

PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

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Perennial Weed Control Using Cultural/Mechanical Techniques

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Weeds cause serious crop losses every year by reducing yield, quality and earliness of grain, forage, vegetable and fruit crops. Perennial weeds include any weed that lives for more than two years. **Common perennial grass weeds** in the mid-Atlantic region include **quackgrass, Johnsongrass, Bermudagrass, and wirestem muhly.** **Common herbaceous perennial broadleaf weeds** in the mid-Atlantic region include **Canada thistle, milkweed, hemp dogbane, hedge and field bindweed, Canada goldenrod, white heath aster, and hosenettle.** **Common woody broadleaf perennials** include **Virginia creeper, poison ivy, creeping dewberry and other brambles, multiflora rose, greenbriar, and mulberry tree seedlings.** **Yellow nutsedge and purple nutsedge** are two perennial sedges commonly found in the region.

Most annual and perennial weeds reproduce from seed, but many perennials also reproduce vegetatively. Examples of vegetative reproductive parts of weeds include stolens, rhizomes, roots, tubers, bulbs, and nutlets. Bermudagrass has stolens, which are above ground horizontal stems. Quackgrass spreads by rhizomes, which are underground horizontal stems. Canada thistle, milkweed, hemp dogbane, hosenettle, and bindweed species have a deep complex root system with distinct vertical and horizontal roots. Wild bean has tubers. Nutsedge has nutlets that can live dormant in the soil for several years.

Primary and secondary tillage are effective control methods for annual weeds, but annual plowing and disking or field cultivating prior to planting often only spreads perennials by breaking roots, rhizomes, and stolens, and dragging pieces to uninfested parts of the field, or to other fields. Perennial weed control requires a significantly higher degree of commitment. The grower must make perennial weed control a high priority task. They must recognize that success will require more time, cost more money, and may affect a field's crop rotation sequence to be effective.

Perennial weeds can be controlled by carbohydrate starvation. Perennials emerge in the spring by relying on carbohydrates stored in roots, rhizomes, stolens, tubers, bulbs or nutlets. Control measures should start when the carbohydrate reserves in the weed are at their lowest. This is often after the weed has used stored reserves to overwin-

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ter and emerge in the spring. Beginning when the weed shoot(s) break the soil surface, carbohydrate flow continues from the root toward the shoots for an additional 7 to 10 days to establish a leaf canopy. Between 10 and 14 days is a transition period. Within 14 days of emergence, the weed moves carbohydrates from the leaves back down into the root.

STARVATION OF PERENNIAL WEEDS IS ACCOMPLISHED BY NEVER ALLOWING THE WEED TO MOVE CARBOHYDRATES DOWN INTO THE ROOTS. This can be accomplished by tilling (or close mowing of tall upright weeds) every 7 to 10 days until they cease to attempt to emerge. It is critical that NO timing be missed or be late! One single missed tillage can negate all the effort expended up to that point. **EXPECT TO CONTINUE THE EFFORT FOR 4 TO 6 MONTHS!** Success may require more time if the effort was not started when carbohydrate reserves in the weed were low at the start of the process.

Typically, a field is fallowed and shallowly tilled on a weekly schedule for one growing season to eliminate a perennial weed problem. Begin with the first sign of the emergence of the weed in the spring. Maintain a seven (7) day tillage schedule. This time schedule provides about a three to seven day cushion in the event of a wet period when the field can not be tilled. The schedule MUST be maintained and must be a high priority for the grower. One, single missed tillage can negate all the effort expended up to that point. Advance the schedule when wet weather is anticipated rather than suffer a delay. The reason for missing the timing is not important. Preventing ANY carbohydrate from moving from the leaves back into the root is critical for success until the weed is dead.

A field need not be fallowed for the year, provided the grower maintains a seven day cultivation and hoeing schedule. The weekly tillage cannot be stopped when the crop becomes established. The weekly tillage and hand hoeing must be continued until the weed is dead. □

Fruit IPM

Dean Polk, Fruit IPM Agent and David Schmitt and Eugene Rizio, Program Associates in Tree Fruit IPM

Peach

Most of the following pertains to shuck split to shuck off timing in southern counties.

✓ **Oriental Fruit Moth (OFM):** OFM development is fairly uniform across the state. Predicted dates for first insecticide covers are on or about 5/1 in southern and central counties and 5/5-5/7 in northern counties. A second full insecticide cover should be applied on or about 375 DD. This is predicted to be on or about 5/16 in southern and central counties and 5/21 in northern counties. The first and second spray dates for the southern, central, and northern counties are as follows:

County / Region	1 st Spray Date	2 nd Spray Date
Gloucester – Southern	4/30-5/1	5/15-17
Monmouth – Central	5/1	5/15-17
Hunterdon - Northern	5/5-7	5/20-22

✓ **Green Peach Aphids (GPA):** Aphids have been slow to appear; in fact we have yet to see any in our sampling. At this time of year, growers should not tolerate more than 2 colonies per tree on peach or 1 colony per tree on nectarines. While this is a very conservative estimate for peaches, aphid populations should definitely not be tolerated on nectarines, since they will directly damage and deform the fruit. Lannate, Thiodan, and Provado/Actara (neonicotines) are labeled for control, with Provado and Actara giving the best (and most expensive) control. Keep in mind that of all the spray targets at this time of the season, Provado only controls aphids and tarnished plant bug, and suppresses stink bugs and plum curculio. Actara will control plum curculio, tarnished plant bug, and stink bugs (at a higher rate of 4.5 to 5.5 oz/A as opposed to 3-4 oz/A for aphids). Neither of these two products will control OFM. The OP's, Lannate, and the pyrethroids will control OFM. In order to minimize costs, growers may wish to delay aphid treatments if possible, use a pyrethroid only, or if needed, use a pyrethroid plus a low rate of a neonicotine compound. *We have seen no farms to date where aphid materials are justified.*

✓ **Tarnished Plant Bugs and Stink Bugs (TPB and SB):** This is the time of the season when treatments are also targeted to these two pests. Growers who have experienced past problems have either had weedy ground covers and/or had plantings with considerable woods borders. Our early sampling has shown that the first stinkbugs seen were in border rows next to woody areas. Where hedgerows, weeds, and woods are near peach trees, growers should be particularly mindful of catfacing insect control.

✓ **Blossom Blight:** The weather during bloom has been generally unfavorable for blossom blight infections. Once shuck off begins growers can begin a sulfur-based program. This does not apply to blocks known to have peach scab inoculum. In these blocks growers should continue a Captan based program until about third cover.

Apple

✓ **Apple Scab (Scab):** Continue solid applications with very effective materials. We are now at peak spore discharge in all growing regions. Cedar apple rust is also still a concern. The strobilurin fungicides, Flint and Sovran are considered weak rust materials and if used, they should

SEE IPM ON PAGE 3

be combined with a half rate of an EBDC where rust is known to be a problem.

✓ **Fire Blight:** Blossom sprays using antibiotics should be applied on a 3-7 day schedule or any time temperatures are 65°F or above and the relative humidity is 60% or above. Refer to the production guide for recommended materials and rates.

✓ **Plum Curculio (PC):** PC adults are active. Recent damage has been seen on pears, and activity has been seen in peaches and blueberries. This is a key insect target during at least the next 2 to 3 weeks. Any applications made on apples should include control for PC.

Scouting Calendar

The following table is intended as an aid for orchard scouting. It should *not* be used to time pesticide applications. Median dates for pest events and crop phenology are displayed. These dates are compiled from observations made over the past 5-10 years in Gloucester County. Events in northern New Jersey should occur 7-10 days later.

Blueberry

✓ **Leafrollers and Other Lep. Larvae:** Beating tray

Pest Event or Growth Stage	Approximate Date 2005	Observed Date
First Apple Scab Infection Period	April 1 +/- 15 Days	April 30
First Blossom Blight Infection	April 10 +/- 5 days	Not yet observed
Green Peach Aphid in Beating Trays	April 15 +/- 14 Days	Not yet observed
Oriental Fruit Moth - 175 DD	April 19 +/- 4 days	May 1
Rosy Aphid colonies visible	April 19 +/- 4 Days	Not yet observed
Full Bloom Red Delicious	April 20 +/- 9 days	April 27
Petal Fall Red Delicious	April 27 +/- 13 Days	
Tufted Apple Budmoth Biofix	May1 +/- 7 Days	
Codling Moth Biofix	May3 +/- 5 Days	
Oriental Fruit Moth - 375 DD	May 10 +/- 8 Days	
Plum Curculio Oviposition Injury - Apple	May 10 +/- 11 Days	

samples for larvae began this week now that most of the Cranberry Weevil activity is over. To date, 8% of samples have been positive for larvae with the highest level being at 0.1 per 100 clusters. We use a treatment threshold of 1 larva per 100 blossom/fruit clusters. Therefore, the presence of larvae IS VERY LOW and treatments are not needed. Young gypsy moth larvae make up the bulk of what samples are positive.

✓ **Thrips:** We have been searching for thrips for the past 2 weeks and our first find was on 4/27. So far only one adult and 1 nymph have been seen. This is far below our threshold, which is .7 to 1 thrip per flower cluster. Given the number of thrips that can be found in flowers, this is already a conservative threshold. If growers do find thrips populations above this number, then treatment is advised. This has to be assessed carefully, since the primary treatment is Spintor. This must be applied at dusk, when there is no bee activity, since direct contact or contact with fresh material will kill bees.

✓ **Plum Curculio (PC):** Our first catch of the season was on 4/28 near a wooded border. We expect to find increasing numbers as temperatures warm and fruit begins to set. In previous seasons only a few active sites were seen. Activity can be detected using beating trays

or by checking for crescent shaped scars on the fruit. Bias your sampling towards early varieties near wooded borders or hedgerows.

✓ **Mummy Berry:** The first leaf strike was seen on 4/27 and since then we have seen only 2 to 3 additional sites with small amounts of primary strikes. One farm with a history of infection was seen with over 5 strikes/ bush.

Insect Trap Counts

Tree Fruit Southern Counties

Week ending	STLM	TABM-ACM	AM	OFM-A	DWB	OFM-P	TABM-P	LPTB	PTB
4/15/05		170							
4/22/05		500	0		12		35	0	
4/29/05		430	0		0		17	0	

Northern Counties

Week ending	STLM	TABM-ACM	AM	OFM-A	DWB	OFM-P	TABM-P	LPTB	PTB
4/15/05									
4/22/05		140			0		4		
4/29/05		550			0		9		

Key: STLM = Spotted Tentiform Leafminer, TABM = Tufted Apple Budmoth (A – apple, P – Peach), CM = Codling Moth, AM = Apple Maggot, OFM = Oriental Fruit Moth (A – apple, P – Peach), LPTB = Lesser Peachtree Borer, PTB = Peachtree Borer

Blueberry Trap Counts – Atlantic County

Week Ending	CBFW	RBLR	OBLR	SNLH	OB	BBM
4/15	125					
4/22	95					
4/29	137					

Blueberry Trap Counts – Burlington County

Week Ending	CBFW	RBLR	OBLR	SNLH	OB	BBM
4/15	69					
4/22	63					
4/29	28					

Key: CBFW = Cranberry Fruitworm, RBLR = Redbanded Leafroller, OBLR = Obliquebanded Leafroller, SNLH = Sharpnosed Leafhopper, OB = Oriental Beetle, BBM = Blueberry Maggot

Apple Thinning for 2005

Win Cowgill, Agricultural Agent

In Northern New Jersey, apple bloom is running 7-10 days early. Continued cool weather is slowing development. Last night we had a low of 32oF at the Rutgers Snyder Farm in Hunterdon County, and 29 oF at one orchard location in Warren County. Cool weather is predicted for the rest of the week, with lows of 26-30oF predicted for tonight.

It is time to plan our chemical apple thinning strategies for 2005. No single practice in apple production will have a greater impact on the bottom line than the utilization of plant growth regulators (PGR's) for chemical thinning.

Bloom and petal fall thinning are becoming increasingly popular with apple growers. Thinning at these early stages allows us to make one or two additional applications if needed.

Chemical thinning stabilizes annual crop production and improves size, color and quality of fruit. Research has shown that fruit size is directly related to how early fruits are thinned. Thinning that reduces the clustering of fruit will improve fruit color and quality. Adequate chemical thinning will promote or guarantee return bloom, and promote consistent annual production of crops.

No single thinning program is applicable to all orchards because of the many variables. Past experience combined with detailed records of materials, rates, crop performance, crop management practices, yield and weather conditions are your best guide.

It is essential to understand what thinning materials are available, how they work, and the different windows of opportunity that are available for their application. Knowing the cultivar response to these different materials will greatly increase the success of your thinning program. Many factors can influence the effectiveness of plant growth regulators used for chemical thinning of apples. Below are some of the factors followed by a discussion of timing windows for application, the materials available and some general recommendations.

- **Climatic conditions** cannot be controlled but can greatly affect the strength of fruit set and the effectiveness of chemical thinning materials. A combination of temperature, humidity, wind and elevation will all affect chemical activity. Thinners, when applied during poor drying conditions, will generally increase activity. Dew or light rain following treatment may re-suspend the chemical and cause additional uptake.

Cloudy conditions cause shading and reduce the carbohydrate levels in young fruits, causing poor fruit retention. Applying thinners just before, during, or just after a three-day cloudy period, especially when temperatures are above 65oF would likely increase the thinning response.

Warming Trend - Michigan information indicates that thinning activity is related to temperature, *with more thinning activity when materials are applied in a warming trend*. This approach is gaining momentum around the country. That is, targeting our PGR thinning activity when we have warmer weather predicted to follow application for the next two days. This may be at petal fall, 8MM or 12-15MM...

What does the above mean to you the grower? It means rates; materials and timing must be adjusted based on the season's current weather conditions.

Windows of Application for Thinning Apples

Bloom Thinning Apple – Across North America apple growers are thinning earlier and earlier to maximize fruit size. Bloom thinning enhances fruit size. The earlier we thin the larger the fruit size that can be obtained. Thinning early also lets us come back for repeat applications with other materials if necessary at petal fall and later.

In New York, NAA is recommended as a bloom thinner for Empire and other smaller fruited cultivars. When fruit set conditions warrant a bloom application on these cultivars, an application of NAA at Bloom can do some limited thinning. New York recommends 10ppm. I would try on a trial basis 3-5 parts per million NAA. Additional thinning applications will be needed in most years. NAA does not have a memory and therefore repeat applications are not cumulative and can be made.

Petal Fall Window (PF up to 6MM size) - All labeled thinning materials are effective at this time including NAA, NAD, ACCELL™Vydate, and Sevin. Thinning early gives us greater fruit size, but usually at PF we do not take enough fruit off and must come back again with another application.

Early Fruit Set Window (8mm up to 12mm) -This is the traditional time for chemically thinning apples. All labeled thinning materials are effective at this time including NAA, NAD, Maxcel, Vydate, Sevin, ethephon.

Some Notes and Suggestions for Apple Thinning in 2005

- In general, early applications of good rates thin aggressively. Moderate and mild thinning occurs at lower rates and/or at later timings.

- Rates of individual thinners and/or combinations should be based on past grower experience with individual cultivars in each fruit block or use variety and rate guidelines as outlined in our *2005 NJ Commercial Tree Fruit Manual* (E-002Q).

New Thoughts on NAA: many researchers have been indicating that NAA thins fruit and helps with return bloom, but have found NAA *does not* increase fruit size. In addition, in up to a third of the cases, NAA *may reduce fruit size* if applied after 8MM in size. Hence the move toward Sevin XLR or Sevin and NAA combinations applied early.

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The NAA base rate depends on the variety; the harder to thin cultivars require the higher NAA concentration. The exception would be Spur Delicious and Fuji. I would not use more than 5ppm NAA on Reds of Fuji's and I would use it only in combination with Sevin or Vydate at Petal Fall.

You can also use 3-5 ppm NAA at petal fall and follow up at 8mm with 1qt of Sevin/A if needed.

All the above petal fall treatments allow for you to come back with a second application of the appropriate material at 8-12MM. Also a third application is possible with the use of Ethephon in the late fruit set window of 12-18mm. Ethephon can be used up to 25mm as a last resort.

A second approach might be to try using Sevin XLR at petal fall at 1 qt/A. It can be used alone or combined with NAA. Combined with NAA it is more aggressive. Varieties like Gala and Fuji are hard to thin and will benefit from the multiple application approach. Since Gala, Fuji, Golden Delicious and others are hard to size and thin, be aggressive if bloom warrants at petal fall.

For Gala, time sprays based on bloom on the older wood, not one-year-old wood. Time the rate by sizing the fruit on the older wood, i.e. 5-8mm for sprays later than petal fall. The goal is to thin off the bloom on the one year wood; the fruit is always smaller on one year wood on Gala.

Promalin™- many growers in British Columbia, Washington State, Chile and New Zealand use Promalin™

Golden Delicious: consider the use of Ethephon 2 (21.7%) at 1/2 pint per 100 gallons plus 10ppm of NAA. Ethephon is labeled for Goldens. The label calls for an increased rate for spur Goldens. One north Jersey grower has used this combination on Goldens for over 15 years with good success.

Fuji can be thinned successfully at petal fall according to reports from British Columbia, Canada. According to a report published in *Compact Fruit Tree*, Vol. 31 No1, April 1998, Dr. Norm Looney conducted two sets of experiments in 1995 and 1997 with Fuji. Carbaryl (Sevin) proved to be an effective thinner of Fuji at petal fall. The addition of ACCELL enhanced the thinning effect and appeared to improve return bloom. This report can be viewed online at the IDFTA website, <http://www.IDFTA.com/>.

Do not use NAA on Fuji, it can cause mummies.

For Jersey Reds try 5ppm NAA plus Sevin XLR at 1 quart/A, again this combination has been successful in North Jersey consistently.

As you can see there are a lot of ways to go. *Try some bloom and petal fall sprays, use multiple applications.* Keep detailed records including weather two days before and two days after application. *Always be sure to leave some check trees.* Experiment slowly on portions of your acreage cultivar by cultivar.

If you still have too much fruit after petal fall and 8-10 MM applications, consider the use of Ethephon or Ethephon combinations when fruit size is greater than 18MM.

A Review of Chemical Choice for Apple Thinning

NAA- is one of our oldest and most reliable thinners. It can be applied from petal fall to 20MM fruit size at rates of 5ppm to 20ppm per 100 gallons. It is especially effective in helping to return bloom.

Caution Notes: *on red delicious do not apply concentrations more than 5ppm to avoid pygmy fruits. Do not use NAA or NAD on any trees that are to be treated with Maxcell, Promalin or Provide this year! Pygmy fruits may result. Do not use NAA on Fuji for the same reason.*

NAD- is a mild form of NAA and is used at PF and early fruit set only! It is very effective on summer varieties such as Paulared, Jersey mac, Macintosh cultivars and Macoun. It is usually applied at 40-50 ppm per 100 gallons at PF-5MM. (See above caution).

6-BA-Maxcell or Excellis- is best used in combination with Sevin at 50-to 100 ppm. It also works best in a warm-trend over 65°F and works best between 8-12 MM.

Caution Notes: 6-BA and Sevin can be a very aggressive combination on Gala especially under the right weather conditions (cloudy days following application).

Sevin is a carbamate insecticide that is a standard thinner for apples. *Only Sevin XLR-Plus should be used.* It has been reported to be safer on bees and to have less toxicity to mite predators. It has the same concentration of active ingredient as Sevin 50W and thins the same way. Sevin is a mild thinner at the full rate of 1 quart/acre. It can be used at PF till 20 mm and is best used in combination with other thinners (NAA or 6-BA) with most varieties. When used alone it may underthin some cultivars in New Jersey. (Do not use Vydate in combination with Sevin).

Vydate L is a carbamate insecticide that works the same way as Sevin. Vydate has had a state label in NJ since 1996 based on our research trials in North Jersey. It too is a mild thinner like Sevin and should be used in combination with another thinner for best results (NAA or Accell). At 1-2 pints per 100 gallons it should be applied dilute between PF/5MM and 20MM. Up to two applications can be made per season. Vydate may be less toxic to mite predators than Sevin and at the 1-2 pint /100 rate has activity on spotted tentiform leafminers if present and white apple leafhopper at the thinning timing.

Ethephon 2 or Ethrel are both labeled for apple thinning. Manufactured by Microflow and Bayer respectively, their labels are slightly different. Ethephon is used extensively throughout Europe to help bring non bearing apples into production as well. This use is outlined on both labels as well. More on the use of Ethrel in future newsletters.

Refer to the *2005 NJ Commercial Tree Fruit Production Guide* for additional information. □

Viticulture and Enology Workshop in PA

Mark Chien, Penn State University
Cooperative Extension

A viticulture and enology workshop titled "Working Toward a Quality Wine Harvest" is being held in Lancaster, PA on Tuesday, May 24, 2005 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, PA. It will feature regional speakers from the wine industry and Penn State University and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The focus will be on integrating wine growing practices from the field to the cellar to achieve optimal grape quality at harvest.

Speakers including Jenny McCloud and Drew Barna from Chrysalis Vineyards (VA), Jerry Forest of Buckingham Valley Vineyard (PA), Rick Dunst (Cornell University), a wine making team from New York and the Penn State wine and grape extension team. Topics include grower/winemaker cooperation, vineyard weed control and boom sprayer calibration, wine blending in the field and cellar, canopy and disease management, new wine making technologies and a current assessment of the vintage. There will be a wine tasting and core and category pesticide credits (PA) will be available.

Registration fee is \$40/person which includes breaks, lunch and handouts. Please pre-register. Call Mark Chien at 717.394.6851 or Stephen Menke at 717.334.6271 for registration and information or send a check made to "PSCE Program Fund" to Grape Program, Penn State Cooperative Extension, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601.

*Submitted by Jerome L. Frecon,
Agricultural Agent. □*

Important Meetings for Wine Grape and Tree Fruit Growers in Southern NJ

Jerome L. Frecon, Agricultural Agent

Three timely and important meetings and tours have been scheduled for tree fruit and wine grape growers and the allied commercial agribusiness in southern New Jersey in May and June.

An educational twilight tree fruit meeting and tour will be held on May 17, 2005 at Marino Bros' Sun Valley Orchards on Vestry Road, near Swedesboro in South Harrison Township, Gloucester County, New Jersey. The meeting will start promptly at 6 p.m. with introductions and a tour of part of their 450 acres of peach plantings. Many variety and rootstock combinations will be observed as Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension Specialists, Agents, and Associates discuss the latest technology on pest management and tree fruit production. After the tour, a demonstration on the requirements to meet the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Farm Certification program will be conducted by Mr. Alan Novakowski, Agricultural Products Agent in the Division of Marketing and Development.

New Jersey Pesticide Recertification Units for Core and other categories will be provided at the conclusion of the meeting. The full meeting program plus directions can be obtained by calling Jerry Frecon at 856 307-6450 Ext 1 or by going to the Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension (RCRE) of Gloucester County Website at <http://gloucester.rce.rutgers.edu>.

Wine grape growers will have the chance to obtain the latest pest management and cultural information at A.L. Gaventa and Sons, Cedarville Vineyards on Repaupo Road in Logan Township on Tuesday Evening May 31, 2005. This educational meeting and tour will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Gaventa's tree fruit, small fruit, vegetable, and most recently wine grape plantings. New plantings of "vinefera" wine grapes were established in 2004. We will also have information on Mark Chien's rapid growth of the wine industry in Pennsylvania and his recent vineyard management and variety selections. New Jersey pesticide applicator core and category units will be given after a presentation by Dr. George Hamilton, Specialist in Pest Management. Full information on the program can be obtained by contacting Jerome L. Frecon at 856-307-6450 Ext 1 or by going to the RCRE of Gloucester County Web site at <http://gloucester.rce.rutgers.edu>.

The last educational program will be held on June 29, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. at the Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Upper Deerfield Township on Northville Road. A tour and demonstrations will be given by Dr. Bradley Majek, Dr. Peter Shearer and Dr. Norman Lalancette, Specialists with Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension as well as other associates and agents. The "Rutgers Center" is internationally known and one of the largest peach research centers in the United States. With almost 60 acres devoted to peaches it also serves as a major center for the Inter Regional Repository for Minor Use Pesticide Research. Research trials, demonstrations and the latest technology in fruit science will be discussed and observed on a tour prior to a picnic supper. This meeting is co-sponsored by the New Jersey State Horticultural Society. New Jersey Pesticide Applicator Units will be given at the conclusion of the program. Further information will be published and mailed. Pre-registration is required. □

Strawberry Update

Peter Probasco, Agricultural Agent

Chandler fields are in full bloom now and should be sprayed with a fungicide for **gray mold**. **Aphids** are present in most fields and may need a spray with either Lannate, Thionex, Danitol, Provado included with your fungicides. Try to spray late in the day when bees are returning to their hives. Most fields came through the winter in good shape. **Vetch weeds** are a problem in some fields but they can be sprayed back with Stinger 3A.

Our strawberry variety trial shows a number of very good selections that may be released this year. We have demonstrated that New Jersey is capable of growing strawberry tips in the greenhouse for growers, so we should be able to readily provide new varieties now to growers. Our present season is only 3 weeks long, but with the addition of new varieties and Ovation, we should be able to stretch it to 5 weeks. □

EPA Requests Comment on NRDC Tolerance Petition to Revoke All Carbaryl Uses

The carbamate insecticide carbaryl is currently under review for reregistration. EPA released a Revised Interim Reregistration Eligibility Decision Document (IRED) for carbaryl on October 27, 2004. Subsequently, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has formally petitioned the EPA to *revoke or modify all existing tolerances for the pesticide carbaryl*. Their petition requests cancellation of all carbaryl uses considered for reregistration in the Revised IRED by EPA. You are urged to submit comments in support of NRDC's position, or to submit detailed explanations why loss of a particular carbaryl use would negatively affect your commodity/industry. Comment on this petition is open until May 31, 2005.

You can access the petition on EPA's website - Edocket <http://docket.epa.gov/edkfed/index.jsp>. Hit 'quick search' and enter Docket number 'OPP-2005-0077'. You may also submit comment to Dhol Herzi, USDA Office of Pest Management Policy at dherzi@usda.gov.

Submitted by George Hamilton, Ph.D., Specialist in Pest Management. □

Calendar of Events

May 11, 2005, 6-9:00 pm - 2nd North Jersey Twilight Fruit Meeting. Best's Fruit Farm, Rt. 46, Hackettstown, NJ. Contact Win Cowgill at 908-788-1339 or cowgill@aesop.rutgers.edu. Pesticide credits will be awarded.

May 17, 2005 - 6:00 p.m. Twilight Tree Fruit Meeting, Marino's Sun Valley Orchard, Swedesboro, NJ. For information contact: Jerry Frecon 856-307-6450 Ext 1. frecon@rcrc.rutgers.edu or website: <http://gloucester.rce.rutgers.edu>

May 25, 2005 - 6:30 p.m. Twilight Blueberry Meeting, Atlantic Blueberry Company, Inc., 7201 Weymouth Road, Hammonton, NJ 08037. Contact: Gary Pavlis 609-625-0056 pavlis@rcrc.rutgers.edu

May 31, 2005 - 6:15 p.m. Twilight Wine Grape Meeting at A. L. Gaventa & Son, 192 Repaupo Station Road, Logan Township, NJ. Contact: Jerome L. Frecon 856-307-6450 Ext 1. frecon@rcrc.rutgers.edu

June 29, 2005 - 5:00 p.m. Fruit Research and Picnic, Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Centerton, NJ. For information contact: Jerry Frecon 856-307-6450 Ext 1. frecon@rcrc.rutgers.edu Pre-registration is requested.

July 28, 29, 30, & 31, 2005 - New Jersey Peach Festival at the Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds, Rte. 77, Mullica Hill, NJ. For information contact: Jerry Frecon 856-307-6450 Ext 1 frecon@rcrc.rutgers.edu.

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