



Integrated Pest Management Program

Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
UConn Extension

Fruit Update – 5/5/23

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Apples:

Apple Thinning – It's that time of year. I just finished a webinar with Terrance Robinson who spoke of apple thinning. [Here is some of the information I pulled out from the discussion](#). If you need assistance using the NEWA Models, please reach out, I can assist with this.

Codling Moth – I have traps out around the state and no adults have been caught. The warmer weather coming may change this. I'll keep everyone posted.

Pollination – There is much concern about pollination this spring. Cloudy, cool weather is generally not conducive to pollination; however, I was out this week and did see bees out pollinating.



Peaches:

Peach Tree Borers (LPTB, GPTB) – Mating disruption and insecticides are your two options for controlling these pests. Right now, the thing to do is use [Isomate PTB-Dual](#) pheromone ties. These work for both the LPTB and the GPTB. These need to be set out by shuck split at a rate of 200 ties/acre, distributed uniformly. These will work for 100-120 days. Research shows that these ties are essentially 100% effective. However, if you have a neighbor growing peaches and they are not using mating disruption, it's a moot point. Also, these ties are less effective on hilly or sloped sites. In either of these cases monitoring and insecticides are your best bet. Check the [New England Tree Fruit Management Guide](#) for more information on materials and rates.

Yes, there will be somewhat of a peach crop in Connecticut. It's variety and location dependent. Many growers are pleasantly surprised as the season progresses.

Blueberries:

Phomopsis – Here is an example of Phomopsis Twig Blight found last week at a farm in central CT. Considered the most prevalent of canker diseases, it's easily mistaken for Fusicoccum Canker. Spores are released from old cankers in the spring from bud swell to petal fall (that's now). Rain, which we have had plenty of, is required for the spores to release and warmer temperatures (70-80°F) really encourage infections. Luckily, we have been a bit cooler than this. This disease can move down from infected canes to the crown and then back up new canes. Symptoms include shoot dieback, premature fruit ripening, and stem lesions.



Shoots with cankers should be pruned out, as they serve as inoculum for next year. Avoid unnecessary cultivation and do not fertilize after July 1. Prune out the weakest canes and keep your plants well-watered this summer. Fungicides are also effective: see the [New England Small Fruit Management Guide](#) for more information on materials, rates and timing of applications.

Weed Control – Adequate weed control in blueberries is an issue shared by many growers. I've seen a ton of Mugwort out there this year. Once these perennial weeds are established, it's very hard to control them in your orchard. Mowing, mulching, and keeping your pH dialed in are likely your best options. For more information of weed control and aisle management Check out this [Quick Reference Guide](#).

Grapes:

Spotted Lantern Fly – For those of you concerned about the Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF), please check out the recordings from this year's SLF summit. I will not be monitoring for this pest this season, but entomologists at the CT Ag. Experiment Station are on top of this. I will make sure to keep you updated on the progress of this pest. For now, follow [this link here](#) for the recording and materials from the SLF Summit.

List of pests to be monitored this year:

- Spotted Wing Drosophila
- Brown Marmorated Stink Bug
- San Jose Scale
- Plum Curculio
- Coddling Moth
- Grape Berry Moth
- Blueberry Maggot
- Apple Maggot
- Greater and Lesser Peach Tree Borer

***If you want me to keep an eye on something else not listed here, please let me know ASAP so I can order the appropriate traps/lures.**

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Summer Fruit Grower Field Day

Date: Tuesday, June 13
Time: 4 pm – 8 pm
Location: Belltown Hill Orchards,
483 Matson Hill Rd, S. Glastonbury, CT

Everyone is welcome. Field day with equipment companies and vendors beginning at 4 pm, followed by dinner at 6 pm, and a short educational meeting. Pesticide credits applied for. Free, however registration will be required for food planning. Stay tuned.

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