



Maine Tree Fruit Newsletter

Friday, March 27, 2020 Vol 27:3

Preseason Tree Fruit Webinars

The next of the weekly webinars is 12pm-2pm on Wednesday, April 1.

To Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://maine.zoom.us/j/132684553>

Or you can join by Telephone: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 408 638 0968 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 132 684 553

Recordings and quizzes for the earlier webinars are available at <https://extension.umaine.edu/ipm/apple/mainetreefruitwebinars/>

Two pesticide applicator recertification credits are available from each webinar.

Week 3	Wednesday, April 1, 2020	
Introduction		12:00 PM
Jon Clements University of Massachusetts	<i>Innovations in Orchard Monitoring Technologies</i>	12:05 PM
Dr. Leslie Forstadt, UMaine Cooperative Extension - Director, Maine Agricultural Mediation Program.	<i>Farm families, Transition, & How to Communicate in Difficult Conversations</i>	12:50 PM
Q&A with Jon and Leslie		1:30 PM
Earl Bunting Doles' Orchard, President Maine State Pomological Society.	<i>Maine State Pomological Society update</i>	1:45 PM
Adjourn		2:00 PM

Webinar follow-up items:

1) In the March 18 webinar, there was discussion about use of the biological antagonist **Blossom Protect** (<http://www.cdms.net/ldat/ldAJG000.pdf>) as an alternative material for streptomycin to prevent fire blight blossom infections.

The two major online pesticide label sites (CDMS <https://tinyurl.com/CDMSLabels> and Agrian <https://agrian.com/labelcenter/results.cfm?>) give different information about which states have registered Blossom Protect. But they both show Blossom Protect as not being currently registered in Maine.

A summer 2019 UMass Fruit Notes article <http://umassfruitnotes.com/v84n3/a1.pdf> describes trials of Blossom Protect and other biological fire blight preventatives as compared to streptomycin. Streptomycin is the most effective option, but concerns about antibiotic use and occurrence of fire blight strains in other states resistant to streptomycin have raised interest in finding alternative materials.

2) In the March 25, webinar the issue of **scab resistance to fungicides** came up. In Quebec, the 1st generation DMI/Sterol inhibitor fungicides are no longer considered effective, and there is concern about strobilurin resistance. Tests done on Maine samples in 2007-2012 are shown below. Unfortunately, as far as I know, the programs that provided these test results are no longer operating, so it seems doubtful that there will be more fungicide resistance testing done anytime soon.

I don't know how much the 1st generation DMI/sterol inhibitors are still being used in Maine. Inspire Super, which contains a 2nd generation DMI active ingredient, is the most commonly mentioned DMI fungicide. Cevya is a new (to me at least) DMI fungicide. Despite the results shown below, many Maine growers are having good results with strobilurin fungicides. The SDHI fungicides (Merivon, Fontelis, Luna Sensation, Luna Tranquility, Sercadis) are also susceptible to resistance, but were not released when the testing was done.

SUMMARY	Active ingredient: Dodine.	Active ingredient: 1st generation. DMI – Sterol Inhibitor. Myclobutanil.	Active ingredient: 2nd generation DMI – Sterol Inhibitor. Difenoconazole.	Active ingredient: QoI Strobilurin: Trifloxystrobin.
% samples still sensitive	48% (12/25)	32% (8/25)	100% (14/14)	48% (12/25)
% samples still effective, but showing shift towards resistance	32% (8/25)	36% (9/25)	0% (0/14)	32% (8/25)
% samples not effective due to resistance	20% (5/25)	32% (8/25)	0% (0/14)	20% (5/25)

Sample Site and Year	Active ingredient: Dodine ----- Product: Syllit (former name was <u>Cyprex</u>)	Active ingredient: 1st generation. DMI – Sterol Inhibitor. Myclobutanil ----- Product: Nova Results apply to Rubigan, Procure, Rally, Vintage.	Active ingredient: 2nd generation DMI – Sterol Inhibitor. Difenoconazole. ----- Product: Inspire Super Results apply to Indar, Topguard.	Active ingredient: QoI Strobilurin: Trifloxystrobin. ----- Product: Flint Results apply to Sovran, Pristine. Combination ingredient in Inspire Super, Luna Sensation, Merivon.
Gray 2007	Shift	Resistant	No test	Shift
Monmouth 2007	Shift	Resistant	No test	Shift
Sabbatus 2009	Resistant	Resistant	No test	Sensitive
Monmouth 2009	Resistant	Shift	No test	Sensitive
Wells 2009	Sensitive	Sensitive	No test	Sensitive
Auburn 2009	Sensitive	Sensitive	No test	Sensitive
Buckfield 2009	Shift	Shift	No test	Sensitive
Sweden 2009	Sensitive	Shift	No test	Sensitive
Manchester 2010	Sensitive	Sensitive	No test	Sensitive
Fairfield 2010	Sensitive	Shift	No test	Resistant
Sanford 2010	Shift	Resistant	No test	Shift
Wells 2011	Sensitive	Shift	Sensitive	Shift
Manchester 2011	Sensitive	Shift	Sensitive	Resistant
Limington 2011	Sensitive	Shift	Sensitive	Shift
Buckfield 2011	Resistant	Shift	Sensitive	Resistant
Skowhegan 2011	Sensitive	Shift	Sensitive	Shift
Waterville 2011	Shift	Sensitive	Sensitive	Sensitive
Auburn 2011	Resistant	Resistant	Sensitive	Shift
Buckfield 2011	Shift	Sensitive	Sensitive	Sensitive
Bridgton 2011	Resistant	Resistant	Sensitive	Resistant
Minot 2012	Sensitive	Sensitive	Sensitive	Sensitive
Hebron 2012	Sensitive	Sensitive	Sensitive	Sensitive
Bridgton 2012	Sensitive	Sensitive	Sensitive	Sensitive
Monmouth 2012	Shift	Resistant	Sensitive	Shift
Sanford 2012	Shift	Resistant	Sensitive	Resistant

3) Recorded March 16 Cornell Stone Fruit IPM webinar

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZMhAgX6hhM&feature=emb_logo

This webinar reviews current best management practices for some of the most challenging insect, disease, and weed pests of New York stone fruit orchards. Speakers include Dr. Art Agnello, Dr. Kerik Cox, and Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie.

The Michigan State University Stone Fruit IPM for Beginners fact sheets are at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/agriculture/fruit/stone-fruit-ipm-for-beginners>

4) Free webinar about apple bloom thinning with the pollen tube growth model on Monday, March 30 (2pm-3:30pm). You must register by Sunday, March 29 to receive the webinar link via email on March 30.

https://enych.cce.cornell.edu/event_preregistration_new.php?id=1370

Presented by Dr. Greg Peck, Assistant Professor of Horticulture at Cornell University. After the main presentation, Greg will field questions on his other research areas, including hard cider orchard management, organic production strategies, and sustainable orchard ground floor management

COVID-19 Response

1) This video shot by Hob Machado for Maine Harvest for Hunger last summer has really good information on establishing a portable field hand washing station that is particularly relevant for farmers and gleaners right now:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HNc7XrX9UA&feature=youtu.be&list=PL8D1C914E1E1FEA69>

2) The Specialty Food Association is offering a series of webinars in which experts address the challenges to specialty food businesses during the current circumstances.

<https://www.specialtyfood.com/shows-events/summer-fancy-food-show/education/ask-experts-webinars/>

3) The following material is from Mary Concklin, UConn Cooperative Extension, regarding the current situation with H2A workers:

For those having H2A issues, USDA has requested that inquiries be sent to aglabor@usda.gov and they will be dealt with on an individual basis. Apparently, USDA is processing these questions quickly.

U.S. State Department policy update regarding H2 Visas

“In response to significant worldwide challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic the Department of State has temporarily suspended routine visa services at all U.S. Embassies and Consulates. Understanding concerns about the impact on “H2A” Temporary Agricultural Workers, the Secretary of State has made the temporary adjustments in processing H2A visa applications described below.

H-2 Visas and COVID-19

We are aware of the importance of the H-2 program to the economy and food security of the United States. Secretary Pompeo, in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security, has authorized consular officers to expand the categories of H-2 visa applicants whose applications can be adjudicated without an in-person interview.

Consular officers can, if they so choose, now waive the visa interview requirement for first-time and returning H-2 applicants who have no apparent ineligibility or potential ineligibility. This expansion also increases the period in which returning workers may qualify for an interview waiver. Applicants whose previous visas expired in the last **48 months**, and who did not require a waiver of ineligibility the last time they applied, do not need to be interviewed in-person if they are applying for the same visa classification as their previous visa.

We anticipate the vast majority of otherwise qualified H-2 applicants will now be adjudicated without an interview. All applicants undergo the same security checks, regardless of whether they are interviewed or processed via interview waiver. If the screening process determines an applicant may have a possible ineligibility for the visa, the applicant must have an in-person interview.

In light of the current drawdown in services and the inability to interview these applicants in person, cases with associated derogatory information will be suspended and refused under INA 221(g) until the resumption of visa interviews. Consular resources and local government restrictions vary widely, and each consular section is reviewing its capacity to adjudicate visa applications during this worldwide pandemic.

Consular officers may still require an in-person interview for H-2 applicants in their country, based on circumstances in their country. Consult with the relevant embassy or consulate in order to confirm the level of services currently offered.

The Department intends to continue processing H-2 cases as much as possible, but will need to modify our procedures in order to facilitate the social distancing recommended by health authorities. This is a **temporary** action due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures will end no later than December 31, 2020. This action has been taken because we are aware of the importance of the H-2 program to the economy and food security of the United States. “

Closing Words

“Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush.”

~ Doug Larson

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