

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2018  
Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

**FruitNet Report – May 4, 2018**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**5/8 – 6/27**

**IPM Updates**

**What's new?**

- **Disease Update May 4, 2018**
- **How to interpret a RIMpro apple scab forecast when making a management decision on your operation**

**New articles**

**Disease Update May 4, 2018**

Emily Pochubay and Nikki Rothwell, MSU Extension

### *Primary Apple Scab Update*

It is starting to feel like spring in northwest Michigan, and apple development has moved along quickly over the last few days with warmer temperatures and rain. With this fast development, apple growers have been considering apple scab management strategies. As mentioned in our 1 May regional report, we have coordinated with our Extension apple colleagues to bring the RIMpro-Venturia model as another option in growers' tool kits. RIMpro Could Service is a web-based decision support system for fruit pest and disease management equipped with models akin to Enviroweather. In northwest Michigan, we have customized RIMpro to produce model outputs for apple scab based on NW Enviroweather locations. The weather and output data from RIMpro will align with Enviroweather's apple scab model. The benefit of RIMpro-Venturia is that it gives a more detailed look at spore development, release (both estimated quantity and timing of release), and germination during wet weather. Like Enviroweather, the model also provides the start and end of infection periods and the potential severity of the infection. We encourage apple growers to read, *How to interpret a RIMpro apple scab forecast when making a management decision on your operation* to gain a better understanding of how this model can be used.

For areas that have reached green tip in McIntosh, we have set biofix accordingly in the RIMpro system; we have also used predicted degree day accumulations for other locations (see location biofix below). To access the RIMpro model, please click on the link that corresponds with the weather station that you would normally reference for pest and disease reports for your orchard location. As you look at these model outputs, you will notice that some of the models reported infection periods (red line) during this recent wet weather.

Bear Lake (Biofix 1 May) - [www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=SBX4czs](http://www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=SBX4czs)

Benzonia (Biofix 1 May) - [www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=W8AATqC](http://www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=W8AATqC)

East Leland (Biofix 1 May) - [www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=bQVv0LY](http://www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=bQVv0LY)

Eastport (Biofix 2 May) - [www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=nK5Jcqr](http://www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=nK5Jcqr)

Elk Rapids (Biofix 1 May) - [www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=hCoaC6M](http://www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=hCoaC6M)

Kewadin (Biofix 1 May) - [www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=Oa4COcX](http://www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=Oa4COcX)

Northport (Biofix 5 May) - [www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=Bsrm7WU](http://www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=Bsrm7WU)

NWMHRC (Biofix 1 May) - [www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=HJzr7Kn](http://www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=HJzr7Kn)

Old Mission (Biofix 1 May) - [www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=xPCzX8i](http://www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=xPCzX8i)

Williamsburg (Biofix 1 May) - [www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=wBe9zhP](http://www.rimpro.eu/faces/venturia.xhtml?id=wBe9zhP)

Typical springtime conditions appear to be in the forecast, and Saturday's predicted warm temperatures in the 70s will hasten development. We encourage growers to monitor bud/leaf development and the weather as there is a slight chance for rain on Sunday and new/unprotected green tissue will be susceptible to scab infection.

*A quick note on the Cherry Leaf Spot Model*

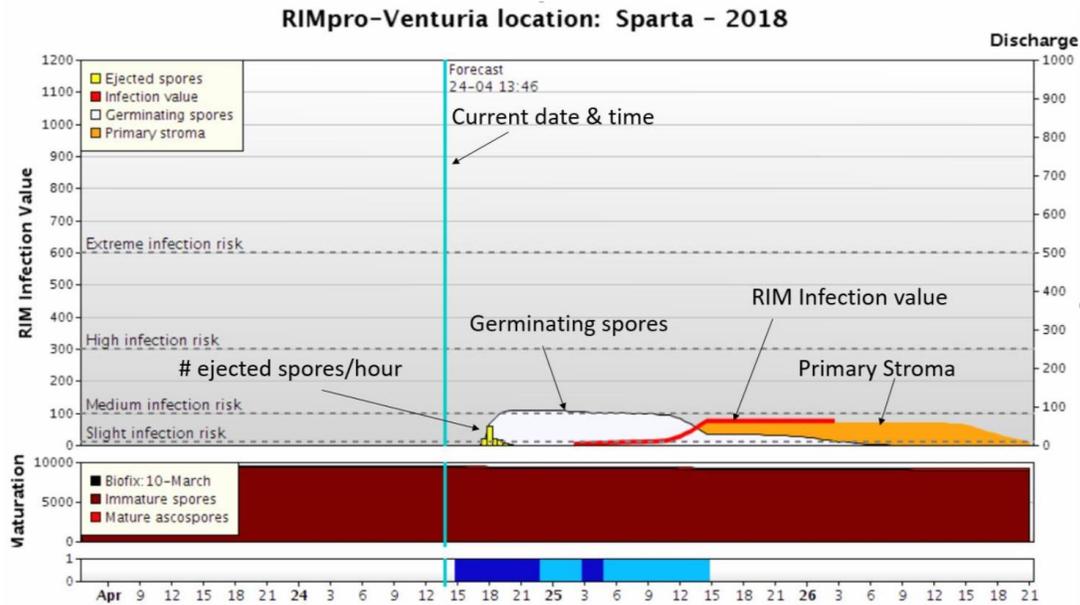
It is still too early to begin cherry leaf spot (CLS) programs, but we wanted to update growers that the Enviroweather leaf spot model has begun reporting infection periods. In past seasons, this model was programmed to begin reporting CLS infection periods after bloom, but possibly due to this year's later than normal conditions, the model has already started. However, this year's early start on Enviroweather could be helpful as we move closer to bud burst when bract leaves emerge. Bract leaves are small, early leaves that develop prior to bloom and are susceptible to CLS infection; growers should modify programs accordingly to prevent early CLS infections.

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## **How to interpret a RIMpro apple scab forecast when making a management decision on your operation**

Authors : Dave Jones and Amy Irish - Brown, MSU Extension

MSU Extension's apple group has adopted the usage of RIMpro apple scab modeling this season in order to help growers with management decision making. This software is an improvement over former apple scab information that has been shared because it evaluates upcoming risk based on short term weather forecasts, allowing growers to make a plan to address each situation as it arrives. While this comes with huge potential, interpreting RIMpro output can be confusing at first. Below is a typical RIMpro apple scab forecast output with labelling on all key components. We will discuss the elements that are most important for farmers to take note of when using this tool.



When reading this graph, start by finding the light blue vertical line, which is your current date and time. You can see that the line goes all the way down to the bottom of the graph to show you the date. This graph reads April 14th. Once you have located your position, the most important thing to take a look at when considering what you should be doing to address an approaching rain event is the solid red line, labelled "RIM infection value." This is the visualization of the infection risk associated with an approaching rain event (indicated by the dark blue bars on the very bottom of the graph. Light blue bars are wetting events that follow). Notice on the left-hand side of the graph that there are dotted lines running horizontally across the graph which are labelled "slight infection risk," "medium infection risk," "high infection risk," and "extreme infection risk." Management should be considered any time we climb above the "slight infection risk" line.

Another useful measurement for a grower are the little yellow bars, labelled "# ejected spores per hour." This indicates when the spores are released. Note that they correspond with the solid blue bar at the bottom of the graph, which indicates a rain event.

If you are a farmer looking to make a decision, use the following thought progression: After the rain starts (blue bar) the apple scab spores are released (yellow bar). Their probability of infecting your apple tree is then calculated based on environmental data (solid red line), and the risk is summarized by the dotted gray lines running horizontally across the graph ("slight infection risk," "moderate infection risk," etc.). The severity of the rating gives you the information needed to make a decision about management ahead of the approaching rain. We manage when the value climbs above "slight infection risk," and need to exercise increasing caution as the value rises up to the maximum rating of "extreme infection risk." Use your best combinations of systemic and protectant fungicides during the "high" and "extreme" events each year, and focus on protectants during "slight" and "moderate" events.

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## Articles featured in past FruitNet Reports

### 2018 IPM Update Schedule

Please join us for 2018 season Tree Fruit IPM Updates beginning the second week of May. These meetings highlight timely discussions of pest challenges and management options dictated by weather and pest biology. Attendees are encouraged to bring examples of pests and damage found on the farm to these workshops for identification and discussion. Additionally, we will host invited speakers from local organizations and MSU at this year's meetings. Workshops will be held weekly in Leelanau, Grand Traverse, Antrim, and Benzie counties. Tree fruit growers and consultants are welcome to attend meetings at any of the locations and times that are most convenient (see below). These workshops are free and do not require registration. Restricted use pesticide applicator recertification credits (2 credits per meeting) and Certified Crop Advisor credits will be available. We are looking forward to seeing you in a few weeks! For more information, please contact Emily Pochubay ([pochubay@msu.edu](mailto:pochubay@msu.edu)), 231-946-1510.

#### Leelanau County

**Location:** Jim and Jan Bardenhagen, 7881 Pertner Road, Suttons Bay

**Dates:** May 8, 15, 22, 29; June 5, 12, 19, 26

**Time:** 12PM – 2PM

#### Grand Traverse County

**Location:** Wunsch Farms, Phelps Road Packing Shed, Old Mission

**Dates:** May 8, 15, 22, 29; June 5, 12, 19, 26

**Time:** 3PM – 5PM

#### Antrim County

**Location:** Jack White Farms, 10877 US-31, Williamsburg (south of Elk Rapids on the southeast side of US-31)

**Dates:** May 9, 16, 23, 30; June 6, 13, 20, 27

**Time:** 10AM – 12PM

#### Benzie County

**Location:** Blaine Christian Church, 7018 Putney Rd, Arcadia, MI 49613

**Dates:** May 9, 16, 23, 30; June 6, 13, 20, 27

**Time:** 2PM – 4PM

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## Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program offers free services to producers

The Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program is helpful if issues arise with lenders, creditors or the USDA agencies over loans, credit, wetland determinations, farm program compliance, crop insurance or other agriculture-related topics.

Posted by [Jim Isleib](#), Michigan State University Extension, MSUE News

Operating a farm business brings farmer-operators into a number of important relationships with lenders, creditors, government agencies and regulators. Sometimes these relationships result in misunderstandings and problems that become real obstacles to success.

Agricultural mediation offers an alternative to the formal appeals process to reach a mutually acceptable agreement between the parties in conflict. [Michigan State University Extension](#) educators are generally knowledgeable about many issues that may result in these types of conflict, but specially trained mediators are much better equipped to provide the help needed.

The [Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program](#) has been providing mediations services for agricultural and rural disputes for over 20 years, with many successful outcomes. If mediation is not successful, a person may still file an appeal or seek other legal remedies. The mediation process is strictly voluntary. A well-trained mediator facilitates the process, allowing both sides to explain their position and offer their views about a successful resolution. The mediator is not a judge and does not act as an advocate for either side. The mediator will not decide who is at fault or how the issue should be settled. In more complicated situations, a mediation assistant may be assigned to help the farmer or other person prepare for the process. In some cases, impartial experts can be brought in to provide technical information needed to reach agreement. They serve in a neutral role.

When the mediation process is successful, mediators help the parties agree on a workable solution, then prepare and sign a written agreement.

The benefits of agricultural mediation are outlined in the [Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program brochure](#) as follows:

- Participants control the outcome. *The people involved in the situation are the ones who create an agreement that works for them.*
- Mediation is confidential. *The parties can speak openly and directly to each other and to the issues without the proceedings being a matter of public record.*
- Mediation can preserve relationships. *Mediation can help build a framework for future interaction based upon mutual interests and needs rather than adversarial positions.*

- Mediation is flexible and creative. *Mediation can be used to discuss creative and individualized solutions so long as they are not contrary to the law.*
- Mediation is quick. *Disputes are normally resolved within a matter of weeks, allowing the parties to maintain schedules and lines of credit.*
- Mediation saves money. *Mediation provides a low-cost alternative to litigation. Under the Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program, mediation services are free of charge.*
- Mediation is likely to be successful. *In the majority of disputes taken to mediation parties reach an agreement.*

It is easy to submit a request for mediation to the Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program. When you do, a Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program representative will contact you to explain the process, then send the request for mediation to the other party and inform you whether they accept or not. If accepted, Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program will schedule a mediation session at a convenient time and place, usually within 45 days of the initial request. There is no charge to the parties for agricultural mediation services.

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#### **WEB SITES OF INTEREST:**

Farmer to Farmer – Connecting farmers, cultivating community  
<http://www.f2fmi.com>

Insect and disease predictive information is available at:  
<http://enviroweather.msu.edu/homeMap.php>

This issue and past issues of the weekly FruitNet report are posted on our website:  
[http://www.canr.msu.edu/nwmihort/nwmihort\\_northern\\_michigan\\_fruit\\_net](http://www.canr.msu.edu/nwmihort/nwmihort_northern_michigan_fruit_net)

60-Hour Forecast:  
<http://www.agweather.geo.msu.edu/agwx/forecasts/fcst.asp?fileid=fous46ktvc>

Information on cherries:

<http://www.cherries.msu.edu/>

Information on apples:

<http://apples.msu.edu/>

Information on grapes:

<http://grapes.msu.edu>