

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2015

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

FruitNet Report – August 4, 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2015

8/11 **Grand Traverse County IPM Updates**
 Wunsch Farm

Northwest Michigan Fruit Regional Report – August 4, 2015

Severe storms on Sunday damaged fruit crops across northwest lower Michigan.

Nikki Rothwell and Emily Pochubay

Weather Report

The August 2nd storms have caused variable yet extensive damage to fruit crops across the region; these storms also caused considerable damage to homes, roads, and trees in many towns in the area. Many homes and businesses, including the NWMHRC, are still without power. The Sunday storms came in three waves, each bringing high winds, heavy rains, and some hail. Reports of hail damage are extensive in some areas, and the apples at the NWMHRC have considerable hail damage on our apples. We have grower reports of hail damage so extensive that the fruit browned on trees 10 minutes after the hail moved through the orchard. Nickel to quarter size hail has been reported in many locations. Apple orchards in the northern and southern parts of the northwest region are not reporting hail damage. High winds resulted in fruit being blown off the trees, and some of the tart cherry crop came down with these winds. If the wind did not knock cherries off the tree, fruit was damaged by the high winds. However, quality still remains decent as of today, and growers are hurrying to remove fruit from the trees before quality declines. High winds also knocked down high-density apple trellises in a few orchards; apples also were blown from the trees in some locations.

Crop Report

We are still gathering information on the damage to the remaining fruit crops in the region. Sweet cherry harvest was mostly finished, so thankfully we avoided any damage to those crops. As mentioned above, high winds knocked tart cherries off the trees; Balatons seem to be particularly hard hit. We expect to see more bruising show up in tart cherries with the high winds on Sunday. We have heard reports of hail damage in tart cherries as well. Hail damage is evident in many apple blocks including apples here at the NWMHRC. We will continue to assess the damage to the region's crops in the coming week.

Pest Report

Some apple growers are applying streptomycin in areas where high winds and hail damaged **fire blight** susceptible apple varieties, and apple orchards with hail damage need a streptomycin applications as soon possible. Tissue, especially shredded leaves, that were damaged by wind or hail are points where the fire blight bacteria can enter and cause infection. Streptomycin applied within 24-48 hr after the storm should minimize the potential for a fire blight infection. Copper is another option that should reduce fire blight infection; copper should only be used in blocks where fruit finish is not a concern.

Where grape clusters were damaged by hail, growers should prevent **botrytis** infection. We have had reports of 10-30% infection in 100% of clusters in some vineyards that were hit by hail in Leelanau County. Locally systemic fungicides will provide good control of botrytis.

Spotted wing drosophila (SWD) catches have risen quickly in the northwest with trap catches doubling last week. We encourage growers to continue to protect the blocks that they have not yet harvested and are still planning to harvest to prevent SWD larvae in fruit. Growers should use tight intervals between SWD sprays (7-10 days with full covers) to keep fruit protected. We have had reports of larvae in fruit that have been treated organically as well as in orchards where spray intervals have been stretched out to 14+ days. Based on evidence from SWD trials this season, growers should not rely on Imidan stretched to 14 days to keep fruit protected from SWD infestation.

Overall insect activity has decreased in the trap line at the research station. However, **cherry fruit fly** (CFF) activity is ongoing throughout the region, and growers should consider a post-harvest insecticide targeting CFF to knock back the population for next season. We are continuing to see **apple maggot** (AM) adult activity on ammonium baited sticky traps at the NWMHRC. We did not detect **codling moth** (CM) this week, and **spotted tentiform leafminer** (STLM) activity is also lower with an average of 75 adults per trap this week. **Obliquebanded leafroller** flight is also lower this week and larvae have been found in apple terminals. We have found American plum borer (8 moths per trap), lesser peachtree borer (10 moths per trap), and greater peachtree borers (4 moths per trap) in pheromone baited delta traps.

Grapes

Duke Elsner

Many vineyards in Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties were hard hit by storms on Sunday. I have not heard yet of there was damage in Benzie or Antrim county vineyards. High winds (some gusts of 70 mph recorded in the region) and large hail tattered leaves and smashed the windward side of berries. There was a good deal of injury to shoots and cluster stems, so we may continue to see losses from this storm for some time.

Hail injury can be quite variable within a vineyard. I highly recommend walking every row to accurately assess the level of injury. Data and photos are advisable in case of crop insurance claims down the road.

There is a significant threat for Botrytis to infect the storm-injured tissues, making matters much worse. Annemiek Schilder recommends treatment for Botrytis as soon as possible in vineyard that experienced injury. She thinks Luna Tranquility is probably the best bet, used at 16-24 fl oz (higher rate for more back action) with a light rate of non-ionic surfactant for better coverage. Other options are: Rovral, Endura, Vanguard, Scala, Switch, and Elevate. Dr. Schilder is working on an article regarding the storm injury and disease threat to be released through the MSU Extension News system very soon.

Michigan Wine Grape Winter Injury Survey

Duke Elsner

Grand Traverse region grape growers were mailed a survey form in July, asking for site-specific information on winter injuries experienced in 2014-2015. If you did not get one, it most likely means we did not have current address information for you. If you would like to participate in this survey, please contact Duke Elsner at elsner@msu.edu and arrange for a survey form to be sent to you. We need to get the survey completed and returned to MSU Extension by August 10.

Photo:

Hail and high wind injury to foliage and fruit in the variety trial vineyard at the NWMHRC



IPM Update Cookout and Schedule Change

Emily Pochubay and Nikki Rothwell, NWMHRC

As many of you are already aware, please note the changes to upcoming IPM Update meeting dates. Due to a scheduling conflict, the IPM Update meetings for July 14th and 15th have been cancelled. We apologize for any inconvenience as a result of this cancellation, and to account for this change, additional IPM Updates have been or will be scheduled. Please see below for details on dates and times

of these additional meetings. Thank you all for your continued support of the NWMHRC, MSU Extension, and Michigan's fruit industries!

***NEW IPM Update Schedule**

Grand Traverse County

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

Dates: **August 11, 2015 - Final meeting date**

Time: 3PM – 5PM

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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/>

Information on grapes:

<http://grapes.msu.edu>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports has moved to MSU News

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