



Fruit Update – 6/28/23

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Apples:

Apple Scab – We have been finding a lot of apple scab out there in the past few weeks. The NEWA site shows we are currently in an infection event for the next couple of days (see table below). Secondary infections are on the rise and need to be managed diligently. Fungicide applications should continue as you find fresh lesions.

For information on [control measures](#) and [materials](#) please refer to the New England Management Guide.

***Reminder** – “Mixing captan with oil, other pesticides that contain petroleum-based carriers, or with spreader/sticker/penetrant chemicals may cause damage to fruit and foliage. For tank-mixes that contain several pesticides, thinners or nutrients, avoid using captan. Minimize or avoid use of captan from petal fall through first cover to decrease the risk of fruit damage.” (NETFMG)*

Date (2023)	Infection Events	Average Temp (°F) for wet hours	Leaf Wetness (hours)	Hours > 90% RH	Rain Amount
Jun 25	no	69	9	12	0
Jun 26	no	70	9	11	0
Jun 27 Forecast	combined	70	21	15	0.75
Jun 28 Forecast	combined	68	16	16	0.26
Jun 29 Forecast	yes	65	10	10	Night: 26% Day: 28%
Jun 30 Forecast	no	66	9	9	Night: 6% Day: 20%
Jul 1 Forecast	no	67	9	9	Night: 23% Day: 50%
Jul 2 Forecast	no	70	24	24	Night: 50% Day: 50%

Fireblight – Our other favorite apple disease, Fireblight, has been observed in several orchards in the past week. From what I am hearing, the same thing is occurring in other parts of the Northeast, NY especially. Our NEWA table is all red for the foreseeable future, meaning high infection potential.

Date (2023)	Cougar Blight V8 Daily TRV			Infection Potential EIP value			
	Marginal	High	Extreme	Low	Moderate	High	Infection
June 25	823			233			
June 26	1048			276			
June 27 Forecast	992			279			
June 28 Forecast	1018			232			
June 29 Forecast	825			198			
June 30 Forecast	779			217			
July 1 Forecast	822			219			
July 2 Forecast	786			216			

* Indicates incomplete accumulation of the 4-day DH total. The DH value may reach "Caution", "High" or "Extreme" levels before spanning the 4-day accumulation cut-off time of Cougarblight.

If you are finding shoot strikes, here are some things to consider:

- 1) Prune out the shoots strikes, at least 12-18 inches into healthy wood. Leaving the strikes has been shown to increase the likelihood of tree loss and increases your overall Fireblight risk.
- 2) A liquid copper material can be used at this time, only if you have actively oozing shoots/infection sites.



- 3) If you have a major infection in one of your blocks and are concerned about losing your trees, Apogee, or a similar product, can be used. This product will halt shoot growth, reducing the production of new, green, and susceptible tissues. Please refer to the [New England Tree Fruit Management Guide](#) for rates.

Peaches:

Brown Rot – The second critical period for brown rot control is 3 weeks prior to harvest. During this time fruit is very susceptible to infection. This continual rain and warm weather are the perfect conditions for this disease. Please maintain your fungicide covers through harvest. For a list of materials and rates please refer to the [New England Management Guide](#). Let's keep what peaches we have healthy!

Photo: New England Tree Fruit Management Guide



Strawberries:

Renovation – It's just about that time. June-bearing strawberry renovation needs to occur directly after harvest ends. Renovation helps to maintain orderly plantings and walkways, reduces disease and insect pressures, and stimulates runner and flower bud formation.

- 1) Mow off the tops of your plants carefully to leave the crowns intact. This will remove and destroy any diseased foliage as well as destroy a habitat for insect pests.
- 2) Narrow beds with a rototiller/cultivator. This will remove excess runners and vegetative growth as well as improve air flow and light penetration.
- 3) Thin plants – for older plantings (3+ years) that have gotten too dense. Again, this helps to increase air flow and light penetration.
- 4) Fertilize – you want to focus on applying enough nitrogen directly after renovation, 30-50 lbs/acre. A second application should be made in late August, 30-40 lbs/acre. If you have done a soil or foliar test, you may also need to apply other nutrients at this time. Please reach out if you need a recommendation for materials to apply, organic or conventional.
- 5) Weed Management – Immediately after mowing, pre-emergent can be used to keep weed pressure down. Organic growers will need to utilize contact herbicides. Caution should be taken not to hit newly renovated plants. Hand cultivation can continue as the season progresses to avoid competition with the newly renovated plants. For a list of materials please refer to the [New England Small Fruit Management Guide](#).
- 6) Irrigation – Plants need a steady source of water throughout this process and afterwards. 1-2" of water per week is sufficient. This will help plants to develop, acquire nutrients, and will set you up nicely for next year.



Brambles:

Weed Control – Now is a great time to focus on managing your weeds in brambles. This will increase sunlight penetration and airflow in your planting. This is essential as we quickly approach Spotted Wing Drosophila season. This simple cultural management goes a long way in reducing the suitable habitat for this pest as they prefer a cool, shady environment. SWD has been caught in almost all counties already. Let's do what we can to protect our bramble crop. The New England Guide has [recommendations for herbicide and non-herbicide options](#).

Grey Mold – If you needed another reason to stay on top of weed control, this weather is perfect for botrytis grey mold. The pathogen is ubiquitous and the wet, damp weather will cause infections. Aside from weed control, making sure your canes are spaced to allow adequate airflow and light penetration will help. For chemical control, we need to maintain fungicide coverage. Please consult the New England Guide for recommendations on materials and rates [here](#).



Photo: Mary Concklin

Blueberries:

Fungal Diseases – My intern has been observing high incidence of fungal pathogens in blueberry blocks all around the state. Mummy Berry, Phomopsis, and Botrytis are just a few recent issues we've encountered. More information on these disease can be found [here](#) in the New England Guide.

Grapes:

Reiterating what I mentioned in the last update, it is prime time for grape disease management. With the warm temperatures and the shifts between rain and high humidity, many of our summer grape diseases are finding the conditions they need to thrive. Please refer to the [New England Guide](#) for information on materials and rates. If you need help identifying any of your pests, please reach out.

Early season diseases to keep an eye out for:

- Phomopsis
- Black Rot
- Downey Mildew
- Powdery Mildew
- Anthracnose



Photos: E. Lentz

Grape Berry Moth – We've had sustained capture of the grape berry moth already. However, we are not concerned with this first generation. It is the second (and possibly third) generation that we need to focus our control on. The second generation arrives 1620 DD after first capture. Right now, DD accumulation is at about 600 DD. We'll keep you posted, but it would be a good idea to scout for webbing on fruit.



Drone Study Update:

For those of you that were at the Pomological Society meeting and saw my presentation on the drone/nutrition study we have going on, I have an update. We've started flying the drone this week over 7 different farms in the state, focusing on detecting nutritional deficiencies in apples, peaches, grapes, and blueberries. I'll make sure to keep you updated on the progress of this study as it has the potential to change the way we manage plant nutrition. For more information on the pilot study, please follow this link here to [the interactive StoryBoard](#).

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As always, please reach out if you need anything from me.

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