



# Newsletter Extension

## Fruit ICM News

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## Calendar

**November 13-14: Beginning Commercial Stone Fruit Production for Direct Marketers**, Central Ohio Technical College/The Ohio State University Newark Campus. What do cherries, peaches, nectarines, and plums have in common? They are all popular stone fruits enjoyed by consumers.

A workshop for persons interested in beginning commercial stone fruit production and marketing is planned for November 13 and November 14, 2003. The meeting times are 6 to 9 p.m. on November 13 and 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on November 14.

Ohio State University Extension and the Sustainable Agriculture Network are sponsors and the COTC/OSU Newark Campus will host the meeting. Speakers include professionals from OSU Extension and OARDC, along with related business and commercial experienced fruit producers.

Topics include: Production and Market Needs in Ohio; Marketing and Pricing Panel Discussion; Cherry Production Potential in Ohio, Varieties, Site Needs; Site Selection for Peaches, Nectarines, and Plums; Training Systems; Water Management and

Irrigation; Yellow and White Peach and Plum Cultivars; Developing a Business Plan; and a grower panel discussion, "Varieties That Work For Me and Why."

Cost of the workshop is \$50 for the first person and \$12 for each additional person. Included in the cost is a resource notebook, snacks, and noon meal. Enrollment is limited to 50 individuals. Contact Licking County Extension at 740-349-6900 for additional information.

**November 20, 2003: Food Safety Workshop II- Managing Liability for Fruit and Vegetable Growers**, Marriott North Hotel, Columbus, Ohio. Sponsored by the Ohio Specialty Crop Food Safety Initiative. The workshop will focus on managing liability for fruit and vegetable growers, packers, and shippers to increase the marketability and safety of their produce. Contact Jennifer Hungerford at 614-246-8289, [maahs@ofbf.org](mailto:maahs@ofbf.org), or <http://www.midamservices.org>, click "projects."

**January 21-23, 2004: Ohio Fruit & Vegetable Growers Congress, Ohio Roadside Marketing Conference, & Ohio Christmas Tree Association Winter Meeting**, Toledo Seagate Centre and Radisson Hotel, Toledo. Visit <http://www.ohiovegetables.org> or <http://www.ohiofruit.org> for more details or contact The Ohio Fruit and Vegetable Growers office at 614-246-8292 or by e-mail at [growohio@ofbf.org](mailto:growohio@ofbf.org).

**February 21-22: The North American Bramble Growers Association National Meeting**, Tampa, FL. See the web site <http://www.nabga> for details.

## **Ohio Report for the Midwest Fruit Workers Meeting October 16-17, 2003**

*Contributors: Celeste Welty, Mike Ellis, Dave Ferree, Dick Funt, Maurus Brown, Shawn Wright, and Ron Becker. Edited by Ted Gastier.*

### **Tree Fruits (General)**

Most of Ohio had well above average rainfall this year, with grass and weeds remaining green and vigorous all summer. Disease pressures were heavy, but growers that paid strict attention to an adequate disease management program reported excellent fruit crops.

### **Tree Fruit Insects and Mites**

1. Codling moth on apples and oriental fruit moth on peaches remained difficult to control in a few orchards, but populations were generally not as damaging as in 2002. Trials on codling moth control were conducted at five sites; highlights mentioned below.

- In a small-plot trial at a research orchard, pest pressure was extremely high; the unregistered insecticide novaluron (Diamond) resulted in the best codling moth control.
- In a trial with large replicated plots at a commercial orchard in northwest Ohio, all 5 insecticides tested (Assail, Avaunt, Danitol, Intrepid, Imidan) provided excellent control, all applied in volume of 50 gal/A. This grower has had extreme difficulty controlling OFM in peaches, and he experimented with several types of mating disruption in combination with insecticides; this resulted in good control in early peaches, but poor control in late peaches, possibly due to loosening of spray schedule in August, plus challenges of managing mixed cultivars with different maturities.
- In a trial with large, unreplicated plots at a commercial orchard in northeast Ohio, Intrepid provided fair control while four other insecticides (Assail, Avaunt, Danitol, Imidan) provided excellent control. The grower improved control greatly over the previous year by increasing spray volume to 100 gal/A and using insecticide in every cover spray.
- A trial was conducted in central Ohio in a commercial orchard with no known problem of codling moth control, as a demonstration trial for the Ohio Fruit Society's summer tour. In a 20 A block split into two, control by the grower's standard program of Imidan, 3 lb/A in early summer and 2 lb/A in mid and late summer, plus Avaunt at petalfall, was compared with an experimental program of Imidan at higher rates: 4 lb/A early, then 3 lb/A. No damage by codling moth was detected at harvest in either block.
- For the first time in Ohio, an apple orchard has been found where the primary pest is oriental fruit moth, not codling moth. It is a small (5A) low-input orchard where only apples, no stone fruit, are grown. The grower tried the attract-and-kill products LastCall-OFM and LastCall-CM in half of

the orchard in 2003, compared with a low-rate Imidan program in the other half. Imidan was better than LastCall, but damage in both sections was far less than in 2002 when the orchard was managed for codling moth, not oriental fruit moth.

2. European red mite outbreaks occurred in some orchards in July. There is increasing evidence that Pyramite and Agri-Mek are harsh on predatory mites. A replicated small-plot trial on mite control showed excellent efficacy from Zeal (just registered) and Mesa (not yet registered). Inconsistent performance of Acramite is being explored.

3. San José scale problems are becoming more common each year, but pest is well controlled where investment in single application of Esteem is made.

4. Spotted tentiform leafminer infestations were severe in some northern Ohio orchards.

5. Harmonia lady beetles were abundant in September and October in fruit crops, mostly feeding in apple and peach fruit injured by other means, but apparently causing primary damage on some fruit.

### **Apples (general)**

General apple fruit set was good, and hail was spotty. Disease pressure was high, as expected, with more scab around and some late sooty blotch and fly speck due mostly to the wet conditions. Fruit russet on Goldens was more prevalent than in the previous years, even with several applications of Provide. Stem end cracking of Gala was again a problem, likely increased by the heavy rains associated with the hurricane just as harvest began. Fruit size was well above average and color was good.

### **Apples**

(Holmes, Medina, & Wayne Counties)

The yield in apples was heavy in 2003. Where fruit had been thinned properly in several varieties, it was not uncommon to find many fruit in the 1 pound range with one grower reporting a 45 count in one bushel of apples. Otherwise, most trees had numerous, small to mid size fruit.

Ripening for most varieties was 2-3 weeks behind the average date. Scab pressure was high with many normally clean orchards showing both leaf and scab lesions. Thirty-five infection periods (Mills) occurred from April 1 through July 31. Though fireblight was found in several blocks, it was not as prevalent as in the past few years.

The most prominent insect damage noted was from European red mite (first occurrence in early May) with nearly all scouted blocks requiring a mid-summer application of a miticide regardless as to whether or not an early season miticide had been used. The presence of woolly apple aphid continues to be a problem in most orchards, although the numbers did not seem as high this year. Though codling moth trap counts remained high in those blocks that have had abnormally high counts in past 3-4 years, actual fruit damage was down significantly. One grower that had 60%+ damage in 2002 despite a heavy spray schedule had less than 5% damage in 2003. Multi-colored Asian lady beetles were noted causing fruit damage in late September (heavy in one block of mixed varieties). On the positive side, more beneficial mites and brown lacewings were noted than in previous years.

### **Peaches (general)**

The peach crop was very heavy over the state and thinning was a big challenge. Fruit size was excellent,

with harvest of many cultivars delayed and picking season lengthened. Multicolored Asian ladybird beetles were a problem with late cultivars where they seemed to enter skin breaks made by birds or yellow jackets.

### **Peaches**

(Holmes, Medina, & Wayne Counties)

Peach yields were also good; however, quality of fruit diminished rapidly as harvest continued within each variety. The first fruits off each tree had good flavor and texture, but from about the mid-point on, the peaches had little flavor and a mealy texture. This was noted in most blocks and varieties. The trees themselves seemed to be in fair to poor health as the summer progressed, with some dying off before harvest.

Powdery mildew was a problem on fruit from early to mid June. Insect problems were minimal on the fruit; however, spray applications or mating disruption were required for both greater and lesser peach tree borers. Oriental fruit moth presence was minimal in the traps, with no flagging and very little fruit damage found.

### **Small Fruit**

Overall, the past year was a good year in general for small fruit production. Consumer demand for locally produced fruits continues to increase. This increase can be attributed to increased emphasis on consumer health issues and increased desire for a "relationship" with the producer. Labor issues (quality and quantity) continue to be a challenge.

This was one of the best strawberry crops in the last 10 years, thanks in part to the cooler than normal weather. Demand remained high throughout the season, particularly for those that had the first and last berries of the season. Demand for picked berries continues to increase with less demand for PYO operations.

Blueberry production was very good. Consumers in the northeast corner of the state seem to have a desire for the opportunity to visit PYO operations based upon the number of calls I received from that area. Bird control continues to be a challenge.

Raspberry production was also challenging. The rainy weather made it difficult to get fungicide applications on in a timely manner and may have impacted pollination success. The American Berry Cooperative produced an ice cream topping that sold very well.

Value-added products continue to be profitable for those that have them available. Blackberry production was disappointing after the bumper crop last year. Chester Thornless produced well even with the severe winter of 2002-2003. Some of the newer varieties showed signs of winter injury. The registration of Switch for use on brambles saved the season for many producers.

Minor fruits (currants, pawpaw, elderberries, etc.): Steady demand from specific populations. May have some opportunities to increase demand with educational programming in conjunction with the Family and Consumer Sciences Agents.

### **Additional Ohio Berry Comments from the East Side of Mt. Ararat**

*(Thanks to Dick Funt, on USDA work assignment to Armenia)*

Cold temperatures of -12 to -17F in mid- January reduced the thornless blackberry crop in central and northern Ohio. Many growers reported no crop to 10 to 20% of a normal crop. The 2002 crop was exceedingly high. Mike Ellis also reported widespread winter damage to Ohio bramble crops.

Strawberries had similar yields in 2003 as 2002; fruit size was slightly higher in 2003 than 2002. The new cultivars of Cabot and Ovation were good to excellent, despite the wet weather. Newly set fields in 2003 are a sign of a strong industry for the next several years.

The steady and almost daily rainfall in southern and central Ohio in early July caused much loss to the black raspberry crop, due to moldy berries. Rain reduced the amount of picking for several days, and moldy berries developed; as new berries ripened, the new berries touched the moldy berries, and wide spread loss occurred. Rains in July and August also affected the fall raspberry crop, but it appeared that this crop had more berries harvested than the early season.

The highbush blueberry crop was the most outstanding of all small fruit crops. The cool weather created slow ripening and spread the season beyond the normal period by two to three weeks. This allowed more time for the heavy crop to be harvested by pick-your-own customers.

Marketing and price for berries continues to be strong. Was it a low supply or high demand or both? Probably both. Berries ripening in June, July to mid- August appear to be taking the lead. The time period from mid-August to early September is becoming a period of lower demand due to high school activities and getting younger children to school. Mid-September to October is an excellent time for farm market sales, as the last of peaches and new apples allow berry sales to increase as a mix of products for consumers to enjoy as their time for pick-your-own has dropped.

## **Grapes**

Fruit set on grapes was exceptionally high, particularly with Concord, and record breaking crops are reported. The northern part of the state was 10% behind the long-term average in heat units, and this was reflected in later maturity. These two factors, plus the cloudy, rainy weather have created a significant difficulty in reaching adequate soluble solids and higher than desired acid levels. The central part of the state had a severe frost that killed leaves in early October, which added to the problem of reaching the desired maturity.

The excessive moisture caused severe disease problems, and black rot and downy mildew resulted in significant damage in some vineyards without strict adherence to an adequate disease management program.

### **2003 Ohio Table Grape Production**

Table grape production in Ohio during 2003 was good, considering the excessive moisture and overcast days. Additional fungicide sprays were applied to control disease. Yields for the most part were good. Some varieties were longer ripening due to overall weather conditions.

Prices received ranged from \$0.60 to 0.70 per pound for Concord and Niagara varieties sold as table grapes (Wooster area). Traditional table grapes such as Canadice, Reliance, Himrod, and Vanessa sold for \$1.29 (northern Ohio) to 1.49 per pound (Columbus). Reliance did have problems maturing to everyone's satisfaction, which included a problem with grapes fully coloring.

Some growers noted that they need to work on proper pruning and cluster thinning to better manage fruit load on this variety.

There is some interest in expanding table grape production around Ohio. A new table grape grower near Bryan, OH (northwest Ohio) will be in production in 2004 with Reliance, Canadice, Himrod, Seedless Concord, Marquis and Mars varieties.

There are approximately 5 to 10 table grape growers in Ohio that are producing from 1/2 to 1+ acres of table grapes for commercial sale. There is, however, growing interest in producing table grapes for the fresh fruit market.

## Terminal Market Wholesale Fruit Prices October 15, 2003

Source: Chicago [http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/HX\\_FV010.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/HX_FV010.txt)

Detroit [http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/DU\\_FV010.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/DU_FV010.txt)

Pittsburgh [http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/PS\\_FV010.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/PS_FV010.txt)

### Apples

#### Cartons cell-pack

		Terminal Market
U.S. ExFcy Empire	MI 96s 20-20.50	Detroit
U.S. ExFcy Empire	NY 100s 24.00	Detroit
U.S. ExFcy McIntosh	NY 80s 26-27.00	Chicago
U.S. ExFcy McIntosh	MI 96s 20.00	Detroit
U.S. ExFcy McIntosh	NY 100s 24.00, 120s 21.00	Detroit
U.S. ExFcy McIntosh	NY 80s 17.50-18, 120s 15-15.50	Pittsburgh
U.S.Fcy McIntosh	NY 80s 19.50, 100s 17.50	Pittsburgh
U.S. One Jersey Mac	NY 100s 16.50-17, 120s 14.50	Pittsburgh
U.S. One Paula Red	NY 100s 12.00	Pittsburgh

#### Cartons tray-pack

U.S. ExFcy Red Delicious	PA 125s & 138s 16.50	Pittsburgh
Comb U.S. ExFcy-U.S. Fcy Ginger Gold	MI 125s 14.75-15.00	Pittsburgh
Comb U.S. ExFcy-U.S. Fcy Red Delicious	WV 88s & 100s 17.00	Pittsburgh
	WV 125s & 138s 15.50	Pittsburgh

#### Cartons tray/cellpack

U.S. ExFcy McIntosh	WI 96s 21.00, 112s 18.00	Chicago
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#### 12 3-lb filmbags

U.S. ExFcy Empire	MI 2 1/2" min 12-13.50	Detroit
U.S. ExFcy Gala	MI 2 1/2" min 12-14.50	Detroit
U.S. ExFcy Golden Delicious	MI 2 1/2" min 12-13.00	Detroit
U.S. ExFcy Jonathan	MI 2 1/2" min 12-13.00	Detroit
U.S. ExFcy McIntosh	MI 2 1/2" min 12-12.50	Detroit
U.S. ExFcy McIntosh	NY 2 1/4" min 13.50-13.75	Pittsburgh
U.S. ExFcy Paula Red	MI 2 1/2" min 11-12.00	Detroit
U.S. ExFcy Paula Red	MI 2 1/2" min 13.00	Pittsburgh
U.S. ExFcy Red Delicious	MI 2 1/2" min 12.00	Detroit
Comb U.S. ExFcy-U.S. Fcy Red Delicious	MI 2 1/4" min 15.00	Pittsburgh
U.S. Fcy Gala	MI 2 1/4" min/up 12-13.00	Chicago
U.S. Fcy Gala	MI 2 1/4" min 11.50-12.00	Detroit
U.S. Fcy Golden Delicious	IL 2 1/4" min/up 11.00	Chicago
U.S. Fcy Golden Delicious	MI 2 1/4" min/up 12-13.00	Chicago
U.S. Fcy Golden Delicious	MI 2 1/4" min 11.50-12.00	Detroit

U.S. Fcy Jonamac	MI 2 ¼" min/up 10.50-11.50	Chicago
U.S. Fcy Jonathan	IL 2 ¼" min/up 10.00	Chicago
U.S. Fcy McIntosh	IL 2 ¼" min/up 14.00	Chicago
U.S. Fcy McIntosh	MI 2 ¼" min/up 10-11.00	Chicago
U.S. Fcy McIntosh	MI 2 ¼" min 11.50-12.00	Detroit
U.S. Fcy McIntosh	NY 2 ½" min 13.50	Pittsburgh
U.S. Fcy Paula Red	MI 2 ¼" min/up 8.50-10.50	Chicago
U.S. Fcy Paula Red	MI 2 ¼" min 8.50	Detroit
U.S. Fcy Royal Gala	MI 2 ¼" min 16.25	Pittsburgh
U.S. Fcy Red Delicious	IL 2 ¼" min/up 11.00	Chicago
U.S. Fcy Red Delicious	MI 2 ¼" min/up 10-12.00	Chicago
U.S. Fcy Red Delicious	MI 2 ¼" min 11.50-12.00	Detroit
U.S. Fcy Rome	MI 2 ¼" min/up 10.00	Chicago
U.S. Fcy Rome	MI 2 ¼" min 15.00	Pittsburgh

### Bushel cartons loose

U.S. Fcy Cortland	MI 2 ¾" up 12.00	Detroit
U.S. Fcy Empire	MI 2 ¾" up & 2 ½" up 12.00	Detroit
U.S. Fcy Empire	MI 2 ¼" up 10.00	Detroit
U.S. Fcy Gala	MI 2 ¾" up 12.00	Detroit
U.S. Fcy Golden Delicious	MI 3" min 12.00	Detroit
	MI 2 ¾" up 12-15.00	Detroit
U.S. Fcy Jonagold	MI 3" min & 2 ¾" up 12.00	Detroit
U.S. McIntosh	MI 3" min 12.00	Detroit
U.S. McIntosh	MI 2 ¾" up min 12.00	Detroit
U.S. Fcy Red Delicious	MI 3" min 12.00	Detroit
U.S. Fcy Red Delicious	MI 2 ¾" up 12-15.00	Detroit
U.S. Fcy Red Delicious	MI 2 ½" up 12.00	Detroit
U.S. Fcy Red Delicious	MI 2 ¼" up 10.00	Detroit

### Bushel cartons loose

No grade marks, No size marks		
Golden Delicious	MI 15.00	Pittsburgh
Red Delicious	MI 15.00	Pittsburgh
Royal Gala	MI 16.25	Pittsburgh

### **Michigan Processing Apple Price**

Source: *The Fruit Growers News* <http://www.fruitgrowersnews.com>

The Michigan Processing Apple Growers Marketing Committee has negotiated the following minimum prices for processing apples in Michigan for the 2003-2004 apple crop:

Golden Delicious	(2 ½" up)	\$8.75/cwt
Hard varieties	(2 ½" up including Rome & Empire)	8.25/cwt
Ida Red	(2 ½" up)	9.25/cwt
Jonathan	(2 ½" up)	10.25/cwt
Soft varieties & tablesorts	(2 ½" up)	7.255/cwt
Straight loads of juice apples	(under 2 ½" in Peeler Loads)	4.25/cwt

### **Blueberries**

Flats 12 1-pt. cups with lids	MI 24.00	Chicago
	MI med 24.00-24.50	Detroit
Flats 12 6-oz. cups with lids	MI sm-med 24.00-24.50	Detroit
Flats 12 1/2 pt. cups	MI 15.00	Chicago
Flats 12 4.4 oz. cups with lids	MI med-lge 17.00	Pittsburgh
	MI med 15.00	Detroit

### **Grapes**

Cartons 3 8-qt baskets, Concord	PA 21-23.00 mostly 21.00	Pittsburgh
Niagara	PA 21-23.00 mostly 21.00	Pittsburgh
Ctns 16 1-lb cnts with lids, U.S. One Concord	MI med-lge 16-17.00	Detroit
Ctns 12 1-qt bkts, Concord	MI 16.00-16.50	Chicago

## **Peaches**

### 25 lb cartons loose

Various yellow flesh varieties	<b>MI</b> 2 ½" up 9.00	Chicago
fair condition	<b>MI</b> 2 ½" up 3-5.00	Chicago
No grade marks, var. yellow flesh varieties	<b>NJ</b> 2 ¾" up 8-11.00	Chicago
	<b>NJ</b> 2 ½" up 7-9.00	Chicago

## **Pears**

### ½ bu cartons

No local pears offered at any of the 3 markets

The intent of listing terminal market prices is to provide information available in the public domain. It is not intended for price setting, only to assist growers in evaluating the value of their crops. Producers need to remember that the prices listed are gross, and consideration must be given to marketing costs, including commission, handling charge, gate fees, and possible lumper fees.

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Information presented above and where trade names are used, they are supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Ohio State University Extension is implied. Although every attempt is made to produce information that is complete, timely, and accurate, the pesticide user bears responsibility of consulting the pesticide label and adhering to those directions.

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