



Fruit Update – 7/12/24

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Strawberries:

Renovation: 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.

Blueberries:

Stem Gall Wasp – Although sprays for other insects tend to be enough to knock down the Blueberry Stem Gall Wasp, you may have already started to notice these galls in your blocks. Remove any galls during your typical pruning windows – that’s your best bet. These galls can cause severe reduction in the growth and vigor of shoots/stems. Adults will emerge from these galls next year, around bloom. Those adults can be dealt with utilizing a petal fall spray. [More information here](#).





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](#).



Apples:

Fireblight - Post-Bloom & Summer:

Copper (protectant and organic only) – can cause fruit russet. Only use if you're concerned about losing trees to the disease. Apply on a sunny, dry day. This will only protect against the bacteria already on the plant's surface. As the plant grows, new tissue will not be protected. Repeat applications at a low rate will be needed until terminal bud set.

Pruning – remove strikes/blighted branches promptly on a cool, dry day. Prune into last season's growth (at least 12" into healthy tissue. For younger trees, if 12" is into the main scaffold of the tree → remove and replant.

Rescue Program – apply PhCa (Apogee) 6-12 oz/100 gal, wait 5 days, and prune every two weeks until terminal bud set.



Apple Maggot – Trap captures for the Apple Maggot have begun but have not reached threshold at any of the farms we are surveying. If you had issues with this pest in the past, attention is likely required. The most susceptible varieties are Wealthy, Cortland, Gravenstein, Red Delicious, and Golden Delicious. For more information on this pest and options for control please check with the [New England Tree Fruit Management Guide](#).

Anthracnose – Robbie Eselby (IPM Intern)

Anthracnose is a group of fungal diseases primarily caused by fungi in the genera *Colletotrichum*, *Elsinoe* and *Gloeosporium*. These fungi can impact a vast range of hosts including strawberries, grapes, blueberries, apples, stone fruits, and brambles. On each of these hosts they can present quite differently but there are a few things to look out for.

Anthraco­nose fruit rots will typically present as brown sunken areas on the fruit, sometimes with concentric rings or orange sporulation. This may appear in isolated areas at first but can spread quickly during the rain when water can splash the spores.



This is seen heavily on grapes, strawberries and blueberries. The same genera of fungi that cause anthracnose fruit rot also causes bitter rot in apples. Sanitation is key in managing disease spread and future risk.

Anthraco­nose can also present on leaves and stems in the form of brown lesions, typically with a black border or cankers. It may present as just small stippling or larger splotches. The main key to ID is the prominent dark border around the necrotic region. This is commonly seen in strawberries, blueberries and grapes but the same fungi cause glomerella leaf spot in apples.

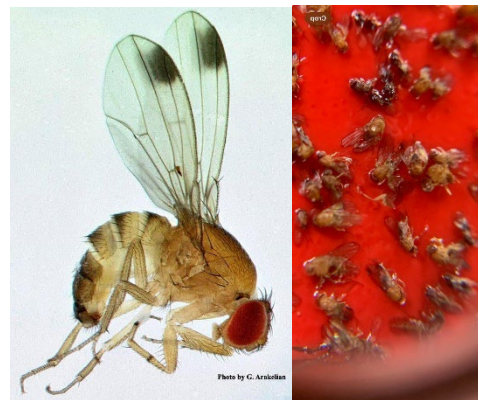


If you suspect that you may have an anthracnose infection, it's important to take action. Start with confirming the infection. Look for the key indicators on the leaves and fruit. After you have confirmed your diagnosis, sanitation is key to managing disease progression. Remove infected fruit, leaves, and canes/stems. Clear the ground around the planting to ensure that no infected plant matter is present that could potentially re-infect crops. Some fungicides may also help with management but should only be used in cases where sanitation is not a practical means of control. If you need additional assistance with identification or management, reach out to UConn Extension for further guidance or [Consult the New England Management Guide](#).

Photo Credits: Blueberry Fruit Anthracnose Image: Carolyn Teasdale, Grape leaf anthracnose: MyIPM

Spotted Wing Drosophila – Mark Nelson (IPM Intern)

SWD is approximately "...2-3 mm in size with bright red eyes. You can distinguish male SWD from other vinegar flies in the Drosophila genus by a dark spot on the edge of the wing near the wingtip." TO the right, you can find images of SWD, as well as a photo of a trap laden with SWD.





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Spotted Wing Drosophila damage is due to egg laying into the fruit, which can be seen as a small scar the size of a pinhole on the surface of the fruit. Larvae will hatch into the fruit, consuming from the inside, causing it to look misshapen within two weeks of being infested. If you are a small fruit grower, I'm sure you have become very aware of these pests and I would recommend investing in a potential pheromone lure/trap if unsure of whether or not the species of fly you are dealing with is Spotted Wing Drosophila. This time of year is when they become most prevalent, so keep a keen eye out for any fruit flies or deformed fruit amongst your crop.



Please consult the [New England Guide](#) for more information including control measures.

Photo Credits: Spotted Wing Image: G. Arakelian, Blueberry Damage: B.C. Ministry of Agriculture

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