

# Ohio Fruit ICM News

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## Comments from the Editor

Two timely issues and a request for feedback.

**Apple Thinning Advisory: May 16, 2008** by Jim R. Schupp, PSU Pomologist  
(Source: Email via Karen Weaver, Penn State Univ. Fruit Research and Extension Center)

Post-bloom thinners, such as NAA, 6BA, and carbaryl, are typically used when developing apple fruits are between 7 mm and 15 mm. The activity of these chemical thinners is best when applications are made during a period when daytime highs are in the 70°F range. Thinner efficacy declines when temperatures are sub-optimal. The challenge this year has been for growers to find the minimum window of 3-4 days with daytime highs of 70°F or higher for getting a good response to chemical thinners. Meanwhile apple fruits have continued to grow at a somewhat surprising rate, despite the sub-optimal temperatures. The king fruits of several apple varieties at FREC in Biglerville, PA, (such as Golden Delicious, Fuji, Gala, Stayman, Cameo), have grown 4 mm in diameter over the last three days, and are now 13-15 mm. York Imperial fruits have grown at a similar rate, and are now 11-12 mm at FREC.

Many blocks in southern PA have been chemically thinned in recent days, when fruits were 10-12 mm and we had three warm days. Today, the rain and cool temperatures moved back in, and we may not see highs in the 70s until Thursday of next week. With the current and forecasted temperatures, it can be anticipated that the response to chemical thinners will be less than was desired.

Presumably, orchards to the north of here are a little behind us in fruit development, so these growers may be able to hold off and wait for warmer temperatures. Ideally you want fruit between 7 and 15 mm with a minimum of three days of highs in the 70's. If a grower does have to spray with sub-optimal temperatures, NAA / carbaryl tank mixes have the best efficacy. Thinner with 6BA as the active ingredient simply will not work with maximum temperatures below 68oF.

Cool temperatures not only reduce a thinner's effect, but also slows the rate at which chemical thinners work. This means that it will take longer to determine what response you got from your first round of thinning. The first discernable response to thinners is a cessation of fruit growth. Growing fruit are setting fruit. Fruit that have ceased growing are going to thin. This change in growth becomes apparent in about 7 days after the thinner is applied under warm conditions, and after about 10 days during cool weather. This may be a year to take careful measurements every other day, and to carefully distinguish between small and large fruits. Cutting fruits open to assess the seeds may also be helpful to determine which fruits are alive and which are going to thin. Healthy seeds in setting fruit are pearly, fat and turgid, while seeds in thinned fruits are yellowing, thin and soft.

Once you have determined what number and sizes of fruit seem likely to be coming off, you can develop a sense of how much additional thinning is needed. When fruit diameter reaches 18 mm, apples become difficult to thin with NAA or 6BA. If the crop load hasn't been adequately reduced by your previous efforts, the two chemistries that are still effective are carbamates (Sevin and Vydate) and ethephon (Ethrel, Ethephon II). Apples grow about 1 mm per day in warm weather, so if your fruit are at 18 mm, you have about four days to thin chemically. Once the fruit reach 22-24 mm, they become unresponsive to chemical thinners.

For mild thinning try carbaryl at 1 lb active ingredient per acre. Add 1 quart of spray oil per 100 gallons of finished spray mix to the carbamate to increase its activity. Remember, oil and captan causes phytotoxicity , so if you are using oil in this spray, keep captan out of the orchard for a couple weeks.

If a strong thinning combination is called for, then combine ethephon, 1.5 pints per 100 gallons, plus 1 qt. Sevin and 1 qt. of spray oil. Remember that Goldens and Romes are quite sensitive to ethephon, so reduce the ethephon rate to 0.75 pint for these varieties. See pp. 51-53 of the Penn State Tree Fruit Production Guide for additional information about chemical thinning.

### **Apple and Peach Insect News** by Celeste Welty, OSU Entomologist

Codling moth adults started emerging in early May but trap counts have been low at most orchards especially during the recent cool weather. At our research orchard in Columbus, the biofix date (the date of sustained flight) was 7 May. As of 20 May, we have accumulated only 98 degree-days (base 50 degrees F) since biofix. Although it is 2

weeks since the petal-fall spray, we are going to delay the insecticide first cover spray until closer to the degree-day target (base 50F) for control of hatching eggs of codling moth by insecticides. The degree-day target is 50 to 75 for Rimon, 100-200 for Intrepid or Confirm, 150 to 250 for Calypso, Assail, or Clutch, and 250 for Imidan, Guthion, Avaunt, pyrethroids, and virus.

In orchards near Lake Erie, there are reports of large catches of Oriental fruit moth (OFM) in pheromone traps in peach and apple orchards during the past 2 weeks. The occurrence of OFM in apple orchards is new for many Ohio orchards, and apple growers must beware that insecticide sprays need to be timed earlier for control of OFM than for codling moth. The biofix date for OFM was 6 May for most sites near the Lake. Sprays for hatching eggs of OFM should aim for a target of 150 DD (base 45 degrees F) on either peach or apple.

### **OSU South Centers Conducting Research on Ribes** by Maurus Brown, Small Fruit Specialist

Commercial *Ribes* (currant and gooseberry) plantings have been successfully started in New York, Idaho and Oregon. We believe that commercial Ribes production is a sustainable enterprise in Ohio, and are in the process of requesting grant funding to support field research. This research would allow us to develop sustainable production information directly related to Ohio growing conditions. If you believe that this is an enterprise that might have a place on your farm, please contact us. This will allow us to develop a database of potential growers that we can communicate with as this research project progresses. Please send an email to Julie Strawser (strawser.35@osu.edu) with Ribes as the subject or phone 740-289-2071 Ext. 223 and leave a message. You are not committing to anything, this simply allows us to evaluate where in Ohio the interest is concentrated.

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

May 24, Ohio Pawpaw Grower's Association Annual Spring Workshop and Meeting, 351 Hale Rd. Wilmington. Registration is \$12 for OPGA members and \$15 for nonmembers. Registration fee includes lunch and a potted "u"-graft pawpaw. For more information contact Richard Glaser at phone 937-382-5960 or glaser1971@earthlink.net

June 12, Illinois Summer Horticulture Field Day, Tanner's Orchard, Speer, Ill. For more information, illsthortsoc@yahoo.com

June 18, Grape and Wine Clinic, Rainbow Hills Vineyards, Newcomerstown. 5:30 - 8 p.m Registration: \$20 (includes dinner at Rainbow Hills and resource materials). Space is limited.. Visit coshocton.osu.edu to download a registration form or call Marissa Mullett, Extension Educator at 740-622-2265.

June 20-21, Ohio State Beekeepers Association Summer Meeting, Athens High School, Athens, Ohio. Registration is \$10.00 for members, \$20.00 for non-members - \$20.00. Lunch is an additional \$8.00.

June 22-25, International Fruit Tree Association summer tour. South Carolina and North Carolina. For more information: <http://www.ifruittree.org/>

June 25, OPGMA Summer Tour and Field Day, Wooster. The June 18 pre-registration price is \$25 for the first company attendee; \$10 for each additional attendee. Lunch is an additional \$9. For additional information about the tour or registering, visit [www.opgma.org](http://www.opgma.org), e-mail [opgma@ofa.org](mailto:opgma@ofa.org), or call 614-487-1117

August 20-21, NASGA Summer Tour. Based out of Columbus, Ohio. For more information contact Kevin Schooley [kconsult@allstream.net](mailto:kconsult@allstream.net) Telephone (Canada) 613 258-4587. The hotel will be the Drury Inn and Convention Center <http://www.druryhotels.com/properties/columbuscvc.cfm>

August 21-22, Apple Crop Outlook and Marketing Conference, Chicago. In addition to the annual crop projections (from both USDA and USApple), the conference will feature presentations from several consumer marketing experts, roundtable discussions, networking opportunities and awards presentations. Online registration at [www.usapple.org](http://www.usapple.org) <<http://www.usapple.org>> begins May 15.

Dec. 9-11, Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo, DeVos Place Convention Center, Grand Rapids, <http://www.glexpo.com/>.

## **2009**

Jan. 5-6, Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference & Trade Show, Embassy Suites Hotel, Lexington, KY. For more information contact John Strang at phone 859-257-5685 or email: [jstrang@uky.edu](mailto:jstrang@uky.edu)

January 12-14, OPGMA Congress, The Nia Center at the Kalahari Resort Sandusky, Ohio

Jan 19-21, Indiana Horticultural Congress, Adam's Mark Hotel, Indianapolis.

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