

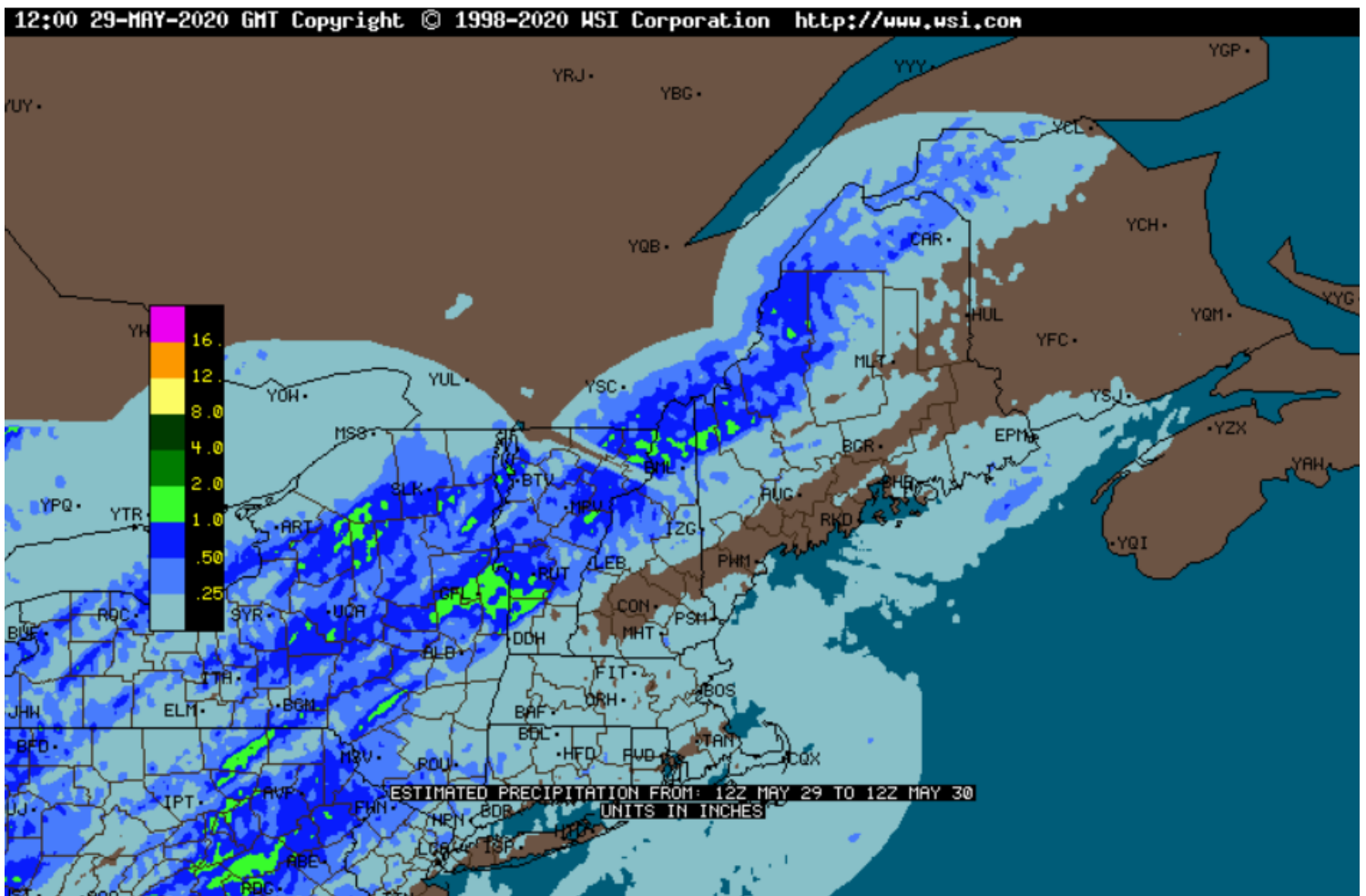
Fire blight update May 30, 2020:

It looks like many Maine locations got at least a little bit of rain last night. Even 0.05 inch is more than enough to launch fire blight infection. A few years ago, fire blight infections appeared to have been started by rainfall too light to register on weather stations with 0.01" sensitivity.

If you received rain last night, this morning, or this afternoon there is a high chance of fire blight infection for apple blossoms open at time of the rain, especially if there is any recent history of fire blight in or near the orchard.

Streptomycin application within 24 hours of the start of the rain, preferably within 18 hours can greatly the number of infection sites. Application should be at full dose and with a high-volume spray to move streptomycin-bearing water into the blossoms and down into the nectaries. Plant pathologists used to recommend a material such as Regulaid or another additive to enhance absorption into plant tissue. That recommendation does not have as much prominence lately. The important thing is to apply streptomycin within the short post-rain efficacy window if strep had not been applied within the 1-3 days before the rain.

Due to short duration of rain and quick drying, last night/today's rain is probably NOT a scab infection period.



<https://www.wunderground.com/maps/precipitation/daily/bml>