

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2015

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

April 21, 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2015

- 4/22** **2015 Tree Fruit IPM Kickoff**
- 4/30** **Sweet Cherry Pruning Demonstration**
Various locations
- 5/5-7/14** **Leelanau County IPM Updates**
Bardenhagen Farm
- 5/5-7/14** **Grand Traverse County IPM Updates**
Wunsch Farm
- 5/6-7/15** **Antrim County IPM Updates**
Jack White Farms
- 5/6-7/15** **Benzie County IPM Updates**
Blaine Christian Church

GROWING DEGREE DAY ACCUMULATIONS AS OF April 20 AT THE NWMHRC

Year	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	25 Yr. Avg.
GDD42	134	57	26	384	77	294	141.1
GDD50	49	9	3	202	23	126	56.5

Northwest Michigan Fruit Regional Report—April 21, 2015

Nikki Rothwell and Emily Pochubay, MSUE Educators

With the warm temperatures over the weekend, most tree fruits are showing some amount of green tissue, but development will be slowed with the cold predicted for the remainder of the week.

Weather

As in most springs, northwest Michigan weather has been all over the board. Over the weekend, we had a welcome burst of warmth and sunshine, and the grass almost seemed to green up overnight. Unfortunately, the warm weather moved out on Sunday night and has been replaced with temperatures in the mid-30s and low 40s. These cooler temperatures have been coupled with rain, snow, and sleet. Conditions are not conducive for working in the orchards, but growers are still pruning and planting has begun in earnest over this past week. We have accumulated 134GDD base 42 and 49GDD base 50. These accumulations are almost spot-on with our 20+ year averages: 141GDD base 42 and 56.5GDD base 50.

Crop Report

As mentioned above, the warm weather over the weekend moved along our tree fruit crops. There is green tissue out on apples and cherries, but development will be slowed by the predicting cold and wet weather this week.

We have been taking some cuttings here at the NWMHRC, and we have seen little damage to any of our crops. However, we have heard reports of winter damage to young sweet cherries and peaches. We will know more about the extent of damage in the coming weeks. Overnight temperatures are predicted to be below freezing for the next three nights this week. Based on the work done in growth chambers, sweet cherries at the side green stage can take temperatures into the mid-20s with little damage. This research showed that a low of 23 degrees F will result in a 10% kill when sweet cherries are at side green. Similar damage was reported in tart cherries under these same temperatures and bud development. Temperatures are expected to be in the high-20s across the region, and if these predictions are correct, we will see little to no damage in sweets, tarts, or apples.

Pest Report

Warm temperatures over the weekend progressed development on apples, and green tissue is present on McIntosh, Gala, Red Delicious, and Golden Delicious at the research station. Primary infection of **apple scab** has begun, and the Enviro-weather apple scab model is reporting ongoing potential infection periods throughout the region. If green tissue is present on scab sensitive varieties, this tissue should be protected from infection to prevent more serious secondary infection later in the season. The critical control timing for apple scab is during the primary infection period to prevent season-long challenges that can become costly if apple scab takes a foothold early in the season. Copper can reduce **fire blight** inoculum, and protect green tissue from scab infection.

This week's cool and wet conditions favor **bacterial canker** development. Growers should avoid pruning during these conditions to prevent spreading the canker pathogen to pruning wounds. Conditions are predicted to be drier later this week, which would minimize canker infection. Copper can be phytotoxic on sweet cherries when green tissue is present, and growers should use caution if they are planning to use copper for bacterial canker. Copper resistance has been documented in Michigan sweet cherries, so copper applications will provide little to no control of bacterial canker in sweet cherry.

Scouting for **European red mite** (ERM) eggs and overwintering **San Jose scale** (SJS) is underway in the region. We have received reports that ERM eggs are evident on sweet cherries whereas it has been more difficult to find overwintering SJS. Cold winter conditions could have impacted survival of overwintering pests, however, we are not certain to what extent populations may have been impacted at this time.

2015 Tree Fruit IPM Kick-off

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Please join Michigan State University Extension and AgBioResearch for the annual Tree Fruit IPM Kickoff at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center on **Wednesday, April 22 from 4:00 – 8:00 PM**. This year, we are pleased to host Drs. George Sundin and Larry Gut from the MSU Fruit Team to provide the latest information in cherry and apple disease and insect pest management. Pesticide label changes and updates will also be discussed. This meeting is free of charge and no registration is necessary. Refreshments will be provided, and three pesticide recertification credits and three certified crop advisor credits are available. Please bring your tough insect and disease questions to this meeting as the experts will be here to answer them!

Following the Kick-off presentations, the Leelanau Horticultural Society and Grand Traverse Fruit Growers' Council will host a short roundtable discussion on recent changes within the CherrCo, Inc. CherrCo, Inc President, Jim Jensen, will be on hand to answer growers' questions about the organization heading into the 2015.

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| 3:45 | Welcome and refreshments |
| 4:00 – 4:30 | Cherry Disease Management Blast-off for 2015
<i>Dr. George Sundin, Dept. Plant Pathology, MSU</i> |
| 4:30 – 5:00 | Scab, Fuzz, and Ooze: Managing apple diseases in 2015
<i>Dr. George Sundin, Dept. Plant Pathology, MSU</i> |
| 5:00 – 5:30 | Introducing: Pheromone Aerosol Emitters for Codling Moth
<i>Dr. Larry Gut, Dept. Entomology, MSU</i> |
| 5:30 – 6:00 | Preparing for Spotted Wing Drosophila Management in 2015
<i>Dr. Larry Gut, Dept. Entomology, MSU</i> |
| 6:00 – 6:15 | Break |
| 6:15 – 7:00 | Pesticide label changes and updates
<i>Emily Pochubay, MSU Extension</i>

Fill out sheets for Pesticide Recertification, 1C private and commercial core (3 credits available) and Certified Crop Advisor (3 credits available). |
| 7:00 – 7:30 | Pizza Break |
| 7:30 - | Changes to CherrCo discussion
<i>Jim Jensen, CherrCo, Inc. President</i> |

SWEET CHERRY PRUNING DEMONSTRATION: April 30, 2015

Join Dr. Greg Lang for a pruning demonstration tour on April 30th. The tour will begin at King Orchards' new high-density sweet cherry block behind their farm market on US 31; they have many new varieties trained to a tall spindle axe (TSA). The group will have lunch at Pearl's New Orleans Kitchen in Elk Rapids. We will travel to Greg Williams' farm in Cedar where we will prune sweet cherries trained to upright fruiting offshoot (UFO) and TSA systems. The tour will end at the Northwest Michigan Hort. Research Center (NWMHRC) where Dr. Lang will introduce us to his new sweet cherry training manual (<http://www.hrt.msu.edu/greg-lang/pg3>). We wrap up the day with a review of these systems in the field. Please join us for a great day of pruning—we are sure to have great weather with Dr. Lang on hand. For additional information, please contact Nikki Rothwell or Emily Pochubay at 231-946-1510.

- 10:30-11:30 King Orchards
Creswell Road (behind King Orchards Farm Market on US 31)
- 11:30-12:15 Lunch at Pearl's New Orleans Kitchen
617 Ames Street, Elk Rapids, MI 49629
- 12:15-1:15 Travel to Greg Williams Orchards
- 1:15-2:15 Greg Williams Orchards
Novak Road, Cedar, MI
- 2:15-2:45 Travel to NWMHRC
- 2:45-4:00 Overview of new sweet cherry training manual and in-field systems pruning
6686 S. Center Highway, Traverse City, MI 49684

2015 Tree Fruit IPM Update Series

Emily Pochubay and Nikki Rothwell
Michigan State University Extension

Tree Fruit IPM Updates beginning the first week of May through mid-July (as needed) will highlight management of the season's current potential pest challenges 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. Workshops will be held weekly in Leelanau and Grand Traverse counties and bi-weekly in Antrim and Benzie Counties. Tree fruit growers 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. Certified crop advisor continued education credits (two per meeting) and pesticide recertification credits (two per meeting) will be available. We are looking forward to seeing you in a few weeks! For more information, please contact Emily Pochubay (pochubay@msu.edu), 231-946-1510.

IPM Update Dates, Times, and Locations

Leelanau County

Location: Jim and Jan Bardenhagen, 7881 Pertner Rd, Suttons Bay

Dates: May: 5, 12, 19, 26; June: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; July: 14

Time: 12PM – 2PM

Grand Traverse County

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

Dates: May: 5, 12, 19, 26; June: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; July: 14

Time: 3PM – 5PM

Antrim County

Location: Jack White Farms, 10877 US-31, Williamsburg (is not correct in Google Maps) *North of Camelot Inn and South of Elk Rapids on the southeast side of US-31*

May: 6, 20; June: 3, 17; July: 1, 15

Time: 10AM – 12PM

Benzie County

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

May: 6, 20; June: 3, 17; July: 1, 15

Time: 2PM – 4PM

REQUEST FOR APPLE GROWER COOPERATORS

Emily Pochubay, MSU Extension

The NWMHRC is looking for apple grower cooperators for three projects (see below) in the coming season. Please see additional information on each of the projects below. If you are interested in participating in any of these projects or if you would like more information, please contact Emily Pochubay (pochubay@msu.edu), 231-945-1510. Thank you for your continued support!

1. Apple scab spore monitoring

The NWMHRC is hoping to monitor for apple scab spore release during primary infection this spring to assist the Enviro-weather apple scab model and local apple growers with identifying the end of primary infection for apple scab. For this project, we need an apple block <10 miles of the research station (6686 S. Center HWY) that had some degree of apple scab infected tissue last season and can be easily accessed after each rain event to collect spore collecting rods.

2. San Jose scale monitoring

Apple blocks with known San Jose scale populations are needed to monitor for male emergence/flight as well as crawler activity. Apple orchards in Leelanau county, Old Mission/Grand Traverse, and Antrim county would be preferable for this project as we would like to observe the relationship of San Jose scale behavior in sweet cherries and apples; we are currently scouting in sweet cherries in those three aforementioned regions of NW Michigan.

3. **Apple maggot monitoring**

In 2014, the NWMHRC observed detections of cherry fruit fly using different commercially available sticky traps and found that trap type influences first detections and the number of cherry fruit flies captured. In 2015, we would like to observe this possible effect on apple maggot catches. To test this hypothesis, we are looking for five apple blocks in northwest MI counties (Leelanau, Old Mission/Grand Traverse, Antrim, Benzie, Manistee).

MSU Extension programs and material are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or veteran status. Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities.

WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

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://agbioresearch.msu.edu/nwmihort/faxnet.htm>

60 Hour Forecast

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

Information on cherries is available at the new cherry website:

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

Information on apples:

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

Fruit CAT Alert Reports has moved to MSU News

<http://news.msue.msu.edu>