

Fruit Update – 6/15/23

Evan Lentz – Assistant Extension Educator

Apples:

The fruit set out there is looking good, and apples are sizing up nicely. Even with our less-than-ideal pollination weather and all the uncertainty about thinning this year, it looks like a decent crop for those who have apples. Hopefully, we can get a decent price this year.



Hail Damage – There was a bit of hail last week in the center of the state, which compromised some of the fruit that we did have. Small soft dents in the fruit reduce the quality and marketability.

Plum Curculio – Additionally, I’m seeing quite a bit of plum curculio damage out there. Unfortunately, there is nothing that can be done this year to control the plum curculio. Scouting efforts need to be focused a bit earlier for this pest, looking for those crescent shaped scars. [More information here.](#)



Green Apple Aphid – The aphids are out in force right now. Major infestations require attention. See [the New England Guide](#) for materials.



Blueberries:

Fruit set looks good, even in places that were hit hard by the frost event. Some early varieties are already showing color. Let’s make sure to keep on top of management to ensure that we can get the most out of our blueberry crops.

Nitrogen – If you’re doing a split application of nitrogen, make sure you apply the second application before July 1. Late applications will encourage vegetative growth, delay hardening, and increase the likelihood of winter injury.

Weed Control – We’ve gotten some decent rain, finally. This might encourage the weeds to take off. Make sure to keep on top of your row and aisle management.



Strawberries:

Many operations are opening for pick-your-own. We are a bit behind due to the poor first crop of fruit. From what I hear, customers are eager to get out and pick.

Cyclamen Mites – Regional Extension specialists are reporting high incidence of Cyclamen Mites in strawberries. This is likely due to the warm dry weather that we've been having. These mites are very small but can be found in tiny, unfolded leaves in your plant's crown. They are small, clear, and cigar shaped. Information on materials, rates, and application timing for this pest can be found in the [New England Guide](#).

Brambles:



Raspberries are in bloom. Blackberries are setting fruit and I've been noticing some inadequate pollination on some of the varieties. Aside from the rust concerns earlier, all has been quiet.

Spotted Wing Drosophila – However, this week my intern captured the first SWD in the state. It was captured in Windham County, in blueberries. So, this pest is here. We need to be scouting and trapping for this pest. Luckily, we have traps up in all counties and will keep you updated as the pest reveals itself around the state this season.

Grapes:



Grapes are in bloom. This picture was taken in central Connecticut. Those of you further south are likely well into bloom, variety dependent.

Foliar Diseases – It is prime disease management season for grapes. Make sure that you are keeping on top of your spray schedules – making sure to squeeze applications in when you can around the rains. We've been finding Phomopsis and Septoria Leaf Spot out there already. Make sure to scout when you can. [New England Guide Spray](#) table can be found here.





Connecticut Pomological Society Summer Field Day:

It was great to gather with many of you at the summer field day – what a fantastic event!

- Many thanks to Mary Concklin and the CT Pomological Society for organizing the event.
- Many thanks to Belltown Hill Orchards for hosting and providing dinner – such a beautiful orchard.
- Many thanks to all the great vendors and all of you for attending.

We're hoping to make these in-person events more regular and invite your input going forward. Below are some highlights. If you have any photos of the event, please send them in to me. I'd love to put together a story on the event.



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