



## Fruit Update – 3/22/24

Evan Lentz – Assistant Extension Educator

---

### Phenology – Bud Stages

#### Peaches:

I've seen buds up until first pink, variety and location dependent.

#### Blueberries:

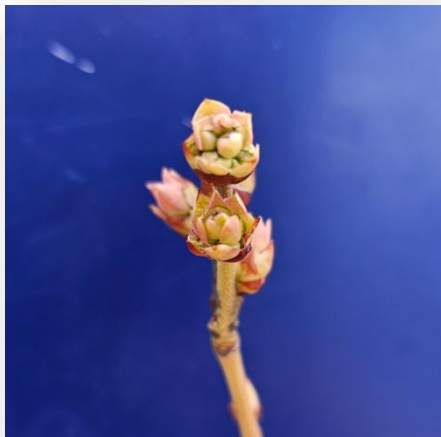
The varieties furthest along are at bud break already.

#### Apples:

Early varieties are at silver tip, perhaps just beyond, but no green tip yet. Early cider varieties are just beginning green tip.



Sweet Breeze Peach – River Valley



Blueberries (early) – Central CT



Zestar Apples – Central CT

---

### Critical Temperatures

I've gotten some questions about potential for damage. Below are the critical temperatures for the current stages of our tree fruit crops.

#### Apples:

Silver Tip → 10% kill = 15°F; 90% kill = 2°F

Green Tip → 10% kill = 18°F; 90% kill = 10°F

#### Peaches:

¼" Green → 10% kill: 23°F; 90% kill: 9°F

First Pink → 10% kill: 25°F; 90% kill: 15°F



---

## Oil and Other Spray Applications

Since Green Tip is just around the corner, we should be planning to make moves on our oil applications. This is a great time to work towards controlling mites, aphids, and scale insects, especially if you had an issue last year. Just keep an eye on the temperatures. Applications need to be made when it is warmer (50-70°F), and it remains warm (>40°F) for about 24 hours after the application.

Consider your copper and sulfur product applications as well. For those of you who struggled with Peach Leaf Curl last year, we want to get a copper product on before First Pink. Otherwise, you'll have to wait to make an application in the fall, which might be needed anyways if you had a severe infection last year.

---

## Mummy Berry

I've seen Forsythia beginning to bloom already. This means that we need to make sure to get down a 2-4" layer of mulch on our blueberries if you haven't done so already. Forsythia bloom times coincide with the maturity of the overwintering spores that are currently on the ground under your bushes.

We are a bit away from having the conditions required for infection (50-62°F) which makes this the perfect time to apply that mulch.

---

## Outlook

Given the current weather forecast, it looks like we might be able to get through next week without too many more DD accumulations. This would be ideal and give us all a bit more time to get things moving. I'll keep you all posted.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

---

## Farm Visits

I'm already making farm visits. If you'd like me to stop by, let me know!