**Fruit Maturity**

Gala is still not ready.

Honeycrisp is at starch index 2.3, Honeycrisp are very prone to bitter pit when picked at an early maturity. Bitter pit develops in storage as brown, sunken spots at the blossom end of the fruit.

Cortland is still green, but some people like them that way.
Dr. Rob Crassweller, Penn State Extension Pomologist

“Some growers are reporting support systems that collapsed under the weight of the tree and crop with all the rain. If you have some trees that went over and did not break off at the union you can rectify the problem but you must act fast.

Trees can be righted utilizing a rope or chain attached to a tractor. Attach a padded chain or rope well up the trunk. Gradually straighten up the tree being careful not to twist the trunk or break off any more roots. Attach the tree to a post or metal or wood stakes driven in the ground as shown in the drawing if you are dealing with individual trees. If you are dealing with a support system failure, notice what part failed, e.g., were the posts not driven in deep enough? Did the system fail because the wire staples pulled out? Was the crop load too much for the system? If any of these were the reason resolve to correct them. Immediately after you have pulled the tree upright, tamp soil down around any exposed roots. Reduce any stress to the trees next spring. This includes weeds, voles, drought and heavy cropping.”

Dr. Jim Schupp made the following observations of trellis failures in a planting at the Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center in Biglerville:

“Irene’s damage has taught some hard lessons that should be applied to future plantings:

1. Four wire trellises held up to storm winds better than vertical axis systems with a single wire supporting a conduit.

2. Vertical axis trellis systems in which the wire was attached by running it through a hole drilled through the top of the post held up much better than those in which the wire was attached to the post by staples.

3. Trellis systems that were held by an angled end post wired to a vertical anchor post were more likely to loosen than were trellis systems with a vertical end post attached to a vertical anchor post by an “h” brace.

The bottom line is that the most economical trellis system is the one still standing after a catastrophic event.”
**Flyspeck update**

Lack of rain for the past few days and none in the 7-day forecast has pushed estimated flyspeck appearance dates a few days later. The below table is provided to help growers decide if a late season renewal of fungicide protection is warranted on late harvested cultivars. Estimated dates will continue to be updated online at [http://pronewengland.org/AllModels/DecisionModels.htm](http://pronewengland.org/AllModels/DecisionModels.htm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final application date</th>
<th>MONMOUTH Latest “safe” harvest date with low risk of flyspeck (assuming continuous protection prior to final spray)</th>
<th>SANFORD Latest “safe” harvest date with low risk of flyspeck (assuming continuous protection prior to final spray)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Captan or Ziram</td>
<td>Captan or Ziram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9</td>
<td>Captan + Topsin, Captan + phosphite, Flint, Sovran</td>
<td>Captan + Topsin, Captan + phosphite, Flint, Sovran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 19</td>
<td>Pristine, Cabrio</td>
<td>Pristine, Cabrio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pesticide Control Board Request for Comments**

The Maine Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) is revising some rules and is seeking public input. You can submit comments in writing or attend a public hearing on October 7.

The following two proposed changes are of interest to tree fruit growers:

**PROPOSED NEW RULE.**

** Certification and Licensing Provisions for Private Applicators of General Use Pesticides (Chapter 33):**

The new rule would establish the procedures for taking exams, applying for a license, and documenting continuing education requirements for certain farmers who will soon need to obtain a Private Applicator of General Use Pesticides License. The new license requirement arises from a recent public law enacted by the Maine Legislature in the spring of 2011.

Public Law 2011, Chapter 169, will require growers who use only general use pesticides and annually sell more than $1,000 of plant or plant products intended for human consumption to obtain the new license by April 1, 2015. The new law also specifies that licensees will need to pass an exam to demonstrate competency in pest management and the use of pesticides, and receive one hour of continuing education annually in order to maintain the license. A three-year license will cost $15.
PROPOSED CHANGES TO EXISTING RULES

**Notification Provisions for Outdoor Pesticide Applications** (Chapter 28):

The amended rule would implement a change mandated by a new law enacted by the Maine Legislature in the spring of the 2011.

Public Law 2011, Chapter 332, specifies that the current 500-foot notification distance contained in Chapter 28 of the Board’s rules be modified to allow for notification up to 1,000 feet for aerial applications.

*Because aerial application is no longer active for Maine orchards, this amendment may not seem relevant for tree fruit growers. But given the attention generated by other aspects of previous and current versions of this rule, in particular those relating to pesticide applications made using air blast sprayers, any changes to this rule may be of interest to tree fruit growers.*

These and two other proposed rule changes (not directly relevant to tree fruit production) may be viewed at [www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/laws/rulemaking.htm](http://www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/laws/rulemaking.htm), or copies may be obtained from the Board of Pesticides Control office (see contact information below).

The public hearing is at 9:30 AM on Friday, October 7, 2011 at the Hampton Inn, Colby/Thomas Room, 425 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Waterville.

To submit comments in writing before the October 21 deadline, send them to:

Henry Jennings, ME Board of Pesticides Control, 28 State House Sta., Augusta, ME 04333-0028.
Telephone: 207-287-2731
FAX: 207-624-5035
E-mail: henry.jennings@maine.gov

### Closing Words

"Everybody’s got plans... until they get hit."
- Mike Tyson

"As long as we persevere and endure, we can get anything we want."
- Mike Tyson

Where brand names are used it is for the reader’s information. No endorsement is implied nor is any discrimination intended against products with similar ingredients. Always consult product label for rates, application instructions, and safety precautions. Users of these products assume all associated risks.

Orchard Radar weather and pest tracking models at [http://pronewengland.org/AllModels/DecisionModels.htm](http://pronewengland.org/AllModels/DecisionModels.htm)

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