Maine Apple Newsletter
Tuesday, April 12, 2011 Vol. 19 No. 4

Contents
- Ag 2025 Session this Thursday at Highmoor Farm
- Estimated Green Tip Date
- Honeybees for pollination
- New websites for Maine apple growers
- 2011 Apple Orchard Scouting Co-op
- Maine State Pomological Society

Ag 2025 Conversation – April 14 at Highmoor Farm

John Jemison, UMaine Cooperative Extension Soil and Water Quality Specialist, is meeting with Maine farmers to discuss the future and ways to promote economically viable agriculture in Maine. The program is called Ag 2025. Dr. Jemison has already met with potato, blueberry, vegetable, small fruit, and dairy farmers. A conversation with tree fruit growers is happening this Thursday, April 14, 10-11:30am at Highmoor Farm.

John will ask questions like ‘What you are optimistic or concerned about related to farming’, ‘What should the state do to help Maine agriculture grow’, and ‘What University research or educational program needs would be most helpful for your operation’. The project is skewed to younger farmers because the focus is on how to best design educational efforts to meet future needs, but anyone interested in looking ahead to farming in Maine in 2025 is welcome.

The regular monthly meeting of the Maine State Pomological Society Executive Committee is at Highmoor the same day, starting at 1pm. It is not my call to officially invite you to stay for that, but my guess is they would be pleased to have apple growers who wish to stay for the afternoon meeting do so and learn more about how Pom Soc serves Maine apple growers.

But wait there’s more! Anybody who attends the Ag 2025 meeting can get the proverbial Free Lunch. Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. AND by coming to Highmoor, you can save $5 on your copy of the 2011 New England Tree Fruit Mgmt. Guide!

To order food we need some idea of the head count, so if you would like to participate either send an email to Glen at glen.koehler@maine.edu, or call 581-3882 as soon as possible.
To have a copy mailed to you, send your mailing address and a check for $21 made out to Cooperative Extension to:

Renae Moran
Highmoor Farm
PO Box 179, 52 Route 202,
Monmouth ME, 04259

Copies can be picked up at Highmoor for $16. Printing costs alone for this publication are $30 each. The price to Maine growers is subsidized by a grant from the USDA Crop Insurance Program. Supplies are limited.

CHANGES for the 2011 EDITION

Most of the information for this list of changes was provided by Lorraine Los, Fruit Crops IPM Coordinator, Dept. of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, University of Connecticut.

* Table 7.1.1 Insecticide efficacy for apple pests
  Ratings reviewed and updated. New column added for stink bugs, and specifically for brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB). The ratings are preliminary and may not apply equally to all stink bug species. There are no documented reports of BMSB injury to crops in New England as of 2010, but it has become an important pest of tree fruit and other crops in the mid-Atlantic states.

* Table 7.1.1 Insecticide efficacy for stone fruits also revised to include stink bugs.

LABEL CHANGES

INSECTICIDES

* Belay (clothianidin) a Group 4a insecticide (neonicotinoid), has a supplemental label that includes pome fruit and peach, but no other stone fruit crops. It is for foliar post-bloom use on a wide variety of pests of peach and pome fruit. Belay must not be applied during bloom or if bees are actively foraging. The Preharvest Interval (PHI) is 21 days for peach and 7 days for pome fruit. The Restricted Entry Interval (REI) is 12 hours.

* Clutch (clothianidin) is no longer marketed. It has been replaced by Belay.

* Danitol (fenpropatrin) – In addition to pome fruits, the label has been expanded to include a number of pests of stone fruits, bushberries (e.g. blueberry, gooseberry, currant) and caneberries (blackberry, raspberry, etc.).

* Guthion (azinphosmethyl)
  The remaining tree fruit uses until September 30, 2012 include apples, pears, and cherries. The REI is 14 days for apples and pears, and 15 days for cherries. The preharvest interval (PHI) is 14 or 21 days for apples and pears (depending on rate) and 15 days for cherries.
If Guthion is used on apples, the **REI** for anyone who is not covered by the Worker Protection Standard, such as **members of the general public involved in “Pick Your Own” operations**, varies from **33 to 44 days**, depending on rate used. “Pick-Your Own” harvesting is prohibited on pears and cherries. There are also restrictions regarding spray drift and buffer zones for water bodies. Be sure to read this label very carefully!

* **Lorsban (chlorpyrifos)**
  The labels for the three Lorsban formulations (Lorsban 4-E, Lorsban Advanced and Lorsban 75WG) are now the same regarding use on apples. There has been confusion over these labels in the last few years. Only one application of any chlorpyrifos product can be made per year on apples. The application can be either a prebloom spray to the canopy or the trunk, or a postbloom application to the lower 4 feet of the trunk. The **REI** for all products is 4 days. Lorsban 50W is no longer available.

  There are also various generic chlorpyrifos products, e.g. Govern, Nufos Whirlwind, and Warhawk. Be sure to read each label and carefully as they may differ from the Lorsban labels.

* **Movento** (spirotetramat) – Labeled for use on pome fruits, stone fruits, and grapes. This is not a new product, but registration was recently reinstated.

* **SpinTor** (spinosad) is no longer available and has been replaced with **Delegate** (spinetoram). **Entrust**, the organic version of spinosad, is still available.

* **Thionex (endosulfan)**
  Thionex and other products with endosulfan as the active ingredient are being phased out over the next few years. Use on apples ends July 31, 2015. Use on pears ends July 31, 2013. Use on stone fruits (apricots, sweet and tart cherries, nectarines, peaches, plums, prunes) ends July 31, 2012. You may have trouble finding products with those crops on the label as production has discontinued.

  In addition, there have been significant changes to Restricted Entry Intervals and Preharvest Intervals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thionex 50W</th>
<th>Apple</th>
<th>20 days</th>
<th>21 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pear</td>
<td>20 days</td>
<td>20 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nectarines, Peaches</td>
<td>20 days</td>
<td>21 or 30 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thionex 3EC</th>
<th>Apple</th>
<th>7 days</th>
<th>21 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pears</td>
<td>7 days</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nectarines, Peaches</td>
<td>7 days</td>
<td>21 or 30 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* **Voliam Xpress** (lambda-cyhalothrin + chlorantraniliprole) – Labeled for use on both pome and stone fruits. It is a combined formulation of lambda-cyhalothrin (the a.i. found in Warrior) and chlorantraniliprole (the a.i. found in Altacor). The long list of pests on the label includes most of those found on the Warrior and Altacor labels.

* **Zeal** (etoxazole) – In addition to pome fruits, the label now includes all stone fruits.
**Fungi Control**

* Quintec (quinoxifen) was previously labeled for powdery mildew on cherries and grapes. The supplemental label now includes the remainder of stone fruits including apricot, nectarine, peach, and plum.

* Tilt is a reformulated version with the same propiconazole active ingredient as the discontinued Orbit.

* Vintage SC is a reformulated version with the same fenarimol active ingredient as the discontinued Rubigan EC.

**Weed Control and Herbicides**

* The weed management section of the 2011 guide has been completely revised.

* Devrinol (napropamide) - No longer labeled for use on pome fruits or stone fruits.

* Sandea (halosulfuron-methyl) - There is a supplemental label for apples and highbush blueberries. Sandea has both pre- and post-emergent activity on broadleaf weeds and nutsedge. Do not apply to apple trees established less than one year.

* Treevix (saflufenacil) - A postemergence directed broadleaf herbicide labeled for apple and pear only. An adjuvant system consisting of MSO (Methylated Seed Oil) + AMS (Ammonium Sulfate) or UAN (Urea Ammonium Nitrate) must be used with Treevix for best results. Do not use year of planting.

* Venue (pyraflufen ethyl) - A nonselective contact herbicide for post-emergence control of broadleaf weeds in pome and stone fruits. The label restricts use on bearing trees to the postharvest to pre-bloom season only. It can be used full season for nonbearing fruit trees only.

**Estimated 2011 Green Tip Date**

Based on 1997-2010 temperature records, McIntosh 50% Green Tip dates at Highmoor Farm in Monmouth for 1997-2010, and observed and forecast temperatures since January 1 this year, the estimated 2011 McIntosh Green Tip date at Highmoor this year is April 22 – 30, with a “best guess” date of Monday, April 25.

Green tip in Sanford is typically 1–3 days earlier than in Monmouth. Locations north and east of Augusta, but south of Bangor, are usually 1–3 days later than Monmouth. Downeast Maine locations are typically more than a week behind Monmouth.
Honeybees for Pollination

Heads up on pollination from Dr. Renae Moran

It's time to have your bee hives scheduled to arrive in time for bloom. Unexpected warm weather could speed up the bloom time as it did last year, so don't leave this until the last minute. Bees are essential in years with a very short pollination period.

The March 15 issue of the Good Fruit Grower had several articles on using beehives and the latest news on colony collapse disorder.
- New treatment against Colony Collapse Disorder
- Skimping on bees can be risky
- Keep hives warm and dry
- Pollination role of native bees
  http://www.goodfruit.com/Good-Fruit-Grower/March-15th-2011/Pollination-role-of-native-bees-studied/

The recommendations for hive placement are to group them together in an open area in the orchard rather than the border to encourage more within-orchard flight. During bloom, pay attention to how much bee activity occurs, as this can be important in thinning decisions. This year, trees seem to have an abundance of flower buds. If all goes well during bloom and pollination, aggressive thinning may be needed this year.

New websites, new Facebook site

1) The UMaine Extension Apple IPM website has a new address:
   http://extension.umaine.edu/ipm/programs/apple/
   The transition to the new system is still in progress, but the site is working. Page formatting and links will be updated in the coming weeks.

2) Dr. Renae Moran has created a new website version of the booklet “Growing Fruit Trees in Maine” at http://umaine.edu/fruit/growing-fruit-trees-in-maine/

3) Here is an experiment at using a public Facebook page to enable group communication about apple orchard conditions and issues. Anybody can post comments or photos, but you do have to create a free Facebook account. That is a simple process, just go to http://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=hpskip
   Facebook will ask for a name, email address, gender, and birth date. I think the email address has to be valid, but you can use whatever you want for the name, gender, and birthdate. (My Facebook birthdate is Jan. 1, 1905). Of course if you use a fake name people will not know who you really are when you post.
   The Apple Facebook site (nothing much there yet) will be at http://www.facebook.com/pages/UMaine-Extension-Apple-IPM/218869034796721

4) Jon Clements from UMass who spoke at the March pre-season meeting has a new Tall Spindle web site. An article about tall spindle, and a link to the site is at http://www.goodfruit.com/Good-Fruit-Grower/Web-2011/Web-site-serves-tall-spindle-apple-orchardists/
With support from the Maine State Pomological Society, Cooperative Extension hopes to provide orchard scouting visits this summer. This program not only directly assists participating growers, but also provides a statewide overview of apple pest conditions that are useful to all growers, and provides information for the Apple Newsletter, Orchard Radar, troubleshooting, and other functions of the UMaine Apple IPM Program.

To participate, an orchard must have at least one acre of apple trees. Transportation and travel time are our biggest expenses. We do not allow the scout to enter an orchard that is under REI (Restricted Entry Interval). To prevent driving to an orchard only to find out that it cannot be scouted that day, we ask that growers communicate with the scout by email or phone if their orchard will be under REI on the normally scheduled visit day. The scout observations are only a supplement to the grower’s own monitoring. This is especially true for locations the scout only sees once every two weeks.

Depending on location and the number of orchards that sign up, we accommodate as many orchards as possible with weekly or bi-weekly visits. If you would like to sign up for the Orchard Scouting Co-op, please send an email to Glen at glen.koehler@maine.edu, call 581-3882, or come to the Ag 2025 meeting on Thursday and tell me in person.

And while you are thinking about the Scouting Coop, think about joining the Maine State Pomological Society (MSPS) that helps make it possible. MSPS is a local volunteer organization of apple growers and enthusiasts who work together to effectively advocate on behalf of farmers and promoting Maine apples. Membership is open to all and is not just for commercial scale orchardists. Your membership helps increase the visibility of Maine apples on store shelves, funds research that helps Maine grow some of the best apples in the world, represents apple grower concerns to state government and UMaine, and helps shape the future. More information about MSPS is at www.maineapples.org

Closing Words

"Genius is the ability to renew one's emotions in daily experience."
Paul Cezanne

Glen W. Koehler
Associate Scientist IPM
Email: glen.koehler1@maine.edu
Voice: 207-581-3882 (within Maine: 800-287-0279)
Pest Management Office, 491 College Avenue
Orono, ME 04473-1295
http://pmo.umext.maine.edu/apple/

Dr. Renae Moran
Extension Tree Fruit Specialist
Email: rmoran@maine.edu
Voice: 207-933-2100 ext 105
Highmoor Farm Ag. Exp. Station, P.O. Box 179
Monmouth ME 04259-0179
http://extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/programs/tree-fruits/

Putting Knowledge to Work with the People of Maine
A member of the University of Maine System
Nondiscrimination statement, disability resources, nondisclosure statement