

FACTS FOR *Fancy Fruit*



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Crop conditions

Apples are just past petal fall in the north and about 12 mm in more southern areas. Peaches in the south are out of the shuck and sizing rapidly.

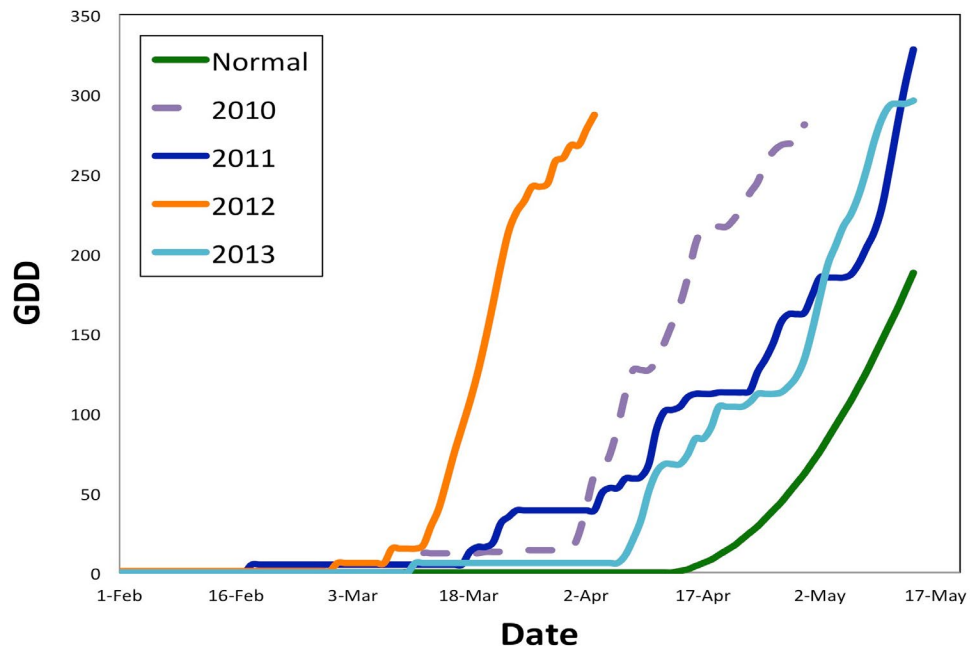
Spring heats up

After a cooler start to spring this year, temperatures have increased dramatically over the last 2 weeks. We are now tracking about the same as 2011. According to our long term average, we would have accumulated about 200 Growing degree Days (GDD) so far but we are now at almost 300 this spring. These warmer temperatures will have been good for fruit set and early fruit growth. (Hirst)

Chemical thinning apples

This year we had very heavy flowering in many parts of the state. This coupled with good pollinating weather has generally resulted in heavy fruit set this year. Many growers have chosen to be a little more aggressive with their thinning this year, which I think is a wise decision. While many chemical thinners often are more effective when applied when fruit are 10-12 mm, do not wait until this time to get started. If you start thinning at 10 - 12mm you will likely be limited to a one-shot deal. There probably won't be enough time for a follow-up application if needed. This really is putting all your eggs in one basket. Growers are better advised to start at petal fall, allowing time for a follow-up if needed.

Lafayette temperatures



Ok, so assume you have already put on your first chemical thinner application. What do you do now? How long do you wait before assessing whether to put on another chemical thinner application? Generally it takes at least 2 weeks before you can visually see the effects of a chemical thinner application. Maybe if the weather is very warm, effects may be seen in 10 days, but you're kidding yourself if you think you can see the results after a week. So allow sufficient time for the thinner to work before making the decision to put on another application.

Some growers have added superior oil to their thinners for increased effect. Oil can increase the effectiveness of Sevin, Maxcell and Ethephon applications, but oil on it's own has little thinning effect. If you haven't used oil for thinning previously, be careful. Oil can increase the thinning effect quite significantly, and can also cause russet on russet-prone cultivars like Golden Delicious.

Most chemical thinners work well when fruit size is 10-12 mm although Sevin works up to about 20 mm size, but after that then ethephon is really the only option.

Trying to estimate how effective a thinner application will be is extremely difficult (as in impossible). However it helps to think of carbon balance. This is the balance of carbohydrates in the tree. During the early part of the growing season there are many developing fruitlets, all needing carbohydrates to grow. But at this early stage, leaf area on the trees is limited so the supply of carbohydrates is limited. Chemical thinners exacerbate this shortfall in carbohydrates,

resulting in increased fruit drop. Other factors that reduce photosynthesis (such as cloudy days during the fruit set period) can also reduce fruit drop, so these other factors also need to be taken into account. (Hirst)

The Midwest Produce Conference and Expo

The Packer, is set to bring you the second year of The Midwest Produce Conference and Expo. Set for August 19-21, 2013, Midwest Produce will bring together leading produce industry buyers and sellers in a professional setting in downtown Chicago at the newly transformed Hyatt Regency Chicago. See www.thepacker.com for more details.

Important sprays for grape disease management

Grape growth is finally reaching normal after a slow start this year. Grapes will soon be reaching the critical pre-bloom time period in the southern part of the state, which is a key time to control important diseases such as black rot, downy mildew, and powdery mildew. The next three or four sprays will be critical in controlling fruit infections. Growers should pay extra attention to getting thorough coverage and use the best fungicides available. The Midwest Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide lists a wide range of products recommended. Use of one of the strobilurins such as Abound, Sovran, Flint, or Pristine is a good option. Rotate the strobilurins with a combination of sterol inhibitor (Bayleton, Rally, Vintage, Elite, Procure, etc.) plus protectant (captan or mancozeb). The new

combination products such as Revus Top, Quadris Top and Adamant should also be good for broad-spectrum disease control. These next few sprays are critical to producing sound, clean fruit. (Bordelon)

Shoot thinning in grapes

Shoot thinning during the early season is a critical canopy management practice for most varieties. Many hybrids tend to produce a large number of "non-count" shoots from adventitious buds and basal buds at count nodes. These lead to excess crop and shading in the canopy. Shoot thinning reduces excess shoot number to both adjust crop and reduce shading. Growers typically select 40-60 nodes per vine during dormant pruning. Now is the time to go through the vineyard and assess shoot number and adjust it to the desired number. Five to six shoots per foot of row is generally considered to be the optimum density. It is very easy to accomplish now while the shoots are short. They are not attached to the vines very firmly so the break off easily. If you wait too long, the shoot attachment toughens and the shoots many need to be cut, greatly increasing the time required for removal. (Bordelon)

SDHI primer for fruit growers

As discussed at the Martinsville meeting in 2012, and at the Hort Congress this last January by Dr. George Sundin from Michigan State University, several new fungicides have been released for use in orchards, vineyards, and berry patches, in Indiana. Notice I did not







Facts for Fancy Fruit is a newsletter for commercial and advanced amateur fruit growers. It provides timely information on pest control, production practices, and other topics likely to be of interest to fruit growers. All growers and interested persons are welcome to subscribe.

Subscriptions are \$15 per year. Subscribers will receive 12-15 issues biweekly during the growing season and monthly otherwise.

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This newsletter can be accessed free at www.hort.purdue.edu/fff/.

<i>Current bud stages West Lafayette, IN</i>		
Apple	Peach	Grape
		
<i>fruitlets at ~8mm</i>	<i>most fruits out of shuck</i>	<i>4 - 8 inches</i>
Blackberry	Blueberry	Strawberry
		
<i>tight cluster</i>	<i>full bloom</i>	<i>just past full bloom</i>

say new modes of action! These fungicides are new takes on one of the components of Pristine, a fungicide that many growers are familiar with.

Pristine is a premix fungicide that consists of the QoI (strobilurin) fungicide, pyraclostrobin and a succinate dehydrogenase inhibitor (SDHI), boscalid (FRAC CODE 11+7). Older SDHI fungicides were not labeled for use by fruit growers, but later (and improved) “second generation” compounds, including boscalid, were included in premixes like Pristine. Today, “third generation” products like penthiopyrad, the sole ingredient in Fontelis (FRAC CODE 7), and fluopyram, the SDHI in the Luna premixes, provide new tools to growers. As with any new tool, a little education never hurts.

For growers to use these tools correctly, it is imperative that they understand what they are working with, and if it is a single fungicide

with a single-site mode of action, or a premix of two chemical classes. For right now, Fontelis is the only SDHI labeled for use on fruit crops that is not a premix. This information is on the label, which lists ingredients (confusing) and FRAC Codes (slightly less confusing). The easiest way to properly rotate your fungicides is to avoid relying on any one FRAC CODE number. This is important to prevent the accidental repetition of fungicide class application from occurring. It is very easy to switch between names of fungicides, thinking you are rotating your chemicals, only to discover later that your rotation of Rally to Indar to Topguard to Inspire used the same FRAC 3 class. Usually, this discovery coincides with a discovery of fungicide resistance. Forewarned is forearmed! Always read your label and make a note of the FRAC code, which is the easiest way to be sure that you are TRULY rotating your chemicals.

The cost of the newer fungicides may deter some growers. I have included in the table the fruit crops labeled so growers can make choices based upon what they grow and how to integrate across crops, as it is difficult to keep track and manage multiple products and it adds up in overall costs to growers, in storage and in application. Please keep in mind that the more classes of fungicides used results in less reliance on any one chemistry, and less pressure for fungicide resistance against that chemistry. (Beckerman)

USDA announces farm payments scheduled to resume MILC, SURE, and NAP will restart on May 8

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Juan M. Garcia announced today that farm payments, which had been temporarily suspended due to sequestration, are scheduled to resume today,

Table 1. Below is a table that includes the all of the currently labeled SDHI fungicides and premixes.

Trade Name	Fungicide Class(es)	FRAC CODE	Crop*
Fontelis	SDHI	7	Apple, stone fruit, strawberry, low bush blueberry
Merivon	SDHI+Qol	7+11	Pome fruit, stone fruit
Pristine	SDHI+Qol	7+11	Pome fruit, stone fruit, bushberry, caneberry, strawberry, grape
Luna Sensation	SDHI+Qol	7+11	Apple, Cherry
Luna Tranquility	SDHI+AP	7+9	Apple ONLY

New for 2013: For Wine Grape Growers ONLY

Luna Experience	SDHI+DMI	7+3	Wine grapes ONLY
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*Always read the label, and please note that there are always exceptions, and certain cultivars that may respond badly to a specific fungicide. The label is a history lesson of what has gone wrong. History does not have to repeat itself.

May 8. This includes payments for the 2011 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), the Noninsured Crop Assistance Program (NAP) and the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC).

“I’m pleased to announce that farmers and ranchers can expect to begin receiving their payments beginning today, May 8,” said Garcia. “We appreciate the producers’ patience during the delay. We’re working diligently to get these payments out as quickly as possible.”

On March 4, 2013, FSA began a temporary suspension of FSA program payments in order to assess the impact of sequestration and determine the least-disruptive process possible for carrying out required cuts. The Department will use the Secretary’s limited authority to transfer funds to avoid reducing these program payments.

Producers should be advised that program sign-up periods currently underway have the following enrollment deadlines: 2013 Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program – June 3rd; 2011 SURE – June 7; and the 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program – August 2nd. Producers should contact their local Farm Service Agency office as soon as possible for appointments to enroll in these programs before the deadlines.

USDA has made a concerted effort to deliver results for the American people, even as USDA implements sequestration – the across-the-board budget reductions mandated under terms of the Budget Control Act. USDA has already undertaken historic efforts since 2009 to save more than \$828 million in taxpayer funds through targeted, common-sense budget reductions. These reductions have put USDA in a better position to carry out its mission, while implementing sequester budget reductions in a fair manner that causes as little disruption as possible.

Federal bill introduced that would require labeling of GMOs

Despite the defeat of a similar California initiative last year, California Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., and Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., have introduced federal measures that would require labeling of all genetically engineered foods.

The bipartisan legislation, known formally as the “Genetically Engineered Food Right-to-Know Act,” has 20 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives and Senate, according to a news release.

The measure would require all foods derived from genetic engineering or that contain

genetically engineered ingredients to be labeled as such. Genetically engineered organisms also are known as GMOs, or genetically modified organisms.

The Food and Drug Administration would oversee to ensure the foods are labeled properly.

The bill comes at the same time that Washington state legislators are considering a similar proposal.

California voters defeated Proposition 37, which would have required labeling of genetically engineered foods, in November 2012.

Co-sponsors of the Senate bill are Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Mark Begich (D-Alaska), Jon Tester (D-Mont.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) and Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) are cosponsors of the Senate bill.

Reps. Jared Polis (D-Colo.), Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii), Chellie Pingree (D-Maine), Donna Christensen (D-Virgin Islands), Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.), Peter Welch (D-Vt.), James Moran (D-Va.), Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.), Don Young (R-Alaska), Jim McDermott (D-Wash.), Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.), Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), Jared Huffman

(D-Calif.), Jackie Speier (D-Calif.), Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), Gerry Connolly (D-Va.), George Miller (D-Calif.), David Cicilline (D-R.I.), Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), Grace Napolitano (D-Calif.), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) and Ann Kuster (D-N.H.) are cosponsors of the House bill. (Source: thegrower.com)

Lawmakers reintroduce bill to expand opportunities for the next generation of farmers

Today, Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa and Representative Tim Walz of Minnesota announced the introduction of the ***Beginning Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act of 2013*** in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. The two identical bills expand opportunities and remove barriers for beginning farmers and those who wish to pursue a career in agriculture.

In addition to the bill's lead sponsors, the following members have signed on as original co-sponsors: Reps. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE-1), Chris Gibson (R-NY-19), and House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Collin Peterson (D-MN-7) in the House, and Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Bob Casey (D-PA), Jon Tester (D-MT), Tom Udall (D-NM), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), and Al Franken (D-MN) in the Senate.

The bill reduces barriers, such as credit and land access issues, that new agriculture entrepreneurs face, and invests in successful new-farmer training programs and grants to help farmers capture more of the retail food dollar through value-added enterprises.

"We applaud Senator Harkin and Representative Walz and their co-sponsors for reintroducing this legislation and for championing the needs of beginning farmers as Congress heads into another Farm Bill," says Juli Obudzinski, Policy Associate with the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. "The Beginning Farmer and Rancher

Opportunity Act helps new farmers get started in agriculture, and invests in programs that have a proven track record of equipping farmers with the tools and skills they need to be successful in their farming career."

The *Beginning Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act* is a comprehensive legislative package that invests in critical federal conservation, credit, research, and rural development programs that support opportunities for new farmers and ranchers. The bill was originally introduced in the previous Congress, and gained the support of 37 members in the House and Senate who signed on to co-sponsor the bill. In addition to NSAC, over 170 organizations officially endorsed the bill, including the National Farmers Union, National Association of Counties, Organic Valley, and the Farmer-Veteran Coalition.

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition has been closely involved in the development of this bill, and has worked in close partnership with both Congressional offices along with several farmer advocacy organizations across the country, including NSAC members [Land Stewardship Project](#), [Center for Rural Affairs](#), [National Young Farmers' Coalition](#), [California FarmLink](#), and Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance, among others.

"With the average age of the U.S. farmer at 57, ensuring that the next generation of American farmers is able to provide the world with a safe, abundant supply of food should be a top priority," said Congressman Walz, Ranking Member of the U.S. House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry. "To accomplish this goal, we must provide our youth with the training and tools they need to seize opportunity and take up farms of their own. By easing access to lines of credit and land, and creating training programs for new producers, the *Beginning Farmer and Rancher Opportunity Act* works to do just that."

Most of the bill's provisions were included in either or both the Senate-passed or House Agriculture Committee passed farm bills in 2012, and the bills' sponsors are hopeful that they will be able to expand upon these successes in the upcoming farm bill debate later this spring.

"This legislation will help families and individuals across our nation apply their talents, motivation, and dedication to start and continue farm and ranch operations and revitalize rural America," Senator Harkin said. "Beginning farmers and ranchers will benefit from practical assistance in this bill, including effective training and mentoring, better access to and careful use of credit, enhanced support for conservation, and help in starting and succeeding in profitable enterprises such as value-added businesses."

Some of the specific proposals included in the bill include:

Expanded Credit Options

The bill would create a new microloan program that would make loans up to \$35,000 to young, beginning, and veteran farmers seeking capital to help cover start-up costs, such as purchasing seeds or building a greenhouse. The bill would also give new farmers increased flexibility in meeting loan eligibility requirements for FSA loans to purchase farmland. Finally, the bill would provide funding to jump start an Individual Development Account pilot program aimed at helping beginning farmers with limited financial resources to establish savings accounts that could later be used to cover capital expenditures for a farm or ranch operation, including purchases of land, buildings, equipment, or livestock.

Access to Farmland

The legislation would help new and aspiring farmers access land to start or expand their farming operations by continuing and improving the successful Down Payment Loan

Program, which provides much needed capital to new farmers seeking to purchase property. The bill would also modify the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program to give priority to preserving farmland that is accessible and affordable to new farmers, and increase funding for the Conservation Reserve Program Transitions Incentives Program, which incentivizes retiring landowners to rent or sell their farmland to beginning farmers.

New Farmer Training Programs

The bill would renew funding for the successful Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, which provides grants to organizations and institutions to establish new farmer training programs. This program is the only federal initiative that is exclusively dedicated to training the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Over the past four years, the program has invested over \$70 million to develop and strengthen innovative new farmer training programs and resources across the country, and has funded 145 projects in 46 states. Unfortunately, this program has been one of the casualties of Congress's inability to pass a farm bill last year, and has been without funding since October.

Value-Added Enterprises

This legislation invests in critical economic development programs, including the popular Value-Added Producer Grants program, which provides grants to farmers to scale up their businesses and add value to their products in order to meet surging consumer demand for high quality, farm-based, value-added food products such as farmstead cheese, salsa, and grass-fed beef. Value-added enterprises have proven to be an especially useful business model for new farmers seeking to capture as much profit as possible in order to build a stable farm business.

Agricultural Opportunities for Veterans

The bill would also expand resources and create economic opportunities for military veterans interested in pursuing a career in agriculture by establishing a new funding priority on new farmer training and agricultural rehabilitation programs specifically geared at returning veterans, and creating a new Veterans Agricultural Liaison within USDA to help connect returning veterans with beginning farmer resources and assist them with program eligibility requirements for participation in farm bill programs.

For more information on the *Beginning Farmer and Rancher Act of 2013*, visit NSAC's [website](#).

Source: *The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition*

Update on agriculture provision bill

The Senate "Gang of 8" is proposing sweeping changes to our nation's immigration system under the comprehensive immigration reform (CIR) bill they will unveil at a press conference scheduled for tomorrow.

Included in the legislation is an agriculture title which addresses both the current undocumented workforce and establishes a new agriculture guestworker program to replace the antiquated and expensive H-2A program (details below).

As a founding member of the Agriculture Workforce Coalition (AWC), USApple played a significant role in the development and negotiations of the agriculture title which were agreed to with the United Farm Workers over the course of several months of negotiations. The AWC issued a [statement](#) of support for the package on Friday.

Once a detailed summary is available, we will share it with the membership. In the

meantime, please keep in mind that the agriculture provisions are separate and unique from the larger bill and the mainstream press reports you will hear. There are significant incentives for experienced (undocumented) agricultural workers to apply for a "blue card" and commit to working in agriculture for the next three to five years.

Under the proposal, the H-2A program will be phased out and replaced with a W visa program which is streamlined, market-based and significantly less costly than the current H-2A program. The program is designed so that current H-2A users can continue to use their returning workers but do so in a more streamlined and cost-efficient system. The caps that apply to the larger "low skilled" guestworker program do not apply to the agriculture program. The agriculture program will have a cap but it will be significantly higher than the other program.

A bipartisan group in the House is expected to introduce CIR legislation of their own in the coming weeks.

USApple and the AWC are working closely with that group as well. (US Apple Association)

Blueberry grower dies in accident

Rick Pertics, long time blueberry grower from Lapaz and co-owner of Pertics Blueberry Plantation, passed away Monday morning, May 13, 2013 at the farm from injuries sustained in an accident. Rick was 61 years old and farmed the same plantings his grandfather started in the 1960s. Marshall County Deputy Coroner Les Trump said Rick Pertics was killed when his clothing became caught in a shaft connecting an engine and a pump on an irrigation device in a field west of LaPaz. Trump said Pertics had told his wife he would be tending to the irrigation equipment Sunday night. When family members were unable to reach him Monday morning, they went to the farm and discovered his body next to the equipment.

Rick lived all of his life in LaPaz and Plymouth. Rick and Cindy married March 7, 1987 in LaPaz. Rick is survived by his loving wife, Cindy, and their four children, Diana (Ward) Stevens, Donna (A.J.) Pratt, Debbie (Kim) Krauhs, and David (Natasha) Spake, all of Fort Wayne; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sister, Valerie (Arch) Milani of South Bend; mother-in-law, Nancy Bronstrup of Wolcottville; and two nephews, Ben (Lori) Milani and Luke Milani, both of Mishawaka. Rick proudly served his country during the Vietnam War with the United States Navy. He was a member of the Michigan Blueberry Growers Association. One of his greatest joys was sharing time with his grandchildren and nephews on the farm. Rick was an avid Notre Dame and Chicago Bears fan. Services were held on Thursday, May 16, 2013. Contributions in memory of Rick S. Pertics may be donated to Farm Aid, 501 Cambridge St., 3rd Floor, Cambridge, MA 02141. Online condolences may be offered to the family at www.palmerfuneralhomes.com.

Source: <http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/sbt-plymouth-man-dies-in-farm-accident-20130514,0,4787510.story>

Upcoming events

June 4, 2013.

Eastern Indiana Fruit Growers Meeting

This meeting will take place at:

Stuart Ford residence

10521 W 600 S

Red Key, IN 47373

August 19-21, 2013.

Midwest Produce Conference and Expo. Hyatt

Regency Chicago. Chicago, IL. For more

information and to register go to, [http://www.](http://www.midwestproduceexpo.com/)

[midwestproduceexpo.com/](http://www.midwestproduceexpo.com/)

January, 21-23, 2014.

Indiana Horticultural Congress and Trade

Show, Wyndham Indianapolis West,

Indianapolis, IN. [http://www.inhortcongress.](http://www.inhortcongress.org)

[org](http://www.inhortcongress.org)



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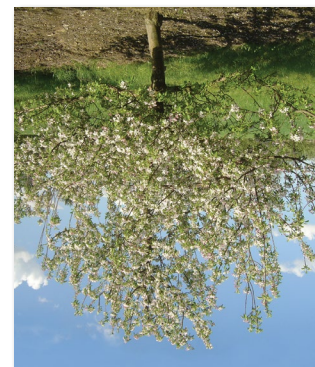
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