



Fruit Update – 5/9/24

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Fireblight:

Below is the updated Fireblight Risk calculation. It hasn't changed much since I last shared it, with our high-risk period ending tomorrow. The frustrating part is that the predicted rain this week hasn't always happened. Yet, it is certainly better to be covered in these uncertain periods. Still, I'm hearing from multiple sources that Strep may be in short supply. For those of you with very limited quantities left, you'll need to be calculated with your applications. Feel free to reach out when you have questions.

| Date (2024) | Cougar Blight V8 Daily TRV | Infection Potential EIP value |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | Risk Levels: Marginal High Extreme | Risk Levels: Low Moderate High Infection |
| May 7 | 226 | 81 |
| May 8 | 328 | 117 |
| May 9 Forecast | 338 | 111 |
| May 10 Forecast | 293 | 59 |
| May 11 Forecast | 137 | 29 |
| May 12 Forecast | 13 | 0 |
| May 13 Forecast | 9 | 0 |
| May 14 Forecast | 34 | 12 |

* 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.

I had some reports yesterday of isolated hailstorms in the north-eastern part of the state. Damage from storms like these create additional entry points for the pathogen to enter the trees which would certainly increase overall risk. However, since we are in full-bloom and our risk is already high, additional measures don't need to be taken. This is doubly true if you have applied Strep already for this infection event and if the hail was not accompanied by additional rain. Once we are past the bloom period, hail damage will be more of an impactful factor.



Scab:

The NEWA model has designated primary scab season to be over, stating all remaining spores were released yesterday, May 8. With no upcoming infection events, we can breathe a bit easier. That’s not to say there could be a few stray, late spores released during upcoming rain events. Now, we wait and see how our early-season management efforts worked. Scab symptoms take 9-14 days to present, depending on the upcoming weather.

| Date (2024) | Infection Events | Average Temp (°F) for wet hours | Leaf Wetness (hours) | Hours > 90% RH | Rain Amount |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| May 7 | no | - | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| May 8 | yes | 62 | 6 | 9 | 0.82 |
| May 9 Forecast | no | - | 0 | 0 | 0.04 |
| May 10 Forecast | no | - | 0 | 0 | 0.22 |
| May 11 Forecast | no | - | 0 | 0 | Night: 24% Day: 14% |
| May 12 Forecast | no | - | 0 | 0 | Night: 16% Day: 30% |
| May 13 Forecast | no | - | 0 | 0 | Night: 11% Day: 8% |
| May 14 Forecast | no | - | 0 | 0 | Night: 17% Day: 20% |

Plum Curculio:

Since petal-fall is right around the corner, we need to be thinking about our friend, plum curculio. Below are some notes from the New England Guide.

“Fruitlets should be monitored beginning at about 5 mm diameter along orchard borders to determine if new injury is occurring. If fresh oviposition scars are observed, a first cover spray should be made to the entire block. Cool, wet weather will prolong PC activity. Continue to monitor for fresh scars. If more are found, a second cover spray targeting perimeter-row trees may be needed. Because PC immigration and oviposition period is affected by weather patterns after Petal Fall, insecticide coverage should be maintained until 308 DD (base 50F) from Petal Fall.”



PC oviposition scars - Faubert



Pesticide Updates:

Below are some pesticides updates courtesies of our friends to the north at UMass.

Herbicide update (J. Clements)

- Chateau herbicide (Valent USA) water soluble granules has been reformulated as Chateau EZ (hats off to their marketing department!) liquid flowable. Use recommendations/restrictions remain the same, those largely being for pome and stone fruit: rate is 6 to 12 fluid ounces per acre applied before silver tip (apples) and bud break (peaches); apply to berms only. I take that to mean in the herbicide treatment strip, not the whole ground acreage; avoid direct or indirect spray contact to foliage and green bark (may be used the year of planting IF trunks are shielded from spray contact): but “apply only to an apple block with an established (2 years or older) permanent cover crop that covers a minimum of 60% of the surface area of the block.” I take that to mean row middles. Several other important application considerations: please read the label fully before using. The timing for spring application may have already run out by the time you read this. (Although it can be applied in the fall after harvest.) Chateau EZ gives effective pre-emergent and limited post-emergence control of many grasses and broadleaf weeds.
- Zeus XC herbicide (FMC) was consolidated to Spartan 4F and Zeus Prime XC herbicide was consolidated to Spartan Charge.
- Princep 4L and Princep (Syngenta): Updated Weeds Controlled section, expanded Apple and Pear uses to include entire Pome Fruit Crop Group, ended Peach, Nectarine, and Tart Cherry uses to include entire Stone Fruit Crop Group, revised Tank Mixtures for Weed Control in Perennial Fruit and Nut Crops.

Insecticide update (J. Pinero)

- Altacor Insect Control (FMC) was discontinued and the transition to Altacor eVo Insect control was started. This should be in full effect this year. It went from a 35WG formulation to a 70 WG formulation, so the rates were halved, the new max rate is 2.2 oz/A with Altacor eVo.

Fungicide update (J. Pinero)

- Miravis (Syngenta) added Caneberry Crop Subgroup 13-07A, a caneberry subgroup that includes blackberries and raspberries.
 - Miravis Prime (Syngenta) added Caneberry Crop Subgroup 13-07A. Changed rate in Grape and Small Fruit Vine Climbing subgroup (except Fuzzy Kiwifruit) Crop Subgroup 13-07F from 9.2 to 11.2 fl oz.
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Grapes:



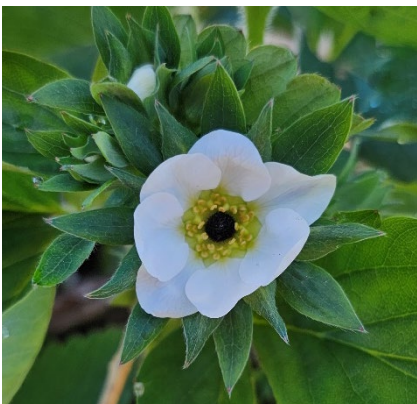
We are at bud-burst to first leaf in grapes already. This is site and varietal specific, of course. Some things to think about in the coming weeks, especially if any of these pests have been an issue for you in the past:

- Flea Beetle
- Climbing Cutworm
- Banded Grape Bug
- Grape Plume Moth
- Mites (European Red Mite and Two-spotted Mite)
- Black Rot
- Phomopsis
- Downey Mildew
- Powdery Mildew

The best way to stay ahead of this stuff is to get out there and scout. I know sometimes it seems like a waste of time and is perhaps at the bottom of your to-do list, however, early detection of pest issues is critical to a successful IPM plan.

Strawberries:

Strawberry blossoms are out. Some of those that were out during our recent cold spell did get zapped, but nothing too serious.





PRICING SURVEY

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 17 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

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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