



## Fruit Update: August 23, 2022

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**Strawberry fertilization:** June bearing strawberries will need their second fertilization anytime between now and mid-September to help with flower bud development and to over-winter. If, and that is a big if, rain is forecast in your area, the application should go on immediately before that. If you have overhead irrigation or are set up for fertigation, then there is no need to wait for rain. Apply 20-30 lbs. actual nitrogen per acre.

**BMSB** populations are once again extremely low – that’s great. But it does make me wonder why. They are rising in NY and MA. If you are trapping with a tedder trap, the threshold is 10 cumulative/trap; a clear sticky trap with lures, the threshold is 4 cumulative/trap; and without a trap, the threshold is 1 per 500 feet of block border. The border scouting includes looking in sumac and chokeberry along the wood line. BMSB and native stinkbugs like plants with seeds. They also are attracted to plantain and pigweed for the same reason.



I am seeing a few nymphs but no adults – a bit odd for this time of the year when adults are usually quite abundant.

If you are at threshold, the chemical options can be found [here](#)

**Codling Moth:** A 3rd generation of codling moth is expected soon. However, this is not usually a problem in CT. It is only a concern in blocks that have damage from the 1<sup>st</sup> and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> generations. If earlier generations were managed well then you have very little to be concerned about.

Not sure you have damage? As you scout, look for frass on apples.



**Bird damage** is extensive. Some growers are reporting more birds and bird damage than in the past. They damage with their claws as well as their beaks as they feed.

There are repellents you can use to spray on but without rain to wash it off prior to harvest, probably not the number one choice. Other choices include scare tactics such as raptor kites flying over the block, metallic streamers or CDs (if you haven't gotten rid of all your old ones 😊), metallic eye balls, owls that move their heads; and noise makers that make birds believe a predator is nearby. Netting in orchards not always practical.



**Yellow jackets** are a nuisance with berries and tree fruit – more so this year than normal. With the drought they are after water. With raspberries, they feed on the berries but instead of eating the entire berry, they feed on some of it, so it is unmarketable and then move on to another one. With tree fruit, they look for damaged fruit making it easier to get to the water.



Management: not much can be done other than trying to supply water away from the berry field and ripe fruit. Place water containers on the outside of the block to try to pull them away.



**Picture of the week:**

Beavers like apple trees and apparently needed this one for damn construction.



Funding provided by USDA NIFA CPPM grant 2021-70006-35582

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