



Fruit Update – 4/24/24

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Cold Weather – It looks like we have some cold nights coming up. Wednesday and Thursday night lows are predicted to be around 33°F. Everyone should be keeping an eye on this. Not to be an alarmist, but the late frost last year, on May 18th, had a predicted nighttime low of 35°F. That led to a 10°F swing down to 25°F. So, we all know there is going to be potential for damage over these next two nights.

Phenology – Bloom is here. For stone fruit and for apples. Pink Lady are at King bloom in some locations.



Zestar – First Pink



Honeycrisp – Tight Cluster



PF 25 - Bloom



Brambles – 3-4”



Blueberry – Early Bloom



Foliar Nutrients in Apple and Pear for Crop Load Enhancement

A few of you have asked about when to apply foliar boron, zinc, and nitrogen. Now is the time. At pink, a foliar spray of Zinc-EDTA at label rate, Boron as Solubor at 1 lb/100 gal, and Nitrogen at 3 lbs feed grade biuret urea/100 gal can be applied to improve crop load.

Boron is essential for pollen tube growth, bud development and fruit set. Zinc also plays a role in pollination, fruit set and early season growth. However, it is important to note that you should be informing these decision with tissue test results. This allows for the most informed decisions season-long and minimizes the risk of toxicity.

Mating Disruptors

Mating disruptors for **Codling Moth** and **Oriental Fruit Moth** should be set out before flowers open. There is still time to get this done. There are disruptors available for Codling Moth only. However, if you have issues with both of these pests, there are two combination disruptors available: Isomate CM/OFM TT (Pacific BioControl) and Cidetrak CM-OFM Combo (Trece).

Mating disruptors for **Dogwood Borer** should also go up soon. These have been shown to be incredibly effective in blocks over 5 acres. Other options include painting your trunks with white latex paint. This only makes your trees less appealing and does not guarantee complete control. Additionally, Assail can be applied as a trunk spray, once either before or after bloom, to the lower 4 feet of the trunk.

The Connecticut Pomological Society and **UConn Extension** are conducting a pricing survey to help all fruit growers price their produce in the 2024 season. We are asking you to indicate the prices you charged in 2023 for tree fruit, small fruit and table grapes for Pick-Your-Own and Retail. NO PERSONAL INFORMATION will be collected. We do ask that you indicate the part of CT (or other state) you are in because we all know that location does impact what you can, should, or do receive for your produce. The summarized results will be shared with all growers. If you do not grow a particular type of fruit, skip that section and move on to the next.

This survey will close on Friday, May 10 at 5 pm. We appreciate your time and support of our industry!

The survey link is: https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_02i6nNy4tQX1o2y



Integrated Pest Management Program

Department of Plant Science and Landscape
Architecture

The CT Pomological Society and UConn Extension will be holding a **Summer Field Day**.

Date: Tuesday, June 11

Location: Holmberg Orchards, 12 Orchard Lane, Gales Ferry, CT

Time: Beginning at 4 pm with equipment demonstrations and vendors/informational tables, followed by dinner and a short educational program. Pesticide credits will be available.

Cost: Free

Registration information and additional program information are coming soon.

If you would like to have a vendor/information table or demonstrate equipment, contact Mary Concklin at mary.concklin@uconn.edu

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