

Orchard Outlook



Vol. 16, No. 6

April 27, 2016

Bud Development	2016 Degree Day Accumulations	Diseases
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Bud Development

Checking on bud development Monday, Idared was at late Green Tip on the Middle Dyke Road – a historically early block (Figure 1). Early pears are at bud burst, with all stone fruits now showing some bud movement.



Apple: Green Tip



Pear: Bud Burst



Peach: First Pink



Plum: Tight Cluster



Sweet Cherry: Swollen Bud

Figure 1: Tree fruit buds observed on April 25th, 2016 in Greenwich and Middle Dyke Road.

2016 Degree Day Accumulations

Degree day accumulations from March 1st to April 26th show that 2016 is now very close to the 5- and 10-year averages (Figure 2).

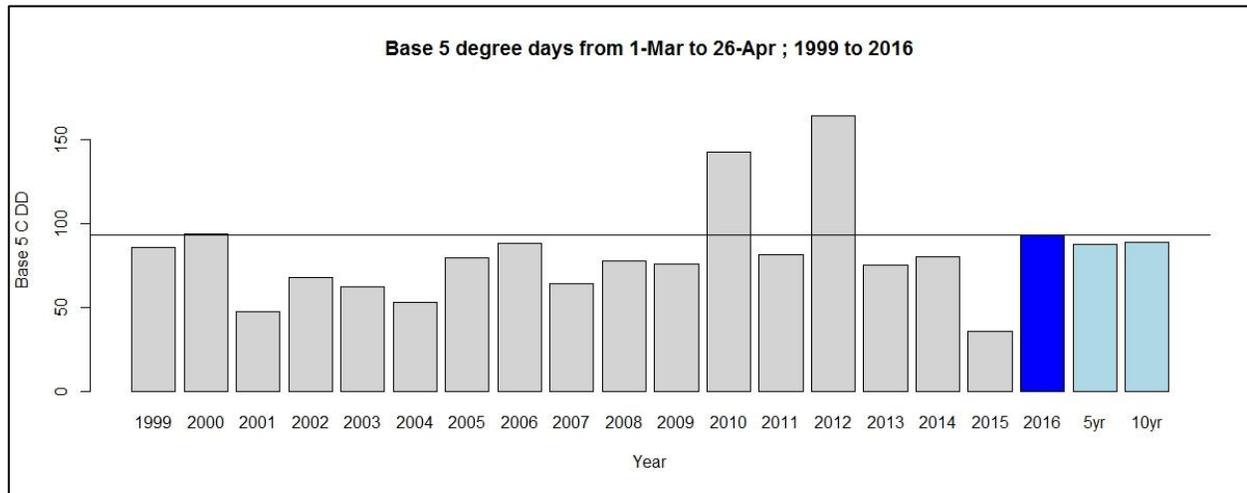


Figure 2: Degree day accumulations from March 1st for the past 18 seasons. Provided by Jeff Franklin (AAFC).

To date heat accumulation since March 1st is (Figure 2):

- About 6% more plant development heat units compared to the 5-year average.
- About 159% more plant development heat units compared to 2015.
- About 5% more insect development heat units compared to the 5-year average.

Diseases

Apple Scab

Saturday's wetting did not cause an infection event at Kentville AAFC with leaf wetness recorded from 1:30 pm on April 23 to 12:45 am on April 24. The 11.5 hours of leaf wetness at an average temperature of 9.2°C was not long enough to trigger an infection event on the Modified Mills Table. In other areas, leaf wetness duration may have been longer and could have possibly been an infection event if green tissue was present. Many growers had some fungicide protection on with the application of copper and/or protectant fungicides before Saturday. In any case, the ascospore release from Saturday would have been minimal as temperatures were relatively cool and ascospore maturity was estimated at about 2.8%. The Ascospore Maturity Model is 3.5% as of April 26th so it has not moved much in the past few days with cool temperatures.

The weather forecast is currently dry for the next week and there is no concern with apple scab unless rainfall periods are in the forecast. With most apples/pears now having green tissue, fungicide protection will be required for all pome fruits with the next wetting period.

Fire Blight

Many growers have applied copper for fire blight suppression already. However, if you have not yet applied copper for fire blight, most orchards are still at a development stage where little phytotoxicity can be expected from copper sprays (Green Tip). Applications at Half-Inch Green or later can cause problems with phytotoxicity – provided rainfall doesn't wash most of it away by

petal fall. Bud development should advance slowly with this forecast and later this week may offer a window without significant frost potential.

Insects

European Red Mite

For best control of ERM, oil application should still be delayed unless you are planning on tank-mixing your application of copper for fire blight and dormant oil for ERM. To be most effective, oil application for ERM should be targeted closer to egg hatch – typically around tight cluster.

Horticulture

- Tree Planting
 - Tree planting has begun with the dry soil conditions. Earlier planting is preferable if soil conditions allow. Ensure newly planted trees are supported as early as possible to avoid tree breakage and to encourage maximum growth. Newly planted trees should be pruned for tree structure as soon as possible after planting.
- Fertilizer
 - Fertilizer application is best between bud break to bloom. Soil conditions are good for fertilizer application.
- Herbicides
 - Maintaining weed free strips from bud break to 30-days after full bloom has the greatest impact on tree growth and yield. Timely herbicide application will ensure you make the most of the weed free window. Residual herbicides such as Chateau and Alion can offer a longer weed control than products such as Ignite, Gramoxone, and glyphosate.

Upcoming Events

Airblast Sprayer Calibration Workshop

Chris Duyvelshoff of Perennia will be hosting a workshop on airblast sprayer calibration on Friday, May 6th at 8 am-11 am with an alternate date of Tuesday, May 10th given weather unsuitable for spraying (rain or high wind speeds). The workshop will be held at Van Meekeren Farms in Lakeville. An address, map, and directions are provided here: <http://givethemawink.com/contact/>

This workshop will review the principles of Crop Adapted Spraying, developed by Dr. Jason Deveau of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs. This will include measuring spray coverage, nozzle selection, determining appropriate water volume, and a review of the Orchard Max mobile app for sprayer calibration.

Pesticide points will be applied for.

Apogee Webinar – Thursday, April 28th 2-3 pm ADT

BASF will be hosting a webinar on Apogee plant bioregulator presented by Dr. Julia Reekie, AAFC Kentville. Apogee is a product used for both growth reduction and fire blight suppression in apples. Register for the webinar by completing the sign-up form at the link below:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2985505395963140100>

Homegrown Success Program Deadline

The deadline for Homegrown Success applications for on-farm improvements in areas such as manure, water, and soil management is closing on April 30th, 2016. See the program guidelines for more information on eligible items at <http://novascotia.ca/programs/homegrown-success/>. Copies are also available at the NSDA Kentville office.

For further information, please contact Agricultural Resource Coordinator, Brian MacCulloch, 902-679-6006, brian.macculloch@novascotia.ca (Annapolis Valley) or see <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/regional-services/> for a list of contacts for other regions.

This Orchard Outlook has been published with the input of the Orchard Outlook Committee and Erika Bent (APM).

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