



### In This Issue

- Crop Conditions
- Apples
- Peaches
- Canopy Management in Grapes
- Plums
- Summer Cane Tipping in Brambles
- Supporting Local Indiana Agriculture
- Upcoming Events

## Crop Conditions

(Peter M Hirst, [hirst@purdue.edu](mailto:hirst@purdue.edu), (765) 494-1323) & (Bruce Bordelon, [bordelon@purdue.edu](mailto:bordelon@purdue.edu), (765) 494-8212)

Apples are about 15-20 mm diameter and the thinning window is pretty much closed. Sevin may still have some effect at this stage. The only other effective material is ethephon, which is too risky for most growers.



Apple- fruit drop occurring



Cherry- harvest beginning



Grapes- post-bloom



Strawberries- at harvest

## Apples

(Janna L Beckerman, [jbeckerm@purdue.edu](mailto:jbeckerm@purdue.edu), (765) 494-4628)

From one of the coldest Aprils to one of the hottest Mays, what will June bring us? So far, apple scab has been less of a problem than

usual, but powdery mildew seems to be flying under the radar for many orchards. Keep your eyes out for the characteristic leaf curl (Fig.1). Varieties like Jonathan, JonaGold, Cortland, GingerGold and SunCrisp, are very susceptible. Due to the dry weather, many growers switched to a captazeb program, which is excellent against scab, but doesn't do anything for powdery mildew, or very little against rust.



Fig. 1. Typical leaf curl from early powdery mildew infection. Photo by Janna Beckerman.

Speaking of rust: Dry weather has delayed not only ascospore ejection of scab, but also those orange, gelatinous kooshballs of spores (Fig. 2). I don't recall the last time I saw any telial spore horns (aka kooshballs) in June, but they were still going like gangbusters on June 1 here. For those in central Indiana to parts north, all three diseases are controlled by strobilurin/QoI fungicides like Flint or Sovran; 7-11 fungicides like Luna Sensation, Merivon, Pristine; or DMI fungicides like Indar, Inspire, Rally and Topguard. Of course, depending upon fungicide resistance issues, your mileage may vary.



Fig. 2. Juniper rust, specifically, cedar-hawthorn rust. Photo by Janna Beckerman.

---

## Peaches

(Janna L Beckerman, [jbeckerm@purdue.edu](mailto:jbeckerm@purdue.edu), (765) 494-4628)

Those of you lucky enough to still have a crop. Drier than usual weather means the risk of scab and bacterial diseases is low, but powdery mildew is higher. Although Rally and Topguard provide excellent control of powdery mildew, Flint extra, Luna Sensation and Merivon all provide excellent control of not only powdery mildew, but against scab and brown rot, should weather turn wet.

---

## Canopy Management in Grapes

(Bruce Bordelon, [bordelon@purdue.edu](mailto:bordelon@purdue.edu), (765) 494-8212)

Canopy management is a critical production practice for improved sunlight exposure. Pulling shoots off the top of the rows in high cordon-trained vines improves sunlight exposure to the leaves at the base of the shoots. Those basal nodes will be the ones saved as spurs next year during pruning, and sunlight improves bud fruitfulness and cane hardiness. Shoot positioning is normally started as shoots toughen



enough to resist breakage and before tendrils attach tightly. It usually has to be repeated a couple of times.

Cluster zone leaf removal is another important canopy management practice on tight clustered varieties such as Vignoles, Seyval, and Chardonel. Immediate post-bloom through about 3 weeks post bloom is the most effective time for leaf removal. Removal of 3 to 5 basal leaves in the cluster zone can greatly reduce risk of bunch rots. Exposure to sun makes the berries less susceptible to disease and allows more rapid drying after rain or dew. Spray penetration in the cluster zone is also improved. Leaf removal also improves fruit quality in aromatic varieties such as Traminette, and most red varieties, where sunlight exposure improves anthocyanin development. Delaying leaf removal increases the risk of sunburn, as does removal of too many leaves, especially on the west side of the canopy. Many growers remove leaves only on the east side (on north-south rows) to take advantage of morning sun for drying, but keep leaves in place on the west side to avoid excessive heat buildup.

---

## Plums

(Janna L Beckerman, [jbeckerm@purdue.edu](mailto:jbeckerm@purdue.edu), (765) 494-4628)

What??? Yes, thanks to the Return Bloom Fund and the Meigs Farm Team, we have a small planting of three varieties of plum: Early Shiro, Green Gage, and Ruby Queen. Did you know in [Australia](#), some varieties are retailing at \$15.90AU per kilogram (or \$7.22 per pound)? Most Midwesterners only know those hard, tasteless things disguised as plums, hailing from California, and delivering only disappointment. Fresh plums not only taste good, but are good for you, regardless of variety—they are high in fiber and antioxidants. And let us not forget, plums are a principle component in ‘a warrior’s drink’.

“NuqDaq ‘oH puchpa’’e’?” Although these plums will be used to study brown rot (Fig. 3), I hope I can convince a few of you that planting plums isn’t just good for the soul, but the bottom line.



Fig. 3. Brown rot of plum. Photo by Steve Goodwin.

Live long and prosper!

---

## Summer Cane Tipping in Brambles

(Bruce Bordelon, [bordelon@purdue.edu](mailto:bordelon@purdue.edu), (765) 494-8212)

One of the most important management practices for production of blackberries and black raspberries is summer tipping of the primocanes. This practice removes the apical dominance of the shoot tip, resulting in several lateral branches below the tip, and a stronger primocane. Next year’s crop will primarily be produced from buds on the lateral branches, not buds along the main primocane. Tipping can result in 3-5 fold increase in yield, thus it is a standard practice.

Tipping height is somewhat arbitrary, but usually depends on the relative vigor of the primocanes and the height, if applicable, of the trellis. With black raspberries that are somewhat low in vigor, I suggest tipping no higher than 3 ft. For more vigorous thornless blackberries, a height of 4 ft or so is more appropriate.



Blackberry primocane prior to tipping



Blackberry primocane tipped



Blackberry primocane about a week after tipping



Blackberry primocane about 3 weeks after tipping

---

## Supporting Local Indiana Agriculture

(Peter M Hirst, [hirst@purdue.edu](mailto:hirst@purdue.edu), (765) 494-1323)

[Seal the Seasons](#) is a growing food company founded on supporting local growers by making local food available all year-round. Seal the

Seasons partners with local family farms on a state-by-state basis to source local food (focused primarily on fruit and vegetables), freeze it, and sell to grocers, with the grower proudly featured on the bag, in the grower's state.

Seal the Seasons has already successfully partnered with growers across the Southeast, Northeast and Mid-Atlantic and is looking forward to partner with growers in Indiana as it strives to support local agriculture and integrate quality Indiana frozen produce into conventional grocery stores. Any interested growers, food processors or copackers should reach out to Alex Piasecki at [alex@sealtheseasons.com](mailto:alex@sealtheseasons.com)

Alex Piasecki

---

## Upcoming Events

(Lori K Jolly-Brown, [ljollybr@purdue.edu](mailto:ljollybr@purdue.edu))

### **June 13, 2018 Southwest Purdue Ag Center High Tunnel Tour**

Southwest Purdue Agricultural Center  
4369 North Purdue Road,  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Contact Wenjing Guan [guan40@purdue.edu](mailto:guan40@purdue.edu)

### **June 26, 2018 Summer Field Tour- Fruits & Vegetables**

#### **Garwood Orchard, LaPorte, IN**

Contact Lori Jolly-Brown [ljollybr@purdue.edu](mailto:ljollybr@purdue.edu)

### **July 17-18 Indiana Winery and Vineyard Association Summer Meeting**

Brown County Inn, Nashville, IN

Contact <https://indianawinevine.org/events> to register

### **September 5, 2018 Greenhouse & Indoor Hydroponics Workshop**

Purdue University, PFEN 1159 & Purdue Horticulture Greenhouse

Contact Lori Jolly-Brown [ljollybr@purdue.edu](mailto:ljollybr@purdue.edu)

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/yaxd4k2z>

**October 17, 2018 Indiana Flower Growers Conference**

Daniel Turf Center

Contact Lori Jolly-Brown [ljollybr@purdue.edu](mailto:ljollybr@purdue.edu)

**January 8, 2019 Illiana Vegetable Growers Symposium**

Teibel's Family Restaurant, Schererville, IN

Contact Liz Maynard [emaynard@purdue.edu](mailto:emaynard@purdue.edu)  
<https://ag.purdue.edu/hla/Extension/Pages/IVGS.aspx>

**February 12-14, 2019 Indiana Hort Congress**

**Indianapolis Marriott East Indianapolis, IN**

Contact Lori Jolly-Brown, [ljollybr@purdue.edu](mailto:ljollybr@purdue.edu)  
or 765-494-1296

<http://www.inhortcongress.org>

It is the policy of the Purdue University that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue is an Affirmative Action Institution. This material may be available in alternative formats. 1-888-EXT-INFO Disclaimer: Reference to products in this publication is not intended to be an endorsement to the exclusion of others which may have similar uses. Any person using products listed in this publication assumes full responsibility for their use in accordance with current directions of the manufacturer.

Facts for Fancy Fruit © Purdue University - [fff.hort.purdue.edu](http://fff.hort.purdue.edu)

Editor: Peter M Hirst | Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, 625 Agriculture Mall  
Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47907 | (765) 494-1323