



# Integrated Pest Management Program

Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture  
UConn Extension

Fruit Update – 5/19/23 – FREEZE EVENT

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I've just gotten back from traveling around the state for the past two days. The freeze early Thursday morning was absolutely devastating in many locations. From what I've been told, the cold temperatures averaged around 28°F in areas with extensive damage, with one report as low as 20°F. These temperatures lingered for up to 4 hours in some locations. Some growers are sure that this is the worst spring frost event that they can remember. As I said, the damage is extensive in many locations and across all commodities including strawberries, blueberries, grapes, and tree fruit – up to 90% loss estimated for some of these.

- Strawberry blossoms were zapped, some later varieties with no flowers out yet looked fine.
- Blueberry blossoms were zapped and much of the developing fruit is turning black. There is frost damage to vegetative shoots as well.
- Grape shoots and inflorescences are also damaged.
- Developing fruitlets on apple trees are damaged, many already turning black/brown and shriveling.



If you do not have this kind of damage, consider yourself lucky. It has not been a good two days for many of your fellow fruit growers. Some things to consider below:

- Contact your insurance companies as soon as possible.
- Assess your damage; Check out these two links → [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#)
  - It's best to wait a few days to fully assess the damage. Sometimes things may look worse than they are. However, much of the damage that I have been seeing is very apparent.
  - Brown/black on blossoms or inside developing fruit is generally a good sign of frost damage.
- Report your damage to me:
  - I'd like to know what the damage looks like for everyone once you see where you are at. I'd like acreage, percent loss, and a ballpark of lost revenue, if possible. I'm not sure what I can do with this information, but it might be helpful in the future.
  - Email here: [Evan.lentz@uconn.edu](mailto:Evan.lentz@uconn.edu)



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