

Ohio Fruit ICM News

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Calendar - Newly added in ***Bold***

February 25, Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop, Spring Hill Orchard 5646 Ganges Five Points Rd., Shiloh OH. A “hands-on” pruning workshop which will be of interest to both the amateur and commercial grower. Registration will be from 9:30-10:00, (no charge!). Program from 10-noon. Please RSVP to OSU Extension Office of Richland County 419-747-8755 if you are planning on attending.

February 26 - March 1, 49th Annual International Fruit Tree Association Educational Conference, Hershey, Pennsylvania. Form more information <<http://www.idfta.org/>>

Mar. 2-12, Annual Florida Strawberry Festival, Plant City. For more information phone (813) 752-9194, [strawberry festival information](#)

Mar. 7-8, Illinois Small Fruit and Strawberry School, Mount Vernon Holiday Inn, Mount Vernon, IL. Contact Elizabeth Wahle. phone: 618-692-9434 or Bronwyn Aly phone: 618-695-2444.

March 13-14, 2-day Intensive Berry-Blueberry Training, OSU South Centers, Piketon
Topics include: Introduction to Integrated Pest Management, GAPs-Food Safety, Pesticide Safety and Regulations, Cross-cultural Education, Leadership Training, Understanding Berry and Blueberry Plant Growth. For more information contact Brad Bergefurd (bergefurd.1@osu.edu) or by phone 740-289-2071 ext 136.

March 24, Building on Your Success as a Family Business, Holiday Inn Express, 1392 Enterprise Highway, Ashland OH. A one-day interactive discussion program for multi-generational businesses. Preparing and transferring management responsibilities to the

next generation. Topics will include: What Managers Do & Why, Getting the Next Generation Ready, Creating Opportunity, Sharing Responsibility, Communication, and Being Honest About Ourselves and Our Business. For more information go to <http://ashland.osu.edu/ag/building.pdf>, or call Julia Nolan Woodruff at 419-281-8242.

March 30, Lake Erie Grape Growers Convention, Fredonia State University, Fredonia, NY < <http://lenewa.netsync.net/public/events03.htm> >

Apr. 22, Kentucky Nut Growers' Association Spring Meeting, Elizabethtown Extension office, Elizabethtown. Contact: Kirk Pomper 502-597-5942, e-mail: kpomper@dcr.net

June 11-17, International Fruit Tree Association Summer Orchard Tour to Mexico
www.ifta.org.

Comments from the Editor

This is your last chance to fill out the online survey. It will no longer be active after February 28th. Please take 10 minutes of your time to complete this **anonymous** survey by clicking on the following link

<http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB224XNPWWJ78>

I had a few comments from readers regarding the time it took to download the last issue. If future issues have a lot of figures, photographs, and charts I may not attach the PDF file but will continue posting the PDF on our website. I will use our home email as a reference because we still have an incredibly sloooooowww dialup.

Does a Cold Winter Mean Less Chilling - [Peter Hirst](#), Purdue University source: Facts for Fancy Fruits 06-01 (to see Peter's charts click here [FFF06-0](#))

We've all heard that this is the warmest winter for over 100 years, and many are wondering what effect this will have on the growth of our fruit trees this spring. Let's start off with a refresher on why cold conditions are important then discuss the implications of the warm winter.

As many of you already know, trees know when winter is over by measuring the amount of cold. They do this by accumulating what we call "chilling hours". Each species, and variety, has a certain number of chilling hours it must accumulate before it can grow and develop normally in the spring. For example, Redhaven peach has a requirement for about 950 chilling hours with some low-chill peach varieties requiring 400 hours or less. The required chilling hours for some other crops are: apple 800-1700, grape 100-400, blueberry 600-1200, sweet cherry 500-1300, sour cherry 600-1500, pear 600-1500, strawberry 200-300, apricot 300-900. After the chilling requirement is met, the plant is all primed and ready to go, and all it's waiting for are warm temperatures.

Once we know approximately how many chilling hours are needed, the question then becomes "What temperatures work best for chilling?" This is not merely a case of the colder the better. As you can see from the graph below, the best temperatures for chilling are around 45 F. When the temperature drops below 32 F, there are hardly any chilling hours being accumulated. So in a 'normal' winter, the temperature could stay below freezing for most of January. This could mean an entire month with very little chilling accumulation.

So that brings us to this year. In the graph below, I have plotted average daily temperature in an average year (average of the last 30 years) and also the average daily temperature this winter for Lafayette, IN. I suspect similar trends occurred in most parts of Indiana. In the early part of the winter, from mid-November to mid-December, we were actually a bit colder than normal. For most of this period the temperature was below freezing which means that little chilling accumulation would have taken place. All that changed during the last week of December. Since then, temperatures have stayed between 30-50 F for the most part, compared with 30 F, which is more typical. With a lot of temperatures around 40 F, we can expect a lot of chilling to take place. Just in the last couple of days temperatures have dropped dramatically. These temperatures are too cold for any chilling accumulation to occur.

Our natural inclination is probably to assume that warmer temperatures result in less chilling, but from the above discussion I think it's clear that the opposite was true this year. So the overall result is that the chilling requirement has probably been met for most of our crops already. There are two risks associated with this. The first is that the trees will not have hardened off sufficiently to withstand very cold conditions if they come. I think the current temperatures around 10-20F are exactly what we want right now. These temperatures are cold enough to harden the trees off some more, yet not cold enough to cause widespread damage. The second risk is that with the chilling requirement fulfilled, all trees need to grow are warm conditions. If we have warm temperatures now, there's a risk that trees could start to grow, and then will suffer damage from the inevitable cold conditions that follow. Of course you're going to try to pin me down and ask, "How long will it need to be warm to make trees grow?" My guess would be that it would probably take more than a week with temperatures above 60 F and perhaps 4-5 days above 70 F. So don't get too alarmed if we have just a couple of warm days. The good news is that with most peach orchards, we have very little bud damage for this time in the season. The bad news is that there is still a long way to go until the time of fruit set, so don't go spending your money just yet.

Fresh Apple Movement Accelerates in January source: © *Market News 12(4) 2006*

Movement of fresh apples from regular and Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage totaled 12.4 million bushels during January 2006 - an increase of 3 percent over January 2005, and 5 percent over the five-year average for January movement, according to the U.S. Apple Association's (USApple) nationwide survey of apple storage facilities. Movement

of fresh-market apples from CA storage during January 2006 was 7 percent greater than the same time last year, and up 11 percent from the five-year January average. January 2006 movement of processing apples of 6.4 million bushels was 15 percent more than in 2005, but 13 percent less than the five-year average for January movement. Total January 2006 movement of fresh and processing apples of 18.7 million bushels was 7 percent greater than movement in January 2005, but 2 percent below the five-year average for January movement.

As of Feb. 1, 2006, U.S. fresh holdings of 63.8 million bushels were 8 percent under last year, but 4 percent over the five-year average. Fresh CA holdings on Feb. 1, 2006, were 7 percent lower than holdings on Feb. 1, 2005, but 5 percent above the five-year average for holdings on that date. On a regional basis, fresh holdings on Feb. 1, 2006, in the Northeast were 17 percent lower than holdings on Feb. 1, 2005, and 7 percent lower than the five-year average for that date. Southeast Feb. 1, 2006, fresh holdings were 3 percent lower than on Feb. 1, 2005, and nearly the same as the five-year average for that date. In the Midwest, Feb. 1, 2006, fresh holdings were down 9 percent as compared to holdings on Feb. 1, 2005, and 13 percent lower than the five-year average. Total U.S. holdings of fresh and processing apples on Feb. 1, 2006, were 96.8 million bushels, a 9 percent decrease from Feb. 1, 2005, but 2 percent higher than the five-year average of 95.1 million bushels for holdings on that date. Holdings of fresh-market and processing apples in CA storage on Feb. 1, 2006, were 85.1 million bushels, an 8 percent decrease from Feb. 1, 2005, but 3 percent higher than the five-year average. Total processing apple holdings as of Feb. 1, 2006, were 33.1 million bushels, 10 percent lower than on Feb. 1, 2005, and 1 percent below the five-year average for that date.

Gooseberries, Elderberries or Currants

I was recently contacted by Helen Cherry, Market Manager of the North Union Farmers Market in Cuyahoga County. She has had inquiries from market goers seeking some of these uncommon fruits. If you are up in that area and are interested in selling at the market this year, please phone her at 216-751-7656 or email northunionfarmersmarket@yahoo.com.

NOTE: Disclaimer - This publication may contain pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. These recommendations are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. Due to constantly changing labels and product registrations, some of the recommendations given in this writing may no longer be legal by the time you read them. If any information in these recommendations disagrees with the label, the recommendation must be disregarded. No endorsement is intended for products mentioned, nor is criticism meant for products not mentioned. The author and Ohio State University Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

Ohio Poison Control Number

(800) 222-1222
TDD # is (614) 228-2272