

# FANCY FRUIT

Issue: 23-01  
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*A Newsletter for Commercial and Advanced Amateur fruit growers.*

## In This Issue

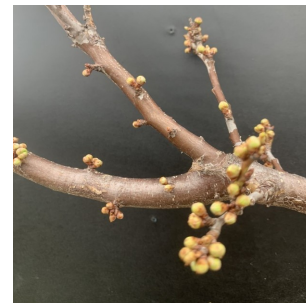
- [Crop Conditions](#)
- [A cool, wet start to spring](#)
- [Spring temperatures](#)
- [Scouting 101](#)
- [Protecting Flowering Spring Strawberries from Insect Pests](#)
- [Cold Weather Impact on Grapevines](#)
- [Strawberry Chat Podcast — Strawberry Spring Diseases and Management](#)
- [Provide your feedback on fruit insect topics for 2023](#)
- [Spring Considerations on Using Floating Row Covers in Plasticulture Strawberry](#)
- [Attention Indiana Horticulture Society Members, notice from the President, Matt Chandler](#)
- [Purdue Fruit and Vegetable Field Day - July 20, 2023](#)
- [Small Farm Education Field Day - July 27, 2023](#)

## Crop Conditions

*(Chloe Richard, richa267@purdue.edu)*

We have had a warm winter and early spring, except for the negative temperatures we experienced right before Christmas. Some fruit crops are already beginning development in Lafayette, Indiana. Apples remain dormant except for some of the Honey Crisp blocks showing Silver Tip and a few Crab Apple varieties

showing Green Tip. Majority of the grapes remain dormant, with a few exceptions of early varieties showing bud swell. Plums, Peaches, Pears, Gooseberries, blackberries, and currants have begun development. Our field strawberries are actively developing new leaves. The field Strawberries leaves suffered from slight frost damage this spring. We uncovered them the second week of March but are not concerned about this damage. We have Strawberries in the high tunnels that started blooming two weeks ago.



Plums: Green Cluster



Peaches: First Swelling



Pears: Swollen Bud



Blackberries: Bud Development



Apple: Dormant



Grapes: Dormant



Gooseberries: Bud Development



Black Currants: Bud Development

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## A cool, wet start to spring

*(Beth Hall, hall556@purdue.edu)*

Meteorological spring started March 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Astronomical spring started March 20<sup>th</sup>. Baseball fans might consider the first day of spring to be Opening Day (March 29<sup>th</sup> this year). Regardless of when one defines the start of spring, so far it has been mostly on the cooler and wetter side. I have yet to meet anyone over the past few weeks who has expressed a general love for this weather with most asking when things are going to warm up. February and early March were noticeably warmer than average (Figure 1). This encouraged bulbs to coming up, trees to swell with buds, and increasingly more birds are singing their spring songs. But it has recently been gloomy and wet. Figure 2 shows how much cooler temperatures have been since March 8<sup>th</sup> of this year.

When can those patio cushions come out more permanently? When can neighborhood walks happen without worrying about a coat? Climate outlooks for the next 8-14 days (April 4-10) are favoring above-normal precipitation and temperatures. Keep those umbrellas nearby and flooding potential is likely to persist. The monthly (April) and seasonal (April-May-June) climate outlooks are indicating similar probabilities for warmer and wetter conditions.

The phases of the El Nino - Southern Oscillation (ENSO; e.g., La Nina) can be relatively useful

indicators for Midwest winters. For example, a typical La Nina winter in Indiana is characterized by milder (i.e., warmer) and wetter conditions. Overall, that was the case this past winter. However, whatever phase the ENSO is in during the spring seems to do little more than confuse the climate models. Therefore, keep in mind that climate outlooks this time of year could be riddled with greater than usual uncertainty. It would certainly be nice if this upcoming planting season could be dry enough to provide enough field work days!

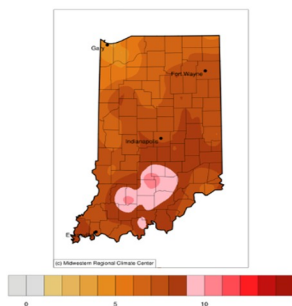


Figure 1. Average temperature departure (degrees F) from the 1991-2020 climate normal period for February 1 through March 7, 2023.

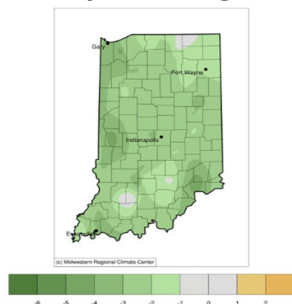


Figure 2. Average temperature departure (degrees F) from the 1991-2020 climate normal period for March 8-27, 2023.

that we've only had 2 days (March 3 and 27) where the average daily temperature has been above 50.

One way we measure how this year's weather compares with previous years is by looking at the accumulation of "Growing Degree Days" (GDD). This allows us to see if we're running ahead or behind previous years at the same date. The rate of tree development, bud burst, flower opening, etc, is closely related to average daily temperature. In general, we expect little development when it's cooler than 50, so we calculate GDD50 - the growing degree days above 50 degrees F. Growers would like a long cool spring so tree development is delayed. This means that spring frosts cause less damage because the frost hits at a time of lower cold sensitivity. Right now we're at 4.5 growing degree days - so few that the line hardly shows up on the graph. Also looking at the graph, a couple of things stand out:

- Already we have lower accumulation of GDD than most the last 13 years so crop development is later than it has been in a while
- BUT, every year since I began plotting Lafayette temperatures in 2010 has been earlier than the long term average (heavy green line) - I'm not sure the term "normal" applies anymore!

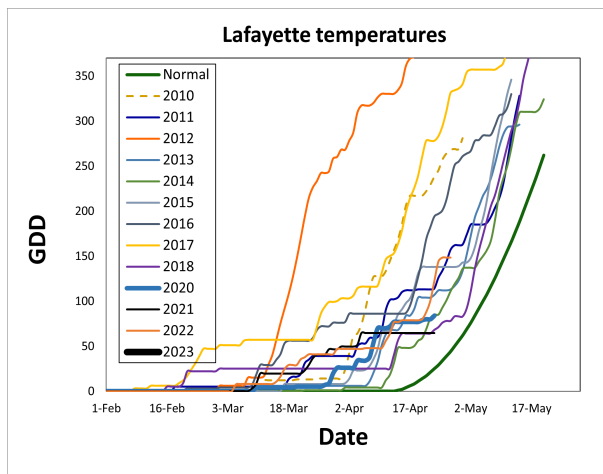
In southern areas of the state, there was a very early warm up followed by a cooler period. Apples are at half inch green with some cultivars at tight cluster and some with a little pink showing.

We're keeping our fingers crossed for a few more weeks of cooler weather, but in the final analysis, we'll take what we get.

## Spring temperatures

*(Peter M Hirst, hirst@purdue.edu, (765) 494-1323)*

It seems like the last couple of months have been unseasonably warm, but when we look at the data, it's not so clear cut. It's true that in Lafayette we've had days with highs of 65 and 70 in late February and early March, but also a lot of low daily temperatures closer to 40. This means



## Scouting 101

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

### The Tools:

- Hand lens-10x or 15x -To correctly use a hand lens, place the lens directly in front of your eye and bring the sample you are examining towards the lens until the object comes into focus.
- Knife – good for cutting into stems or root tissue.
- Pruning shears- for taking samples – disinfect blades between samples to avoid spreading disease.
- A soil sampling tube, spade and/or trowel to sample soil or examine roots.
- Newspaper or plastic bags for samples/indelible marker- individually marking bags with information as the samples are collected makes it easier to keep information straight about what pests were found in particular locations.
- Notebook or clipboard with record-keeping sheets. Plastic sheet protectors can be used to protect records and maps. Maps can also be laminated to prolong their useful life.
- Digital camera or phone to document the scene, focusing on any areas of interest that can't be collected.

### Why Scout?

Pathogens, insects, weeds and other pests negatively impact ornamental plant production (greenhouse, nursery, landscape). Integrated pest management (IPM) strategies are used to prevent (ideally) or mitigate damage to ornamental crops. IPM strategies of ornamentals include practices such as proper plant choice for the site, incorporation of resistant varieties when available, the use of pesticides to manage problems, and an acceptance that certain levels of damage may be necessary. Unlike insect or weed pests, integrated disease management (IDM) has a very low economic threshold—a single lesion may contain thousands to millions of spores or bacteria. Under conducive environmental conditions, the inoculum in a single lesion can spread and initiate thousands of new infections. The goal of IDM is to prevent those lesions from forming in the first place. Early detection, sanitation and eradication improve overall disease management and are a foundation for good plant health management. Scouting is the foundation of any IDM program. Scouting consists of systematically moving through the nursery, greenhouse or landscape looking for pathogens and pests, quantifying damage and evaluating thresholds. Scouting allows for the early identification of potential problems, providing more management options that can be implemented prior to a critical threshold, thereby reducing the control costs and crop losses. Since pest and pathogen populations vary, spraying without scouting (or spraying and praying) first may result in unnecessary or insufficient pesticide applications. A grower can use pesticides more effectively by knowing what pathogens are in an orchard, vineyard, or berry patch, anticipating problems, and treating them before significant damage and losses result.

### How to scout

There are innumerable pests (insects, diseases,

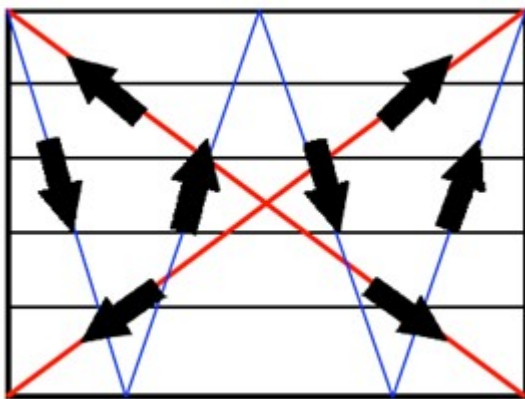


and weeds) common to every fruit crop. All of these can and should be monitored by field scouting.

When scouting for pathogens or pests, it is important to get a random sample. However, the scout also needs to observe and note any high population areas (foci) in the field. Scouts should walk through the field in a “V,” “X,” or “W” pattern to get a random sample of pest populations within the field. Anywhere from 25-100 plants should be randomly selected for examination, depending on the size of the operation.

Random selection of plants is the key to an accurate indication of a pest or pathogen population. This doesn't mean ignoring problems that you might see while scouting that don't conform to your pattern! Remember the goal is to identify any problems early, not walk in a pattern.

Stick to scouting patterns while noting any areas of unusual plants or problems [e.g., areas of high pathogen or pest population, called focus areas or foci (plural)]. Take care to prevent insect or pathogen foci from skewing the results—these areas may warrant separate treatment plans, eradication, or additional applications of pesticide.



Scouting patterns. Remember The goal is to quickly identify problems! Image source unknown.

### Where to scout:

Scouting is different for each fruit crop. In an orchard, scouting should begin in the late winter, while pruning, to identify any canker problems (Fig. 1), like fire blight, *Botryosphaeria* canker or crown gall (Table 1). When examining individual plants, observe the top, middle, and bottom canopy. For young plants, give a firm tug to assess rooting establishment (don't go all Terminator on them, though!). Healthy, well-established plants remain anchored while those with root rots will pop out of lighter, sandy soils. In a vineyard, scouting should also begin with late winter pruning, carefully observing cordons for damage or cankers, and the crown for crown gall. Strawberries crown should be examined closely to make sure any crown rot infected plants are removed.

Prune out and discard any obviously infected plants, or entire plants. These plants are more likely to serve as the start of an epidemic rather than provide a yield. Continue scouting paying extra attention at bud break to catch diseases early, before losses compound.



Figure 1. Bacterial canker on cherry should be identified and removed with spring pruning. Photo by George Sundin, MSU.

### Table 1. Host, location and problem to scout during dormant season.

Host	Location	Primary Problem to Scout
Apple, Pear	Branches Crown	Fire blight, black rot, white rot, Phytophthora
Peach	Branches	Cytospora canker, brown rot cankers
Cherry	Branches	Bacterial canker, Cytospora, black knot (rarer)
Plum	Branches	Black knot, Cytospora
All Stone Fruit	Crown	Phytophthora

<b>Grape</b>	Cordons	Black rot, Eutypa, Botryosphaeria cankers,
	Crown	Crown gall
<b>Blueberry</b>	Branches	Phomopsis, Botryosphaeria canker, Fusicoccum canker
	Crown	Phytophthora
<b>Bramble</b>	Canes	Anthraco-nose cankers, spur blight
	Crown	Crown gall
<b>Strawberry</b>	Plant	Entire plant for winter injury,

When scouting the wider orchard, vineyard or berry patch, consider the geography, including prevailing winds and rains, and field orientation (e.g., buildings or large trees that serve as windbreaks that increase humidity; corn/bean fields that may drift herbicide or serve as sources of white mold (*Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*) that can cause problems in strawberries, etc. Note any low spots that tend to accumulate water (depressions in fields or leaks in irrigation).

**Table 2: Early season disease problems to scout for**

Host	Location	Primary Problem to Scout
<b>Apple, Pear</b>	Branches	Apple scab, powdery mildew
<b>Peach</b>	Branches	Taphrina, brown rot
<b>Cherry</b>	Branches	Bacterial canker, black knot, brown rot
<b>Plum</b>	Branches	Plum pockets, Black knot
<b>Grape</b>	Cordons	Black rot, Phomopsis
<b>Blueberry</b>	Branches	Phomopsis,
<b>Bramble</b>	Canes	Anthraco-nose cankers
<b>Strawberry</b>	Plant	Anthraco-nose, botrytis

### When to Scout:

Disease scouting should begin as soon as planting or budbreak and continue throughout the entire growing season.

Draw a map of your orchard, vineyard or berry patch, to identify blocks/cultivars and problems areas from year to year. This is particularly important as many cultivars are uniquely susceptible to specific diseases (e.g., Honeycrisp apple and bitter rot; vinifera grapes and powdery mildew; Chandler strawberry and anthracnose) and diseases are best controlled early in the season before symptoms are visible (Table 2). Waiting for symptoms to appear to begin fungicide applications can result in severe damage and losses to all fruit crops in the Midwest. By incorporating scouting, and using survey information to plan treatments, disease problems can be managed proactively and efficiently.

Should an unknown problem be found, samples

can be sent to the Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic office ([www.purdue.edu/PPDL](http://www.purdue.edu/PPDL)) for identification and management suggestions.

### Record Keeping

As an IDM tool, scouting is only one the first part of IDM. Without proper records, scouting will be ineffective. An example scouting template example can be seen on the last page (Fig. 2). The greatest value derived from scouting is the record of what plants have problems and when they occur so you can be proactive in future years and prevent these problems from happening and share this information with anyone else also working in your operation. The best way to do this is to keep and regularly review detailed records. Records and maps provide a history of past problems and provide a leg-up on future diagnoses, showing where, when and what crops have had problems. Information should be compiled weekly and then examined at the end of the season to prepare for next year's scouting and disease management.

When performed proactively, IPM saves growers money on chemical costs and reduces losses. It is the difference between planning and being proactive versus responding reactively to big losses. Developing a new IPM routine is hard and requires effort and intention. Begin by blocking a regular time to scout every week and allow time to record your efforts. Recognize that other demands in the greenhouse and/or nursery will compete with this time, so prioritize it by setting an alarm in your phone or setting up a team approach so it isn't the responsibility of just one person. Keep in mind that this is process that will require repeated practice, but it is one that will pay dividends in better plant health and a better bottom line.

Basic Scouting Information			
Location:		Block:	
Date:	Scout:		
Crop and Pest Information			
Host CV and Stage	Pest, Disease, Disorder	How field was scouted	Notes (fertilizer, pesticides applied)
		#Plants Sampled: #Samples/location: #Locations:	
		#Plants Sampled: #Samples/location: #Locations:	
		#Plants Sampled: #Samples/location: #Locations:	
		#Plants Sampled: #Samples/location: #Locations:	
		#Plants Sampled: #Samples/location: #Locations:	

Figure 2. Example scouting template. Start getting into the scouting habit by keeping it simple. As scouting becomes a habit, expand what you scout and when you scout it, improving your process as you gain experience. Use these notes next year to know where to look for problems, or to focus on sanitation and heightened management to prevent future problems.

## Protecting Flowering Spring Strawberries from Insect Pests

(Laura Ingwell, [lingwell@purdue.edu](mailto:lingwell@purdue.edu)), (Samantha Anne Wilden, [swildden@purdue.edu](mailto:swildden@purdue.edu)) & (Wenjing Guan, [guan40@purdue.edu](mailto:guan40@purdue.edu))

After a long cold winter under protection, nothing signals spring like the first blooms on strawberry. 'Tis the season in our high tunnels and thus time to provide a few reminders/updates on how to protect the development of these early fruits from insect pests. The first thing you want to do is examine the health of your plants. Are there pests that have hidden under the winter protection and found a home on your crop? The

most common culprits are aphids and spider mites (Figs. 2 and 3). Getting these populations under control before the weather warms is crucial to prevent large pest outbreaks that reduce plant productivity.

Pruning the plants to the crown is effective in reducing aphid and spider mite populations (inoculum) that persist in the winter (Fig 1). Strawberry will send out new growth in the spring. Reducing this initial inoculum can slow down pest population increase and help with spring pest management.

To scout for aphids and spider mites, observe 30 strawberry leaflets from random locations of the planting under a hand lens (if available) or with the naked eye to scout for pests. If pest densities are low (between 1-5 individuals per leaflet on average) it is recommended to release natural enemies (predatory mites, Orius or lacewing larvae) onto the pruned crop to keep pest populations low. "Hotspots" can also be observed for aphids (sticky residue associated with sooty mold and white shed exoskeletons; Fig 2C) and spider mites (stippling damage to leaves; Fig 3B) and natural enemy introductions should be concentrated in these areas. After natural enemies are released, take weekly leaf collections using the technique above to determine if the pest population is growing, staying low, or reducing in size.

If your initial pest density from above was high (i.e., above 5 individuals per leaflet on average), or if pest populations are increasing several weeks after natural enemy introductions, you may want to consider applying a quicker acting insecticide to knock down pest populations to a more manageable level. Flonicamid is an active ingredient that targets piercing-sucking insects and is very effective. Other options include insecticidal soaps or oils. Depending on the post-harvest interval, natural enemies can be released

onto strawberry plants that have been sprayed to clean up any surviving pests and to maintain low pest densities.

The next thing is to protect those early setting flowers, from both insect pests. There are a few insect pests that target feeding on the flowers, leading to damaged/misshapen fruits. The most common of these is the tarnished plant bug. These are small, tan to black bugs that feed with piercing-sucking mouthparts. These pests can feed on all plant parts, but feeding damage to developing strawberry fruits can lead to small, distinctively misshapen fruit damage referred to as cat facing damage. Another abundant pest can include thrips, that preferentially feed on flowers and buds. Thrips are small and difficult to detect on plants, and are therefore easiest to monitor using sticky cards or by tapping bud or flower clusters over a piece of white paper or cup of water (Fig 4B). Dislodged individuals can be seen on this white background or in the water. This tapping method can also be used to scout for tarnished plant bug.

Other occasional pests include the strawberry bud weevil, caterpillars, slugs and variegated cutworms (Figs. 5-6). Keeping the fruit off the soil can help minimize damage by slugs and cutworms as well as reducing the amount of organic matter decomposing on the soil surface, which the slugs and cutworms take refuge in.

For the most recent recommendations for strawberry production see the Midwest Fruit Pest Management Guide found [here](#).



Fig 1. Before (A) and after (B) pruning on Feb. 20.

Plants were actively blooming on Mar 20 (C). The trial was conducted in a high tunnel at the Southwest Purdue Ag Center, in Vincennes, IN.



Fig 2. Aphids on a developing strawberry fruit(A) and on the underside of leaves (B). C shows an aphid hotspot on spinach, showing a sticky residue and white aphid exoskeleton that will be similar in appearance on strawberry. Photos by Wenjing Guan and Sam Willden.

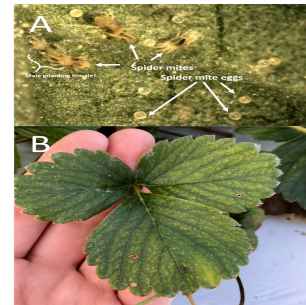


Fig 3. Twospotted spider mites on strawberry leaves (A) and damage on strawberry (B). Photos Sam Willden.

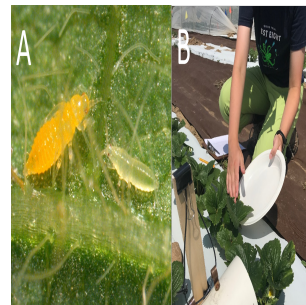


Fig 4. Thrips adult and nymph (A) and flower tapping method (B). Photos by John Obermeyer and Sam Willden.





Fig 5. Slug feeding on strawberry fruit. Photo by John Obermeyer.



Fig 6. Variegated cutworm next to damaged strawberry. Photo by John Obermeyer.

## Cold Weather Impact on Grapevines

(Miranda Purcell, [mrpurcel@purdue.edu](mailto:mrpurcel@purdue.edu))

Extreme cold temperatures were experienced across the state on December 23-24th 2022 (Figure 1). Temperatures ranged from -10- -5° F across most of the state with temperatures dipping below -10°F in some areas. Since then, there have been some additional cold events, such as 7° F on January 31-February 1 and 12° F on March 19<sup>th</sup>. It is possible that these cold temperatures injured grapevine buds.

To assess the degree of cold injury, canes were collected from 11 varieties at the Meigs Purdue Agriculture Center located in Lafayette, IN. The percentage of primary bud injury was determined using the methodology outlined in the videos noted below. See the results in Table 1. Frontenac and La Crescent varieties, developed out of the University of Minnesota, had the least amount of primary bud injury (< 6%). Brianna

and Prairie Star varieties, developed by Elmer Swenson, had < 10% primary bud injury. Frontenac gris, Frontenac blanc, Petite Pearl and Aromella had a moderate amount of primary bud injury (14-29%). Seyval, Steuben and Vidal had a significant amount of primary bud injury (< 45%). Buds with primary bud injury may still produce shoots from the secondary or tertiary bud, however these shoots are likely to be less fruitful. Conducting bud assessments prior to pruning is recommended. See the below videos on how to conduct bud injury testing. See Table 2 below for the suggested pruning strategy to use based on the percentage of bud mortality in your vineyard. If you are experiencing > 20% bud damage, you will want to leave a higher number of buds during pruning.

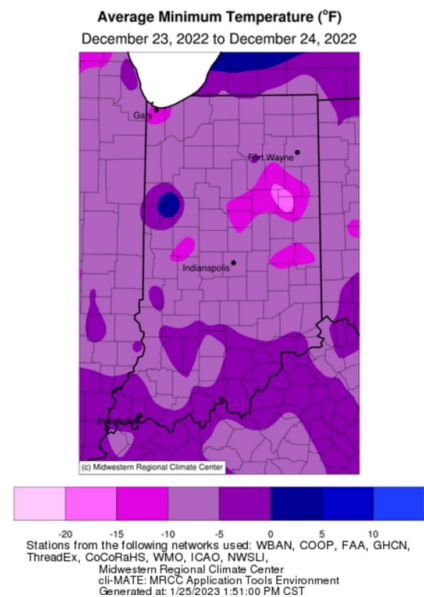


Figure 1. Average minimum temperature in Indiana on December 23-24th, 2022. Photo from Midwest Regional Climate Center.

Table 1. Bud injury of 11 grape varieties exposed to -10°F on December 23, 2022, 7° F on January 31, 2023 and 12° F on March 19, 2023 in Lafayette, IN

Variety	Primary bud injury (%)	Variety	Primary bud injury (%)
Vidal	79.3	Frontenac	5.1
Petite Pearl	19.5	Frontenac gris	14.5
Brianna	8.0	Frontenac blanc	28.9
La Crescent	3.3	Seyval blanc	47.6
Aromella	25.0	Prairie Star	9.1
Steuben	47.2		

Evaluating Bud Injury Prior to Pruning:

Part

I: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_RHJ5mY3fAs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_RHJ5mY3fAs)

Part

II: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWtr0jzI2Dk&t=31s>

Bud mortality (%)	Suggested strategy
10-15	No need to adjust your winter pruning.
20-50	Leave a higher number of buds (+20-30%) at winter pruning; e.g. prune to 4-5 bud spurs rather than the standard 2-3 bud spurs and/or leave more spurs/canes per vine.
60	Double the number of buds of your standard pruning strategy
More than 60	No dormant pruning or just reestablish the bearing structure of the vine

Table 2. Suggested pruning strategies in relation to different levels of bud mortality.

Michigan State University Extension

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## Strawberry Chat Podcast — Strawberry Spring Diseases and Management

(Wenjing Guan, [guan40@purdue.edu](mailto:guan40@purdue.edu)) & (Miranda Purcell, [mrpurcel@purdue.edu](mailto:mrpurcel@purdue.edu))

Dr. Janna Beckerman, Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist in the Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology joined our discussion to talk about Spring Diseases and Management. Our discussion focused on Anthracnose fruit rot and Botrytis fruit rot. Janna described the biology of the pathogens and provided cultural and fungicide recommendations for managing these diseases.

You can hear this discussion and previous chats on the [Strawberry Chat Podcast](#). [Wenjing Guan](#) and [Miranda Purcell](#) host the podcast.

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## Provide your feedback on fruit insect topics for 2023

(Elizabeth Yim Long, [long132@purdue.edu](mailto:long132@purdue.edu))

Happy spring to everyone! I'm sure you are preparing your fruit systems for a productive season! I am looking forward to warmer weather and my favorite time of the year: when fruits and vegetables are fresh and abundant in the Hoosier heartland.

Last year, I focused my fruit insect articles on what to look for and when during the season, based on the phenology of fruiting systems, and updates on insect activity recorded in traps maintained by my team. I will continue to do the same, but wanted to invite our readers to suggest insect-related topics that you'd like to read or learn more about!

I've created a [1-question poll](#) with pre-suggested topics, as well as a fill in the blank option for you to suggest other ideas. **If you'd like to weigh in, please complete the poll by Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**. I'll use this feedback to plan future articles about fruit insects in *Facts for Fancy Fruit*.

If you are not able to access the poll, you can email suggested topics to me at [eylong@purdue.edu](mailto:eylong@purdue.edu). Thank you in advance for your feedback! I look forward to seeing which topics you pick!

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## Spring Considerations on Using Floating Row Covers in Plasticulture Strawberry

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

Using straws is the standard practice for winter protection in matted-row strawberry production. In contrast, plasticulture strawberries commonly use floating rows for winter and spring frost protection. This article will discuss the differences between managing floating row

covers vs. straws in the spring.

When straw is used, it blocks the light. There is hardly any growth under the straws in the winter. Most strawberry leaves have decayed at the time to remove straws in the spring in the matted-row system. The condition is very different when using floating row covers in plasticulture strawberries. Depending on the thickness of the row covers, a portion of the light can pass through the cover. Using floating row covers increases the temperature around the plant canopy; black plastic mulch increases soil temperatures. As a result, plants under row covers are not dormant, especially in a mild winter.

Frost protection is one of the major challenges in strawberry production in the spring. After plants enter full bloom, temperatures lower than 32 °F could cause significant yield loss. Farmers use row covers or overhead irrigation for spring frost protection. Protection of both strategies is limited under hard frost/freeze events. We can not control when mother nature decides to bring a hard frost in the spring, but as a general rule, delaying plants entering full bloom would reduce the risk.

Matted-row strawberry growers may use a calendar-based schedule in deciding when to remove the straws. This strategy works because, as mentioned earlier, there is hardly any growth under the straws as it blocks the light. However, this strategy may not work when using floating row covers in plasticulture strawberries. Plants grow under floating row covers during warm periods, even in the winter. If this happens in early spring, it accelerates blooming and exposes plants to a higher risk of frost damage. That said, plasticulture strawberry growers should consider removing floating row covers early in the spring, or only use it during the coldest days in the winter if in southern Indiana. Avoid covering the

plants on warm days, and leave the floating row covers onsite to be ready for frost protection.

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## Attention Indiana Horticulture Society Members, notice from the President, Matt Chandler

*(Peter M Hirst, hirst@purdue.edu, (765) 494-1323)*

Dear Indiana Horticulture Society Member,  
We as a society have some decisions to make and I feel that these could really make us stronger as a whole.

During our wrap up meeting at this years Hort Conference, there were many views and ideas shared with the group. The general consensus was that this organization does want to continue to function. We don't want to exist just for the sake of existing. We need direction, purpose, and to be the voice of our industry in the State of Indiana.

Since Hort Conference, I have thought long and hard about the examples of leadership from past members going all the way back to the founding of the Indiana Hort Society in 1860. Our past has been great and I want that for our future too. For a while this Society and its leadership positions have been mostly symbolic and this needs to change. Purdue University has been instrumental to the success of our organization through their Admin and IT support, hosting and setting up meeting venues, as well as planning the meetings. We the leadership and members need to be more proactive instead of relying solely on Purdue to keep us going. Looking through past records, meeting minutes, and letters there were activities we used to do, active committees and other things that are no longer done.

We need to right this ship and set a new course! In order to achieve these goals, we need more participation, camaraderie and bonds of fellowship.

The following Committees have open positions and are needing to be filled. If one or more of these are calling to you, please let me know. My contact info will be listed below.

1. Nominating Committee
2. Memorial Committee
3. Legislative Committee
4. Audit Committee
5. Research Committee

The board would like to propose bringing back the Twilight meetings, possibly twice per year, once in the spring and once in late fall after harvest. I don't know how long it has been since the last one, but these were always a valuable asset to the group before the growing season kicked off in full swing. We will have a topic or two of discussion for the meeting followed by refreshments. Traditionally these were regional meetings held around the state, but with fewer growers now I think we could treat these like a short summer meeting with or without the tour. The first twilight meeting will be this spring possibly the first Saturday of May. Details such as date, location, and topics to be discussed will follow at a later date. By adding two additional meetings per year, we hope to accomplish the goals outlined above.

Since the summer meeting location has not been determined, please contact me directly if you are interested in hosting. Another opportunity has presented itself and I think it deserves attention. I had a lengthy conversation with John Young, President of the Indiana Vegetable Growers Association (IVGA), last week and the following was the topic of that call. Some of these could be a solution if combined.

1. Should we combine forces/resources with the IVGA?
2. Should this be a new entity, such as the Indiana Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association? (IFVGA)

3. Should we as the Indiana Hort Society change our name to the Indiana Fruit Growers Association (IFGA) to better reflect our Mission?
4. Should each group maintain their own identity but work more closely for meetings such as Hort Congress, and larger issues like Government regulations that impact our industry as a whole?
5. If organizations combined how would dues be split? I think maintaining our own dues and books should continue so we can direct funds to appropriate locations, Return Bloom Fund, MAIA, US Apple, memorials etc.... Then using some of those funds for joint meeting costs
6. Could the Indiana Hort Society exist as an umbrella organization to (IFGA), (IVGA) or (IFVGA) and include the other horticulturally related organizations in this state (turf, mint, Christmas trees, hemp, landscape, etc.)? Hort is a very broad term. I could be out in the giggle weeds on this but the question remains.

There is much to consider. These are not the only options by any means, but let's get the ball rolling. Many of us are members of both organizations anyway. IVGA also just merged with the Indiana Melon Growers Association. There are several younger producers in both groups and this is great! Harnessing that energy to promote our products in this state would be advantageous. Could we create a Fruit and/or Veggie Trail in the state? Anything is possible and the road could lead anywhere, but the fact remains if we aren't willing to decide who we are and what we want to be it doesn't matter. Using this opportunity to strengthen both groups and to work together to make our voices heard at the state level would be in the best interest of both groups.



What am I missing that needs to be addressed? I am looking forward to a flood of phone calls and emails!

The board has been working on a list of survey questions and comments to garner feedback. Your opinion is very important and you can find the survey here

[https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8w85x7wX5Yqpsjk](https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8w85x7wX5Yqpsjk) or by scanning the QR code below with your smart phone. If you have any problems, please feel free to contact Lori Jolly-Brown at 765-494-1296 or [ljollybr@purdue.edu](mailto:ljollybr@purdue.edu)



In Kind Regards,  
Matthew S. Chandler  
Indiana Hort Society President  
Chandler's Orchard & Country Market  
[chandlersfarmmarket@icloud.com](mailto:chandlersfarmmarket@icloud.com)

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## Purdue Fruit and Vegetable Field Day – July 20, 2023

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

Purdue Extension presented its first Fruit, Vegetable and Hemp Field Day post-pandemic at the Meigs Ag Center in July 2022. Extension Specialists and Graduate Students presented

specialty crop research to 45 attendees. Attendees had only good things to say about the event. "Great information and research." "Great variety of experiences and knowledge." "I felt welcomed and it was in an educational environment with like-minded people." "It was such a great informative event to learn about Purdue's current research." "Quality and variety of information." "The speakers seemed to give good context to their subjects." Below are some of the production topics presented at the field day and we expect to have a similar lineup for the 2023 field day.

- Cold Hardy Grape Varieties for Indiana
- Apple Disease Management and IR4 Trial
- Management of Dwarf Apple Trees
- Managing Caterpillars with Homeowner Products on Swiss Chard and Collard Green Varieties
- Planting Vegetables into Cover Crops
- Vegetable Weed Management Research
- Row Covers for Insect Management on Leafy Greens
- Sweetcorn Insect Management
- Mite Management in High Tunnel Cucumbers
- Two-system Approach to Vegetable Farming
- Cannabinoid Hemp Variety Trial / Hemp Propagation Study

We are happy to announce that Purdue Extension is presenting its annual Fruit and Vegetable Field Day on July 20, 2023, at the Throckmorton/Meigs Horticulture Farm, Lafayette, IN.

More information about the upcoming field day will be available in May 2023.

Contact [Lori Jolly-Brown](#) or [Petrus Langenhoven](#) if you have any questions.



## Small Farm Education Field Day – July 27, 2023

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

The 2022 [Purdue Small Farm Education Field Day](#) was a big success. Nearly 72% of attendees reported that they learned something new. Nearly half indicated they plan to adopt recommended practices for diversified farming systems, and over a third (36.0%) plan to adopt recommended practices for creating, improving, or strengthening their business. Half (52.0%) indicated they plan to adopt practices for horticulture and the environment or practices that reduce negative environmental impact due to horticultural operations. Nearly half plan to adopt practices/technologies for the conservation of resources (48.0%) or increased efficiencies (44.0%).

### Attendees commented .....

- ‘Diversity of information presented.
- Great field day. Jam-packed with information and experts. Lots of opportunities to question the experts.
- Great people and resources!
- I believe the diversity accurately represented many aspects of Indiana agriculture for large and small-scale operations.
- I recently got into the urban farming industry in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and this program has helped me get the wheels in my head turning.

- I think it was a great event to learn about small farms and different practices or crops. It was also a great networking event.
- I think it was a very informative event. Lots of good resources and networking as well as practices. Very educational.
- I thought the field day was well organized.
- New information presented in an understandable format by very competent professionals.
- The event was educational, local, had very knowledgeable presenters, helpful exhibitors, good handouts, and I got a free frozen treat.
- Up-to-date practices, evidence-based knowledge, concrete
- Very informative to see a high-volume production set up, including plant training systems and watering/fertigation systems, applied to a wide variety of crops.’

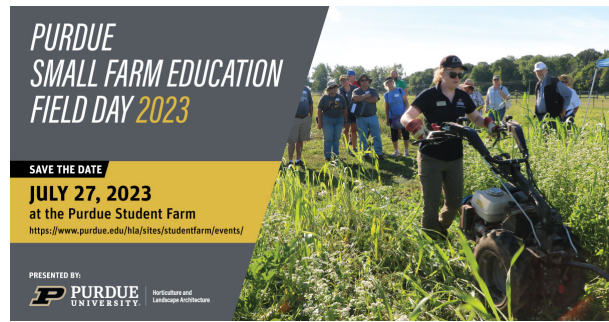
The event was held at the Purdue Student Farm located in West Lafayette, Indiana. The field day featured an array of “demonstration stations” on the farm where participants learned about a variety of topics:

- Student farm packhouse tour and overview of good agriculture practices (GAPs)
- Weed identification and understanding of thresholds
- Summer cover crops for weed suppression
- Infield soil diagnostics and soil health
- Vegetable disease, prevention, identification, and management
- Scouting for mites in high tunnel crops
- Black soldier fly composting
- Caterpillar tunnels
- Beans, onion, sweet pepper, eggplant, and tomato varieties in various production

Save the date for the next field day

– July 27, 2023

Educational topics for the 2023 field day will be available in May. To learn more about the field day, visit our [webpage](http://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/studentfarm/events/) at [www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/studentfarm/events/](http://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/studentfarm/events/) or contact [Lori Jolly-Brown](#) or [Petrus Langenhoven](#).



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