



Maine Tree Fruit Newsletter

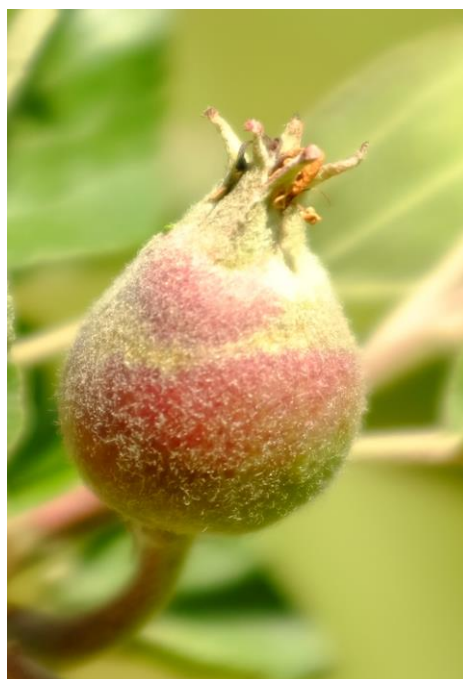
Tuesday, June 12, 2020 Vol 27:8

Thinning Thoughts

Excessive fruit drop is occurring on most varieties in most orchards at Highmoor Farm, but not at a nearby orchard in Greene. There have been reports of too much thinning in other parts of the state, as well. This may be due to the after-effects of the June 1 freeze rather than chemical thinning. The dry weather may be a factor, but not the only factor, because the excess thinning is being observed in orchards with good soil moisture as well as the driest locations. Another sign of nonlethal damage from the freeze are frost rings that are appearing on a large number of Gala and Honeycrisp apples at Highmoor Farm.

If you find frost rings in your apples, it could have an impact on wholesale grades this fall. Do an early assessment for fruit russeting cause by frost and call your crop insurance agent. It looks different from russeting caused by high humidity or chemical burn.

At Highmoor Farm, European and Japanese plums have poor fruit set, so fruit thinning by hand will be easy this year. American plums have a poor crop this year and some signs of shoot dieback.



Photos: Renae Moran

Dry and Hot

Dry weather is hard on peaches. If possible, give them irrigation. They may live longer.

Young fruit trees, especially those planted this year, also need irrigation support. Unfortunately, there is not much rain the forecast for Highmoor Farm as of Wednesday evening, June 17. In the tables below, ET is Evapotranspiration, the amount of soil water removed by the combined effects of evaporation and plants pulling water from the soil to replace water lost through foliar transpiration. Spray application during or shortly before temperature exceeds 85F greatly increases the chance for phytotoxic skin damage to young fruit.

AgEye Weather Report
 Wed Jun 17, 2020 init 12 UTC
 Highmoor Farm (44.23°N,70.07°W)

9-day Forecast	Jun 18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Day	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Max Air Temp (°F)	86	92	90	86	80	88	85	87	73
Min Air Temp (°F)	47	55	59	60	57	56	60	60	62
Min Dewp Temp (°F)	47	55	60	59	59	58	61	44	59
Avg 2in T Soil (°F)	61	64	67	67	66	66	67	67	66
Avg Rel Hum (%)	65	69	75	78	79	77	84	73	94
Tot Precip (in)	0	0	0	0	0	0	.1	0	.4
Precip Prob (%)	0	22	66	0	14	11	60	6	81
Avg Wind Speed (mph)	4	4	4	6	6	3	5	4	4
Max Gust (mph)	11	21	17	24	22	18	17	15	16
Avg Wind Direction	SW	SW	S	S	S	SE	SE	SW	SE
Avg Cloud Cover	CLE	SCT	SCT	SCT	SCT	SCT	SCT	SCT	OVC
GDD [50°F base] (°F)	18	24	24	22	19	22	22	22	17
ET [short crop] (in)	.28	.29	.29	.27	.25	.24	.26	.25	.10

7-day Observations	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Day	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Max Air Temp (°F)	66	69	77	64	67	70	80
Min Air Temp (°F)	45	50	55	45	45	44	42
Min Dewp Temp (°F)	44	49	46	41	41	45	45
Avg Rel Hum (%)	77	97	70	65	70	72	67
Tot Precip (in)	0	.2	0	0	0	0	0
Avg Wind Speed (mph)	4	5	4	5	5	4	3
Max Gust (mph)	19	23	23	19	17	17	11
Avg Wind Direction	S	S	W	W	SE	SE	SW
Avg Cloud Cover	SCT	CDY	FEW	SCT	SCT	FEW	CLE
GDD [50°F base] (°F)	6	10	17	6	7	9	13
ET [short crop] (in)	0.32	0.31	0.41	0.34	0.33	0.36	0.40

Site-specific weather reports including the tables above for 33 Maine locations are being updated twice every day. The data are specified to an area that is 1.5 miles long per side. Expanded tables with more information are coming soon. About 47 more Maine sites will be added soon. Contact glen.koehler@maine.edu for more information.

<u>Town</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
Auburn	44.1405	-70.2892	Millinocket	45.6600	-68.7100
Bangor	44.8000	-68.7800	Monmouth	44.2308	-70.0690
Bigelow	45.1500	-70.2900	New Gloucester	43.9456	-70.2934
Buckfield	44.2502	-70.3272	Newport	44.8684	-69.2736
Caribou	46.8600	-68.0000	Old Town	44.9280	-68.7005
Cornville	44.8108	-69.7010	Orono	44.8900	-68.6900
Cumberland Center	43.7997	-70.2589	Portland	43.6600	-70.2600
Cutler	44.6600	-67.2000	Presque Isle	46.6546	-68.0083
Fairfield	44.6888	-69.6893	Rangeley	44.9700	-70.6400
Farmington	44.6700	-70.1500	Sabbatus	44.0940	-70.0860
Fort Kent	47.2600	-68.5900	South Bridgton	43.9731	-70.7070
Gorham	43.7490	-70.4633	Springvale	43.4486	-70.8004
Greenville	45.4600	-69.5900	Sweden	44.1474	-70.7678
Hope	44.2630	-69.1568	Thorndike	44.5633	-69.2751
Katahdin	45.9000	-68.9200	Vassalboro	44.4816	-69.6022
Levant	44.8795	-68.9668	Waterville	44.5500	-69.6300
Limerick-Limington	43.7240	-70.7602			

Pest Notes

More fire blight is showing up in blocks that did not receive protective strep application. With rapid development in the heat this week, the time for applying Apogee where strikes are found may be ending. Please send fire blight, or any other orchard disease, insect, or weed outbreak observations to glen.koehler@maine.edu

Dry heat is hard on fruit trees, but it is also hard on the apple scab fungus. If lesions are present, captan coverage during hot dry weather is often sufficient to prevent further spread.

The June lull in European red mite populations occurs at this time, but daily temperatures getting into the 90's, ERM development will accelerate with 2nd generation nymphs appearing soon. Magnification is required to see ERM in the very small nymph stage.

It is time to acquire apple maggot traps if you do not already have them. Traps should be set in early July. AM captures do not normally begin until late July. The Extension – Pomological Society Orchard Scouting Coop is switching to baited traps this year.

Maine State Pomological Society Summer Mtg

The meeting this year will be on Wednesday, July 22 at Treworgy Family Orchard in Levant Maine (between Newport and Bangor). Details coming soon.

Closing Words

"Somewhere, I was right!"

~ Steve Pool, TV weather forecaster, Seattle WA

[Glen W. Koehler](#)

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