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Summer-like conditions across the state over the past two weeks put the growing season into high gear. Peaches were blooming in Lafayette on tax day and apples went from silver-tip to pink overnight! Apples are now at pink in northern parts of the state, full bloom here in Lafayette and petal fall in southern areas. Grapes are at budbreak to 2-inch shoots. A light frost was recorded April 23 in many places across the state. The coldest temperatures we saw reported were 28F in LaPorte and Kendallville while many other areas got down to about 31F. We wouldn't expect these temperatures to cause widespread damage, although they may have caused a small amount of thinning for us. Strawberry growers stayed up late (or got up early) to run frost protection in many areas. Another possible frost is forecast for later this week.

Signup for Apple Grower Assistance Program Begins April 29th: WASHINGTON, April 17, 2002 The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that signup for the 2000 Apple Market Loss Assistance Program (AMLAP-II) will begin April 29, 2002. AMLAP-II will provide about \$75 million to eligible growers for their 2000-crop apple production. The payments will help offset economic losses due to low prices in the U.S. apple market. Growers can receive a payment per pound for their 2000-crop apple production, and they will be paid on a maximum of 5 million pounds per separate apple operation.

To receive cash payments, eligible apple producers must: (1) have produced

and harvested apples during the 2000-crop year; (2) not have received compensation from any other federal program, other than crop insurance, for the same market loss; and (3) apply for cash payments during the application period for each apple operation. The deadline for application under the AMLAP-II program will be announced later. (Hirst)

Fire Blight: The best prevention for fire blight is the application of streptomycin during bloom. Apply streptomycin just as blossoms begin opening and repeat every 3-4 days if weather favorable for blossom blight infection persists. Streptomycin is most effective when applied the day before

or the day of an infection event. The “MARYBLYT” computer software program will help you in determining when and if an infection event occurred as well as predict the risk for future infection periods. We strongly recommend its use for those growers at high risk. Speaking of high risk, be especially diligent in your fire blight program if you have blight susceptible varieties (Ida Red, Jonathan, Gala, Rome, Lodi, etc.) in combination with M-26, M-9 and/or Mark rootstocks and/or interstems. These DYNAMITE combinations have the potential to explode into rootstock blight, which usually means a dead tree! (Pecknold)

Apple Scab: The peak period for scab infection is NOW! Primary scab spores are ripe and ready to infect, all they need is a good scab rain. Are you prepared? For growers on a curative schedule, or for those who get caught with their pants down (unprotected), we suggest Nova, Flint, or Sovran. These fungicides will provide up to 96 hours “curative activity”. However, the sooner you apply them the better! Do not sit around thinking there is no need to rush. NOTE: see comments below on the Strobilurins. (Pecknold)

Rust Diseases: Cedar apple and cedar quince rust are now actively infecting foliage and fruit. Except for the northern areas of the state, we are now into the peak period for rust infection. The sterol-inhibiting fungicides, Nova and Rubigan, are excellent in preventing rust problems, as well as providing excellent control of powdery mildew..., which is also infecting new leaf tissue, right now! (Pecknold)

Nova, Rubigan & Tank Mixes: All Nova or Rubigan applications should be tank-

mixed with a standard protectant fungicide to avoid problems with resistance to apple scab. However, it is especially important that your final spray (petal fall or first cover) of Nova or Rubigan be combined with a protectant fungicide such as captan, ziram, mancozeb, or Polyram. The addition of a protectant fungicide at this time will help provide protection from summer diseases such as black rot, sooty blotch and fly speck and also give added protection from fruit scab. Refer to Rubigan and Nova labels for additional information on tank mixes. (Pecknold)

The Strobilurins: The new strobilurin fungicides, Sovran and Flint, are excellent in control of many diseases. Unfortunately they are also very prone to the development of resistance. Therefore growers should be extremely **judicious** in their use of these compounds. We suggest you consider the use of **Flint or Sovran in ONLY the FIRST, THIRD and SEVENTH** cover sprays (three times only) for control of fruit scab and sooty blotch and flyspeck (SBFS). Our field trials this past year confirmed our previous findings that Sovran, applied at the full rate, gives excellent control of both fruit scab and SBFS when applied at these three times (first, third and seventh cover). While the strobilurins are effective in precover sprays for the control of other diseases, we believe their real strength lies in the control of fruit scab and sooty blotch and flyspeck. So lets use them when they will do the most good and hopefully avoid future resistance problems. (Pecknold)

Strawberries and Botrytis Fruit Rot: The most important sprays for control of Botrytis fruit rot (gray mold) of strawberry are those applied at bloom - starting at

10% bloom. There have been some major changes in fungicide registrations for Botrytis control in strawberries. Ronilan can no longer be used on strawberries. The current Rovral label states “do not make more than 1 application per season and do not apply after the first fruiting flower” therefore, it is no longer recommended for control of Botrytis on strawberries. Elevate received registration in 2000, and Switch received registration this year. Both should provide excellent control of gray mold. So, the options for Botrytis control are Elevate, Switch, Benlate, and Topsin M. None of them should be used alone for season-long control of Botrytis because of the potential for development of resistant pathogen strains. Benlate cannot be used on strawberries once the crop has been turned into “U-Pick” or “Pick-Your-Own” or similar operation. However, it can be used preharvest (bloom) and post-harvest as long as the field is not open to U-Pick. See ID-169, 2002 Indiana Commercial Small Fruit & Grape Spray Guide, for the complete strawberry spray recommendations. (Bordelon)

Eastern Flower Thrips: One of the factors we believe may be associated with problems with eastern flower thrips on strawberries is having sustained, strong southerly winds early in the growing season. These winds may blow eastern flower thrips to Indiana from southern areas. It would be prudent for strawberry growers to watch for thrips as we approach bloom. We recommend looking at the early flowers, especially on early varieties. Although an exact threshold has not been established for Midwest conditions, data from elsewhere suggest that control is warranted if counts exceed 2 to 10 thrips per blossom. This is a wide range, but more precise

information is not available. Lorsban or Thiodan are probably the best choices among conventional insecticides, and Brigade and Danitol also are likely to work well. Growers may also want to consider using an insecticide containing neem extracts (Align or Neemix) that is less toxic to bees. (Foster and Bordelon)

Grape Sprays: Grapes are at budbreak to 2 inch shoots in Lafayette and further ahead in southern areas. Growers should have made their first fungicide application recently. This early (1- to 3 inch shoot) spray is primarily for Phomopsis cane and leaf spot, so mancozeb or captan are effective materials. Over the next two weeks shoots should double in length and addition of one of the sterol inhibitors (e.g. Nova, Rubigan, etc.) should be considered. The most important sprays of the year for fruit rot control are the sprays surrounding bloom. Plan now to have one of the strobies on hand for those sprays. Refer to the Commercial Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide (www.hort.purdue.edu/hort/ext/sfg) and the Midwest Small Fruit Pest Management Handbook (www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~sfgnet/) for complete discussions of grape IPM. (Bordelon)

Planting a New Vineyard? If you’re planting a new vineyard this year and plan to use grow tubes, follow the manufacturer’s directions on installation. Wait until newly planted vines have shoots that are a few inches long and we are past the date of the last frost before installing the tubes. I’ve seen several situations where grow tubes were installed at planting and the vines budded out early, only to have the new growth frozen by subsequent cold weather. (Bordelon)

Host Families Wanted: Purdue International Programs in Agriculture is looking for farm families (from all types and sizes of farms) to host undergraduate students from our exchange universities in Japan. The students will only be here for about 4 weeks (approx. Aug 6th-Sept 5th). They all have English skills, and are anxious to learn about what you do everyday. They are coming to learn, and would be expected to help around the farm just as any other family member. By hosting you also allow us to continue sending our Purdue Agricultural students to Japan on the exchange. They too stay with host families while they conduct their internships. Please feel free to contact Prudie Miller for further information. She can be reached at (765) 494-8458 during the day. Her email address is prudie@purdue.edu. (Hirst)

Abundant Harvest of Indiana: Many of you heard the excellent presentation on Abundant Harvest of Indiana by Stanley Parker at the luncheon at Hort Congress. The following is more information for those who may be interested. (Hirst)

Abundant Harvest of Indiana (AHI) is a non-profit organization, based in Hancock County, devoted to increasing the quantity and quality of produce donated to Indiana food banks. Food banks distribute this nutritious bounty to feed many of the 738,000 Hoosiers that would otherwise go hungry. I discussed the concept of produce donation at the 2002 Horticultural Congress and you may have heard about it from my fellow members of the Indiana Vegetable Growers Association. Abundant Harvest of Indiana compensates Indiana produce growers that share the produce they normally till under each year with their local food bank. In exchange for the

gracious donation of fresh produce by growers, AHI reimburses them for the cost of harvesting, grading, washing, packing and delivering the produce to their local food bank. AHI is the first organization of its kind in the state of Indiana, but the concepts and goals defining the organization are sound. The success of this kind of reimbursement program among the produce farmers and food banks of Michigan and Ohio shows that goodwill is still a cherished value in the Midwest. Indiana is certainly no exception. As a sign of commitment to the success of this program, AHI has allocated \$25,000 to compensate produce farmers for their time, effort and donations. This investment will help our organization reach the goal of generating 250,000 pounds of surplus produce to feed hungry Hoosiers. A local group of Hancock County volunteers currently donate over 20,000 pounds each year to Gleaners Food Bank. Imagine the possibilities of a statewide effort. The idea is already in the minds of growers in your county. As this donation program builds across the state, Abundant Harvest of Indiana will be an organization that active educators hear about at grower meetings and one-on-one visits. Contact the AHI home office if you would enjoy learning more about how growers in your community will be strengthening their relationships with local food banks and charitable organizations in the coming months. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Stanley J. Parka, Director

Bee Locator Database: Zachary Huang, Michigan State University entomologist has set up a nationwide database to help growers locate bees for pollination. The database is available at “ <http://beebase.cyberbee.net>.

Upcoming Meetings:

April 27 - Grape Planting Day. Madison Vineyards. Contact Steve Palmer 812-273-6500

May 8 - Eastern Indiana Horticultural Society. Twilight meeting. Grabow Orchard. For directions, see <http://www.graboworchard.com> For other information, call Dave Clamme, 765-747-7732

May 14 - LaPorte fruitgrowers twilight meeting. 6.30 pm Garwood Orchard. For directions, see <http://www.garwoodorchard.com> For other information, call Walt Sell, 219-326-6808 ext 271

June 4 - Eastern Indiana Horticultural Society. Location and time to be announced. For more information, call Dave Clamme, 765-747-7732

July 17-19 -Workshop on developing and implementing HACCP for Juice and Cider Industries. Location to be announced. For further information, contact Dr. Richard Linton, Purdue University, (765) 494-6481 or Dr. Les Bourquin, Michigan State University, (517) 353-9664.

Department of Horticulture &
Landscape Architecture
Purdue University
1165 Horticulture Bldg.
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1165

Bruce Bordelon
1165 Dept. of Horticulture &
Landscape Architecture
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1165
765/494-1301
e-mail: bordelon@hort.purdue.edu

Paul Pecknold
1155 Dept. of Botany & Plant Path.
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1155
765/494-4628
e-mail: Pecknold@btny.purdue.edu

Peter Hirst
1165 Dept. of Horticulture &
Landscape Architecture
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1165
765/494-1323
e-mail: hirst@hort.purdue.edu

Rick Foster
1158 Dept. of Entomology
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1158
765/494-9572
e-mail: Rick_Foster@entm.purdue.edu

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