

# Ohio Fruit ICM News

Editor: Shawn R. Wright  
Ohio State University South Centers  
1864 Shyville Rd., Piketon, OH 45661  
Phone (740) 289-2071 extension 120  
E-mail: [wright.705@osu.edu](mailto:wright.705@osu.edu)

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

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## Comments from the Editor

Things were really beginning to move prior to the cool down. We are running at 165 growing degree days and our earliest ornamental crabapple is at "pink" while our latest is still at green tip. We have seen growth of matted row strawberries beginning, our high tunnel strawberries have 3-4 open bloom per plant, and the forsythia bloom is winding down. The 10 day forecast is calling for cooler weather but no significant freeze potential for Piketon so we will be removing row cover from our annual plasticulture strawberries next week.

We have had a few issues with data from our weather station being updated and have determined that we are not the problem, but another station is. If you are checking our site and notice something wrong give me a call or email me and I can contact the people who know what buttons to push. While I would like to say I check it every day, until our latest round of grant writing wraps up in mid-April, some of the more routine tasks slip under the radar. Grant writing is an important part of our responsibilities especially in these difficult economic times. If you have questions about how the current budget situation will effect your county operations I encourage you to talk with your county Educator. Dr. Smith has also posted the OSU Extension Strategic Plan and information on the restructuring on the Extension home web at <http://extension.osu.edu/> (the links are on the right hand side of the page).

Ted Gastier has notified me of another passing of a long-time fruit grower, Robert Steinbauer, and I have included the notice from the Toledo Blade. For those of you have been around Ohio longer than I, if you are aware of these, please let me know. I believe it is important to recognize these individuals that have been so important to the Ohio fruit industry and have helped make it what it is today.

## **Expect Fungicide Supply Complications for 2009** by Dave Rosenberger, Cornell Plant Pathology (*Source: SCAFFOLDS 18:1*)

Fruit growers will face some unusual challenges vis-à-vis fungicide programs for 2009. The challenges arise from huge changes in pricing for many products, limited availability for some products, and gamesmanship concerning how to obtain the most favorable pricing. Details of pricing always vary widely depending on many factors, so I will not attempt to offer any specifics on pricing. Furthermore, comments on seasonal availability of products often end up being more rumor-based than fact-based, and I'm certain that I have not yet heard all of the rumors. Nevertheless, I have attempted to summarize below some "information" that I have derived from various sources over the winter along with some conjecture on what is causing the current turmoil in the fungicide supply chain.

**Fungicide availability:** Dithane is not currently being produced because an old production facility was shut down. Penncozeb and Manzate contain the same active ingredient and should be available so long as the just-in-time delivery schemes don't hit any snags.

Supplies of Pristine and Inspire-Super may be limited in some locations. Inspire-Super is a new DMI-containing fungicide that is not yet registered in NY, but Syngenta hopes to have a New York registration soon.

**Fungicide pricing:** Prices for mancozeb fungicides (Penncozeb, Manzate) have more than doubled in the past year, and the cost of captan has also increased significantly. Prices for the strobilurin fungicides (Sovran and Flint) have reportedly softened a bit.

**Contributing factors:** I won't even attempt to sort out which factors are the most important contributors to the fungicide supply issues, but all of the following have been mentioned and are probably playing a role:

- Some older manufacturing facilities are being decommissioned for various reasons (e.g., the plant that made Dithane).
- Increased raw material prices (high oil prices last summer) necessitated higher pricing. Many generic products such as the mancozeb fungicides had such low profit margins that any economic disruptions in raw material pricing, labor, or production plant efficiencies quickly reverberated through the system.
- Increasing demand for fungicides in other countries (e.g., India, China) has strained existing manufacturing capacity. One also wonders if manufacturing plants located in these countries might also be obligated to give domestic fungicide markets a higher priority than export markets? I do not know how many of the major fungicide manufacturing plants are located in China and India, but the numbers are not insignificant.

- Some factories in China were shut down during the 2008 Olympics as the Chinese government attempted to improve air quality. Those shutdowns may have affected seasonal availability for some fungicides because it can take many weeks to restart plants after a shutdown.

- The just-in-time production and delivery schemes that have been developed for various manufacturing industries are also being implemented to some extent in the agrichemical industry. Carrying large inventories has both economic and liability costs, so everyone from primary manufacturers to individual growers has apparently been cutting back on inventory holdings and counting on just-in-time delivery. The limitations of this supply concept will become painfully obvious if/when huge regions of the eastern United States encounter a long wet season that creates unexpected demands for abnormally large quantities of fungicides.

- Some strobilurin fungicides are now being applied to millions of acres of corn and soybeans as "plant health" products because they can generate yield increases in the absence of any single disease that would warrant fungicide application. This plant health usage has rocketed upward in the past three years and is creating competition for available supplies of the strobilurin fungicides found in Pristine and Quadris/Abound.

**Suggested strategies for dealing with changes in fungicide markets:** I can't suggest any single strategy for dealing with changes, but it makes sense to review current pricing for various fungicides with your supplier. Changing costs may make it feasible to include more strobilurin sprays (Sovran, Flint) in prebloom scab control programs for growers who previously depended primarily on mancozeb and/or captan. However, each fungicide has its own strengths and weaknesses, so making wholesale changes without considering the implications could have adverse consequences.

### **In Memoriam - Robert A. Steinbauer** (*source: Toledo Blade on 3/4/2009*)

Robert A. Steinbauer 84, of Clyde died at The Willows, Tuesday, March 3, 2009. Mr. Steinbauer was born in Toledo, Ohio on November 22, 1924, to Robert E. and Coletta U. (Toeppe) Steinbauer. He graduated from Toledo Central Catholic High School in 1942 and entered the United States Navy during WWII. He was a retired partner, with his brothers, of the former R.E. Steinbauer and Sons Fruit Farm, Clyde. An active member of the St. Mary's Parish of Clyde, where he did all manner of ministry, including leading the Rosary each Saturday before Mass. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He was a devoted husband and "Clyde Peach" to his wife of 58 years, Rita (O'Connell). He was a healing presence in times of family crisis, a lover of "spunky" children and the happiest when his house was filled with family. Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Rita; his parents; brother, Carl. He is survived by his brothers, Richard Steinbauer, Florida, John "Jack" (Rosemary) Steinbauer, Clyde, Thomas (MaryAnn) Steinbauer, Clyde; James (Marian) Steinbauer, Clyde; and sister, Coletta (Eugene) Miller; Fremont. Also surviving are his children, Robert M. (Rosemary) Steinbauer, Columbus, Reverend Joseph R. Steinbauer, Toledo, William J.. (Tami) Steinbauer, Clyde, Terence (Martha) Steinbauer, Columbus; Mary C. (Thomas) Rathbun, Clyde, Rita M. Steinbauer, Hillsborough, North Carolina and Patrick T. Steinbauer, New York, New York. Twelve

grandchildren and six great grandchildren and many relatives, nieces, nephews and loving friends are among the survivors. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, March 6, 2009, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 609 Vine St., Clyde, Ohio with. Fr. Joseph Steinbauer, celebrant. Burial was in the parish cemetery with military graveside services being provided by the Clyde American Legion and VFW. Memorials may be made to the St. Mary's Grade School, 609 Vine St., Clyde, Ohio 43410.

**Pests Development** - (Based on Scaffolds Fruit Newsletter, Coming Events (D. Kain & A. Agnello), NYSAES, Geneva)

Growing Degree Day Ranges Base Temp.50F (Normal +/- Std Dev)

Pear psylla adults active	0-49
Pear psylla 1st oviposition	1-72
Green fruitworm 1st catch	12-54
McIntosh at silver tip	15-41
McIntosh at green tip	36-62
Green apple aphids present	38-134
Spotted tentiform leafminer 1st catch	39-113
Pear thrips in pear buds	50-98
Rosy apple aphid nymphs present	56-116
Spotted tentiform leafminer 1st oviposition	58-130
Pear psylla 1st egg hatch	60-166
Obliquebanded leafroller larvae active	64-160
McIntosh at half-inch green	65-91
Comstock mealybug 1st gen crawlers in pear buds	80-254
Oriental fruit moth 1st catch	81-205
McIntosh at tight cluster	84-122
Rose leafhopper on multiflora rose - 1st nymph	96-198
European red mite egg hatch	100-168
Green fruitworm flight subsides	102-242
Redbanded leafroller 1st flight peak	104-192
Lesser appleworm 1st catch	108-292
Spotted tentiform leafminer 1st flight peak	113-209
American plum borer 1st catch	140-280
Mirid bugs 1st hatch	163-239
Spotted tentiform leafminer sap-feeders present	165-317
McIntosh at bloom	170-220
San Jose scale 1st catch	186-324
Lesser appleworm 1st flight peak	189-387
Eastern Redbud First bloom	191

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

June 22-26, The 10th International Rubus and Ribes Symposium. Zlatibor, Serbia.

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