

Ohio Fruit ICM News

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<http://southcenters.osu.edu/hort/icmnews/index.htm>

Volume 11 (7)

April 2, 2007

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

April 21, Home Winemaking and Grape Production Workshop, OSU Extension Montgomery County Office, 9:30-12:30. Students will learn how to properly grow grapes including site selection and pest management as well as the "A to Z" process of winemaking. Cost is \$30 per person and **Pre-registration is required by April 16th**. For more information or to register contact Tammy Dobbles, Extension Educator, at (937)224-9654 or by email at dobbels.958@osu.edu.

June 20, OPGMA Summer Tour

July 26, Beekeeping Workshop, OSU South Centers, Piketon. 3:00-8:00. More information to follow.

August 9, OSU South Centers Horticulture Field Night.

August 14-15, 2007. NASGA Summer Tour, Niagara Falls Canada and Niagara region of New York.

Comments from the Editor

Just a short newsletter this time regarding crop development and the upcoming cold temperatures. We are at first bloom in the crabapples as I predicted last week and are averaging 3 open blooms in our plasticulture strawberries. We just started uncovering our matted row strawberry trial this week. Our 'Blueray' blueberries are not in bloom yet, but some of the early varieties we have in a test planting have flowers protruding from the bud. Growers with low chilling-hour peaches are reporting first bloom as well.

Unfortunately, our AWIS forecast is calling for temperatures dropping down into the upper 20's on Thursday morning and even down to 20 on Easter morning. The concern becomes what about bud/blossom kill and frost protection measures.

The following table from a North Carolina State University Extension publication (<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/hil-713.html>) illustrates why we are concerned.

Table 1. Critical temperature at which 90% bud/blossom kill occurs for several development stages for several North Carolina fruit crops.

Fruit Crop	Bud/Blossom Stage of Development	Critical Temperature, °F 90% bud/blossom kill
Apple	Silver tip	2
.	Green tip	10
.	Half-inch green	15
.	Tight cluster	21
.	First pink	24
.	Full pink	25
.	First bloom	25
.	Full bloom	25
.	Post bloom	25
Blueberry	Flowers protruding from bud	20
.	Corollas at half full length	26
.	Full bloom	27
.	Right after corolla drop	28
Peach	First swell	1
.	Calyx green	5
.	Calyx red	9
.	First pink	15
.	First bloom	21
.	Full bloom	24
.	Post bloom	25
Strawberry	Bud	24
.	Popcorn Blossom	28
.	Full bloom	30

While we do have the possibility of using overhead irrigation for frost protection in our plasticulture strawberries the concern is that we could not apply enough water rapidly enough to protect the bloom with our system. The rate and duration of application is a factor of how quickly the temperature drops and how long it stays cold. Also we have had significant rainfall in the last week and our soils are saturated. Applying more water to our heavy, slow-draining soils is not something we like to do.

At this point we have not made any decisions other than to hope and pray that the forecast improves. If conditions continue as forecasted we will most likely pull our row covers back over the plasticulture trial later this week and sacrifice the open bloom. The row covers should give us enough protection for the bloom still in bud and possibly save the popcorn blossom.

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.

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