberry. It is the king blossoms that are opening now and are susceptible to Botrytis blossom blight, a fungal disease. Skipping a spray or delaying the start of botrytis sprays will result in infected blossoms which = infected fruit. The king flower is not one you want to lose because it develops into the largest berries. There are many options for both non-organic and organic growers in the [New England Small Fruit Management Guide](#).

Phomopsis twig blight on blueberries should be treated IF you have had it in the past, OR you see lesions now. Not everyone will be impacted by this fungal disease which is why there is no need to spray unless you know it is a problem in your block. Look on the canes for a brown area around buds. This is where the infection began. An infected twig will have dead or dying flower buds. Warm wet weather is ideal for infections to occur. Check out the [New England Small Fruit Management guide](#) for labeled materials.



Photo: P. Wharton,
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