

Weekly Berry Call – May 12, 2010

REMINDER: Growers with NAP insurance should call in/report even *possible* cold/frost damage losses to FSA within 7 – 10 days of occurrence to qualify.

NOTE: Frost injury on blossoms and frequent rains are a set up for Botrytis fruit rot (gray mold) in strawberries. Growers should be taking every precaution to protect open blossoms and fruit from infection.

Participants: Cathy Heidenreich (Finger Lakes region/Geneva), Dale Ila (Stephentown/Northern Hudson Valley), Molly Shaw, South Central NY, Ginny Carlberg (Lake Erie Region/Chautauqua County, Laura McDermott (Capital District: Eastern NY/Upper Hudson/Lower Adirondack), Kathy Demchak (Penn State University, University Park, PA), Marvin Pritts (Cornell University, Ithaca NY)

GROWING CONDITIONS (courtesy NY NASS)

Week ending May 09, 2010: WEATHER: A series of cold fronts provided several areas of New York with its first round of severe weather for the season. This also provided the region with rainfall with several locations receiving over one inch of rain. With each passage of these cold fronts, temperatures experienced a large fluctuation throughout the week as preceding the frontal passage, many locations warmed well into the 80's. A strong cold front approached for the start of this past weekend with additional showers and thunderstorms. Temperatures averaged around normal with precipitation near to above normal.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Capital District: heavy rains and snow. **Production Notes:** Fulton/Montgomery Counties (St. Johnsville) Strawberries were in full bloom. Frosts caused huge losses; almost 100% blossom kill.

Finger Lakes region/Geneva area: Winds gusting to 50 – 60 mph reported Sat. 5/9. Mother's day snow storm (5/10) dumped 1.5 to 2 inches of heavy wet snow. In Wayne County (Lyons) heavy frosts both Sun. night 5/9 into Mon. morning 5/10 and Mon. night 5/10 into Tues. AM 5/11. Temperatures in the low 20's.



Stephentown/Upper Hudson: cold, frosts. **Production notes:** *Strawberries:* Uncovered - 0 to 30% bloom, under old row cover - 50% bloom, under new GG34 1 oz row cover (double fused layer) – green fruit. More blossom damage due to frost, temperature at plant level 21.1 °F. Under single layer row cover no good; double layer old row cover variable protection, new double layer blossoms OK. Everything with row cover with irrigation OK. *Blueberries:* Pink bud to bloom. Temperature at plant level 28.3 °F. Some minimal cold damage to corollas. *High tunnel raspberries:* bloom.

University Park PA and surrounding vicinity: Winds and cold Sunday 5/10. Clearing and Cold Monday 5/11. **Production notes:** *Strawberries* bloom to harvest (SE part of state). Frost damage reported on to blooms under floating row cover with overhead irrigation. *Blueberries* bloom to green fruit, possible cold damage reported on green fruit, “squishy”, brown inside, not mummyberry. *Raspberries* bloom to green fruit.

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Southern Tier Region: Early frost damage on blueberries – fruit “squishy”.

Report from Ontario Berry Call-in (5/12/10): Berry crop development there also ahead of schedule. Winds, heavy rain, frosts, some snow this past week.

Strawberries: in bloom. Situation grim with frosts, cold temperatures, rain. One inch of ice accumulated Sunday AM into Monday AM during strawberry frost protection. Frost damage variable amounts to 100%. They are anticipating severe botrytis and angular leaf spot problems this season as a result of weather issues and extensive use of overhead irrigation. Tarnished plant bug populations approaching threshold. Clipper damage is being observed.

They have also been experiencing poor plant vigor coming out from under straw in all second year strawberry plantings. This was a big issue for them in 2009, as it was here. Even alfalfa did not overwinter well for them 2008 into 2009. Annapolis and Wendy were the cultivars most frequently showing this problem. Samples sent to diagnostic lab often show high counts of 2 root rot fungi, lower counts of others but not conclusive. Nursery sources vs. damage seem too variable to attribute it to one source. Could angular leaf spot be the cause? They are considering a short grower survey to try to get a handle on possible factors.

Blueberries: in bloom, expecting a huge crop.

Brambles: in bud. wind damage observed, some leaves broken off, others with edges drying up. Also Phytophthora root rot. Clipper damage worse in raspberries than strawberries this season.

DISCUSSION:

Floating row cover for frost protection: Is it possible to have colder temperatures under tunnels/floating row cover than outside air? Yes, if windy, also when day time temps are low, weather cloudy, overcast. Not a lot of heat there to capture.

Blueberry cold/frost damage: Question raised about critical temperatures for this type of damage on green fruit – do we know?

Spotted Wing Drosophila: Monitoring ongoing in NYS? What do we know about overwintering survival here in NE if anything?

It is being used extensively in the Capital district area, also in use in Stephentown/upper Hudson Valley and Southern tier areas. Not as much use reported in Tug Hill region or western NY. Vegetable crops mentioned include early season, cucumbers, melon, beans, egg plant, peppers, sweet corn (already 8” tall in Stephentown area). Equipment for unwinding/rewinding floating row cover is available and in use on farms with larger acreages. There is significant market advantage for season advancement. Is there cost benefit analysis information available for small fruit and/or vegetables using floating row cover for season advancement?

Round Hay Bales/Smudging: A report that large round hay bales are being used for smudging in NY vineyards to protect grapes from cold injury is this common practice? Smudging was a common practice for pome fruit and stone fruit growers in the 50's and 60's, other fruit growers sometimes as well. Does new NYS Burn ban apply to smudging as an agricultural practice?

More on Strawberry Overwintering Problem: Cultivar here most frequently reported to be experiencing damage in 200 was Allstar. Cabot and Clancy reported to have similar problems in PA. Interestingly, Allstar, Cabot, Clancy known to have serious angular leaf spot issues in PA. Jewel also known to have serious angular leaf spot issues in NY; known for not overwintering or renovating well...is there a connection?

Suggestion for 2011 EXPO berry session: grower panel discussion on frost protection/monitoring/techniques.

Sinbar herbicide: Question regarding preplant application at low rate (2 oz). Grower inadvertently applied prior to planting – potential for damage? If a loamy soil with good organic matter content it's probably not an issue, if light, sandy soil, some damage may occur.

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NY NASS Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 12, 2010

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50° ^{1/}			Precipitation (Inches) ^{1/}			
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm
<u>Hudson Valley</u>											
Albany	87	36	61	+8	79	220	+142	0.95	+0.22	2.21	-1.71
Glens Falls	85	35	59	+7	57	161	+106	1.55	+0.78	3.10	-0.87
Poughkeepsie	90	39	64	+10	102	267	+167	0.42	-0.56	2.16	-2.58
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	76	27	54	+6	43	119	+81	2.75	+1.77	4.01	-1.90
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	84	36	59	+8	68	136	+80	0.70	+0.07	3.23	-0.38
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	82	31	57	+7	58	157	+110	1.09	+0.42	3.16	-0.56
Massena	82	33	59	+8	68	149	+95	0.94	+0.38	2.43	-0.94
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	80	34	56	+3	50	203	+131	1.68	+1.01	3.75	+0.01
Wales	79	32	55	+5	49	168	+120	1.75	+0.95	3.85	-0.96
Niagara Falls	81	35	58	+5	61	214	+133	1.51	+0.84	3.83	-0.19
Rochester	83	33	58	+5	62	247	+162	1.53	+0.94	3.09	-0.29
Watertown	81	33	56	+6	54	158	+108	1.48	+0.92	2.60	-0.65
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	79	33	56	+4	51	209	+134	1.54	+0.91	2.93	-0.69
Geneva	83	31	59	+7	66	213	+144	1.29	+0.65	3.14	-0.61
Honeoye	82	33	59	+7	66	228	+158	1.63	+1.00	3.55	-0.21
Ithaca	81	33	58	+7	60	197	+141	1.13	+0.43	3.42	-0.39
Penn Yan	81	33	59	+7	67	238	+169	1.08	+0.44	2.99	-0.76
Syracuse	84	33	60	+6	70	241	+158	1.98	+1.24	2.88	-1.41
Warsaw	78	33	55	+6	48	160	+121	2.40	+1.63	4.56	+0.20
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	79	34	56	+7	50	173	+135	1.54	+0.95	3.67	+0.13
Elmira	81	34	59	+7	64	214	+150	1.48	+0.79	3.46	-0.10
Franklinville	78	31	54	+6	42	129	+100	1.76	+0.99	4.24	-0.03
Jamestown	79	36	56	+7	50	166	+124	2.00	+1.16	4.18	-0.74
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	79	31	59	+7	67	244	+185	1.12	+0.40	3.38	-0.69
Cobleskill	84	32	58	+8	62	157	+106	1.25	+0.48	2.87	-1.41
Morrisville	81	28	56	+5	49	157	+111	2.01	+1.24	4.64	+0.56
Norwich	84	33	56	+5	46	143	+90	1.28	+0.45	4.00	-0.42
Oneonta	84	33	58	+9	59	163	+118	1.56	+0.61	4.27	-0.42
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	77	44	63	+11	94	204	+148	0.63	-0.28	2.90	-2.24
New York	90	46	70	+12	138	426	+267	1.51	+0.60	4.06	-0.90

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning. The information contained in this weekly release is obtained in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency, the National Weather Service, Agricultural Weather Information Service and other knowledgeable persons associated with New York agriculture. Their cooperation is greatly appreciated. **Visit our website at www.nass.usda.gov/ny and click on "subscribe to NY reports" for instructions on subscribing electronically. You may also visit our website to access all our reports which are available for free online.**