

# Orchard Outlook



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With a few warm days last week, signs of bud movement are beginning to appear in the Valley. The first sprays of the season will be required soon beginning with dormant oil and copper applications.

## Bud Development

Checking on bud development this morning, Idared was at full Silver Tip in the Greenwich area (Figure 1). Early signs of bud swell was evident on some pear, peach, and plums with sweet cherry still in the dormant stage.



**Apple:** Silver Tip – Dormant



**Pear:** Swollen Bud – Dormant



**Peach:** Swollen Bud – Dormant



**Plum:** Swollen Bud – Dormant



**Sweet Cherry:** Dormant

**Figure 1:** Tree fruit buds observed on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in the Greenwich area.

## Green Tip Model

As of the beginning of the week, Kentville had accumulated about 1950 degree hours above 4.4°C since trees had acquired dormancy in mid-December. The model predicts Green Tip around 2500 degree hours so there is still a little ways to go before the model predicts Green Tip. A few days of warm temperatures will be required to push the degree hour accumulation, especially with nights above 4°C. At the current pace, likely another 7-10 days are needed for full Green Tip on the early varieties.

## Diseases

### Peach Leaf Curl

With peach buds beginning to swell, the treatment window for peach leaf curl is closing. See the March 29, 2016 Orchard Outlook for more information on peach leaf curl.

### Bacterial Canker of Sweet Cherry

An application of copper can be used prior to bud break to suppress bacterial canker (*Pseudomonas syringae*) in sweet cherry similar to fireblight in apple. Copper Spray Fungicide or Guardsman Copper Oxychloride 50 are registered at 6-9 kg/ha with 1,000 L/ha of water. This treatment should be made prior to bud swell to avoid any potential issues with phytotoxicity.

## Insects

### Pear Psylla

Pear psylla is a primary pest of pear trees in North America. Its feeding can cause 'psylla shock', reduced fruit size, russet and sooty blotch and the potential transmission of pear decline phytoplasma. Pear psylla has also been implicated in the transmission of fire blight in



**Figure 2:** Pear psylla egg laid on a pear spur.

some studies. Trees may become defoliated and have early fruit drop. Pear psylla overwinters as an adult on tree trunks or in litter on the ground. Adults begin to emerge in the spring when temperatures reach 5-10°C. Erika Bent (APM) observed the first adults last week.

After mating, overwintering females will begin egg laying (Figure 2) when conditions are favourable (temperatures near 10°C or warmer) with most of the eggs hatching by petal fall. The nymphs begin feeding on pear leaves immediately with three generations per year in Nova Scotia.

The first line of defence against pear psylla is the use of dormant oil to delay egg laying and synchronize control of pear psylla with later insecticide applications. Weather has not yet been very favourable for egg laying, however, next week appears to be more consistent with high temperatures near 10°C. Therefore, dormant oil application should be made over the next week when conditions allow.

Apply Superior 70 Oil at 20 L per 1,000 L water or 60 L/ha to ensure good coverage. A minimum of 1,000 L of water per hectare should be used with dormant oil and best results have been achieved with 2,000-3,000 L per ha on larger trees. Purespray Green Oil 13E could also be used at 20 L per 1,000 L of water or 60 L/ha. Freezing temperatures within 24-48 hours before or after an oil application may cause tissue injury. However, this should be less of a concern as trees are currently only at the beginning of bud swell. Looking at the forecast now, Friday evening or Saturday morning may offer a good window to apply oil. Dormant oil for pear psylla will also help to reduce overwintering pear leaf blister mite.

## Horticulture

- **Pruning**
  - With bud break just around the corner, ensure that your youngest blocks are pruned to ensure growth is directed into desirable leader and terminal extension.
- **Grafting**
  - There is still an opportunity to collect scionwood for grafting for nearly all cultivars, however, this window will soon be closing as bud break begins.

## Pesticide Labels App

Need a product label quickly in the field? Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has created a mobile application of their registered products database. It can be used to quickly pull up a product label in the field (Figure 4). See more information here: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/registrant-titulaire/tools-outils/label-etiq-eng.php> or search Pesticide Labels in the App Store.

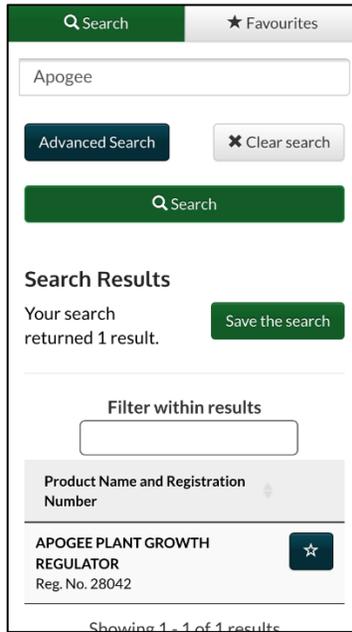


Figure 4: Pesticide Labels application from PMRA.

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

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