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## Extension Services – Adjusted but Available

Perennia has made the decision to help lessen the spread of coronavirus therefore I will not be conducting routine farm or client site visits. Please note that I am still available to respond to farm inquiries from commercial farms even though I am working from home. Let me know your issue and I am more than happy to be creative about helping you solve it. You can reach me by email at [mcortens@perennia.ca](mailto:mcortens@perennia.ca) or by mobile phone at 902-679-7908. I recommend that you do not call the office because I cannot check office voicemail messages. Podcasts and newsletters will continue. Samples for disease analysis are also still available but please contact me first to arrange a drop off.

## Pest Management Guides 2020

The Pest Management Guides for 2020 are now available. All changes new to the 2020 guides are in red text to make it clear to you what changes have been made. If you do not wish to have the red text in your copy, please print it in black and white. Most changes are also summarized below.



### Apple Schedule

- Notes on dates of discontinuations for existing products (Polyram, Maestro, Supra Captan, Actara, Admire, Alias, Clutch)
- New maestro formulation with new REIs
- Added new products Cormoran, and Versys
- Added Phytophthora to the schedule with Aliette as a treatment opportunity (however, treat only as needed)
- Added section for non-bearing orchard with products that are registered for only non-bearing orchard (Ridomil Gold and Vydate) – again, treat as needed
- Added black rot separately to draw attention to it due to an ongoing reduction of products that will provide secondary control
- Added potato leafhopper to the schedule

Download the [2020 Pome Fruit Schedule](#).

### Pear Schedule

- New maestro formulation with new REIs
- Notes on dates of discontinuations for existing products

Download the [2020 Pome Fruit Schedule](#).

### **Organic Apple Schedule**

- XenTari & CYD-X added. They are products for existing active ingredients.

Download the [2020 Organic Apple Schedule](#).

### **Stone Fruit Schedule**

- Notes on dates of discontinuations for existing products (Rovral, Ferbam, Granuflo-T, Maestro, Supra Captan, Actara, Admire, Alias, Clutch)
- New Maestro formulation with new REIs
- Bravo and Echo changes for 2020 season
- Mako for spotted wing drosophila in cherry
- Malathion for plum curculio (but max 1 per season)
- Twinguard and Versys for black cherry aphid
- Added Apogee and Kudos for growth management in cherries
- Added fruit quality products Falgro Tablet and ProGibb for cherries
- Added Cueva for bacterial spot in peaches

Download the [2020 Stone Fruit Schedule](#).

### **Thinners and Growth Regulators Schedule**

- Added rainfast periods in product listing
- A few other small details added and highlighted in red

Download the [2020 Thinners and Growth Regulators Schedule](#).

### **Pesticide Re-Evaluations and Updates**

The following is the update I was planning to give at the NSFGA and Perennia Spring Workshop, which was cancelled due to COVID-19. I wish this news was not coming to you during an already challenging time. I am hopeful that we will continue to have discussions about these challenges as a local and national apple growing group in order to develop solutions. Many representatives at the Canadian Hort Council and in the Minor Use workshops (and I'm sure many others) have been raising your concerns.

### **Captan Changes to be Aware of in 2020/2021**

You have likely heard that the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) re-evaluates products every 15 years. During the re-evaluations, new science and regulations can expose concerns. Captan is one product that has been reviewed recently and concerns about worker exposure were raised. A decision has been made to change the allowable uses of Captan, therefore, May 10, 2020 will be the last date of sale of old formulations by retailers. By May 10, 2021 any on-farm inventory of the old formulations and labels can no longer be used.

You will notice in the Pest Management Guides for 2020 that there is a new captan product called Maestro 80 WSP. The old formulations Maestro 80 DF and Supra Captan 80 WDG are being replaced by the product with water soluble packaging. The new product label also states significant changes:

- Depending on a high- or low-density orchard, the REI for most orchard activities has become anywhere from 4 to 24 days.

- Although the preharvest interval (PHI) has not changed, the re-entry interval (REI) for hand harvesting has become 15-19 days. So unless you are fully automated and no human hands pick your apples at harvest, your PHI has technically become 15-19 days.
- The rate has also been changed to 3.0 kg/ha.
- Please refer to the management guides or the label for specific guidelines.

### Product Cancellations

- One of the EBDC fungicides, Polyram is being phased out because the active ingredient metiram has been cancelled from registration. The last date of use is June 21, 2021.
- Neonic insecticides including Actara, Admire/Alias, and Clutch raised concerns about pollinator exposure. The products are being cancelled and can be used until April 11, 2021.

### Upcoming Re-evaluations

- The EBDC fungicides Penncozeb, Manzate and Dithane with the active ingredient mancozeb are still under review. The final decision is expected in the summer of 2020. In the case of cancellation, a phase out period would be described.
- Insecticides such as Matador, Silencer and Imidan are also under review.

## Events & Notices

### NSFA Job Portal

To address the labour gap that Nova Scotia farms will experience this year, NSFA and our Agriculture Sector Program have launched a job portal. This portal has three parts;

1. An [employee registration](#), where those who are interested in working on farms can submit their information, relevant skills, and areas they are able to work. They will be sent relevant jobs in their areas to apply for. Those looking for employment can visit [nsajobs.ca](https://nsajobs.ca).
2. An [employer post a job form](#), where farms can submit job openings on their operation. These will be reviewed by staff and then added to the job board.
3. The [job board](#) will house all available job opportunities that have been submitted to NSFA.

### Nova Scotia Programs

The following 2020-21 Programs are now open. Guidelines and applications can be found at the following links:

- [Agriculture Business Advancer](#)
- [FarmNEXT Program](#)
- [Limestone Trucking Assistance](#)
- [Missions and Investigative Travel](#)
- [Soil and Water Sustainability](#)
- [Wildlife Damage Mitigation](#)

For more information on these programs please contact your Regional Office or the PBRM office at [prm@novascotia.ca](mailto:prm@novascotia.ca) or by phone at 902-893-6377 or toll free: 1-866-844-4276. \*\*Stay tuned, they are working to have more Programs uploaded in the near future\*\*

### NSDA Animal and Plant Lab Soil Samples

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the agri-food industry is recognized in Nova Scotia as an essential service. To ensure quality crop yields and environmental protection, the NSDA Animal and Plant Lab will be providing soil testing to [Registered Farms](#) during these critical times moving into the 2020 growing season. Please limit the number of samples submitted at one time to those required for this planting season so that we can prioritize our services.

**Please Note:** In order to follow public health orders to promote social distancing and minimize people in our buildings, all soil samples must be submitted to the lab using a courier service.

Samples must be shipped to:

Laboratory Services  
176 College Road  
Truro, NS B2N 2P3

For public health and safety reasons there will be a minimal number of staff on-site working and following social distancing protocols. For this reason, turnaround times may be delayed. Soil samples will be accepted effective April 6, 2020 with testing scheduled to begin the week of April 14, 2020. Please contact the laboratory with any questions: Email: [LabServices@novascotia.ca](mailto:LabServices@novascotia.ca) or Phone: 902-893-6565.

### **Pesticide Certification during COVID-19**

A message from Maylia Parker, Director, Air Quality and Resource Management:

We know spring is coming and for many your busy season is nearly here. We're working quickly to develop new ways to support your business online, so you can get certified or recertified without the need for in-person exams during the COVID-19 outbreak.

- **Renewal of pesticide certificate of qualification:** If your pesticide certificate expires between December 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, we will allow you to operate under it for an additional year without renewing. We know that many certified applicators choose to take education credits rather than write the pesticide exam, but there has been limited opportunity to do that since December, so we are offering this option instead.
- **Renewal of pesticide business operator certificates:** If your business operator certificate expires between December 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, we will allow the business to operate for an additional year without renewing.
- **First-time certificate applications:** Our staff are working hard to quickly create an online test that will be offered to first-time certificate applicants. If you are applying for the first time, you will be able to take this test and receive a certificate good for one year. If you want to extend your certificate beyond this first year, you will need to write our standard in-person exam after the one-year term expires. Once the online test is ready, we will update the exam schedule at: <https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/pests/docs/Pesticide-exam-schedule.pdf> . Our goal is to have this test available online by April 30.

**Fees:** The province has deferred all fees for business until June 30. Because we are extending/issuing pesticide certificates for one year only, you won't have to pay until the next time you renew your certificate or apply for new one. We are actively looking for ways to help support businesses facing economic hardship because of COVID-19. More measures were announced recently by both the provincial and federal governments. For information about additional supports being offered through the provincial government, please see the "Support for Businesses" section here: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/#support> . You may also call a Business Navigator, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at [1-844-628-7347](tel:1-844-628-7347) , [902-424-4475](tel:902-424-4475) or email [BusNavigation@novascotia.ca](mailto:BusNavigation@novascotia.ca) .

If you have any questions about how pesticide certification will work this year, please call your local Environment Office: <https://novascotia.ca/nse/dept/regional-office-locations.asp> or email [ICE@novascotia.ca](mailto:ICE@novascotia.ca) . We want to help, and we'll do our best to answer your questions quickly.

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