

# Kentucky Fruit Facts

March-April Newsletter 2018

<http://www.uky.edu/hort/documents-list-fruit-facts>

John Strang, Extension Fruit Specialist, Editor  
Denise Stephens, Newsletter Designer

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## Fruit Crop News

John Strang, U.K. Extension Horticulturist and Matt Dixon, U.K. Ag Meteorologist

It is turning into another challenging roller coaster spring. We were running a month ahead of normal in heat unit or growing degree day (GDD) accumulations when the last Fruit Facts issue was published. Then the extended cold weather during March and April delayed plant development so that we are now only a few days ahead of normal when the 2018 season is compared to more normal seasons of 2014 and 2015, Figure 1. Plasticulture strawberry growers have been spending time pulling floating row covers over their plants to protect them from freezes as their strawberries began blooming in early March. We have had several instances of low temperature exposure this spring that caused serious flower losses for plasticulture strawberry growers in southern and western Kentucky even where plants were covered with floating row covers. (Masthead photo). The freeze on the morning of April 8 was fortunately not as low as predicted, but there were areas in central and eastern portions of the state that reached 18-23°F. This caused additional damage to plasticulture strawberries that were not protected sufficiently by row covers and killed peach, pear, cherry, and plum flowers. We will need to wait and see how these fruit crops set.

We are well into the fire blight season Isomate CM



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Flex (Pacific Biocontrol Corp.) codling moth mating disruption pheromone is now registered for use in Kentucky thanks to the KSHS. Dr. Rick Bessin is currently working on sourcing this for the state.

The North American Raspberry & Blackberry Assn member Trellis Growing Systems recently won a USDA-AMS Local Foods Promotion Program grant to do a feasibility study for an IQF processing facility, which would be in Circlevill, OH, to service Midwest berry growers. If you are a grower in IN, OH, PA, VA, WV, & KY, please take their survey at: <https://trellis2018.poll daddy.com/s/iqf-facility-for-midwest-berries>

We are well into the fire blight season for apples and pears. Keep an eye on the prediction model to help determine the best times to spray streptomycin and keep the blight under control. <http://weather.uky.edu/ky/agmodels.php>

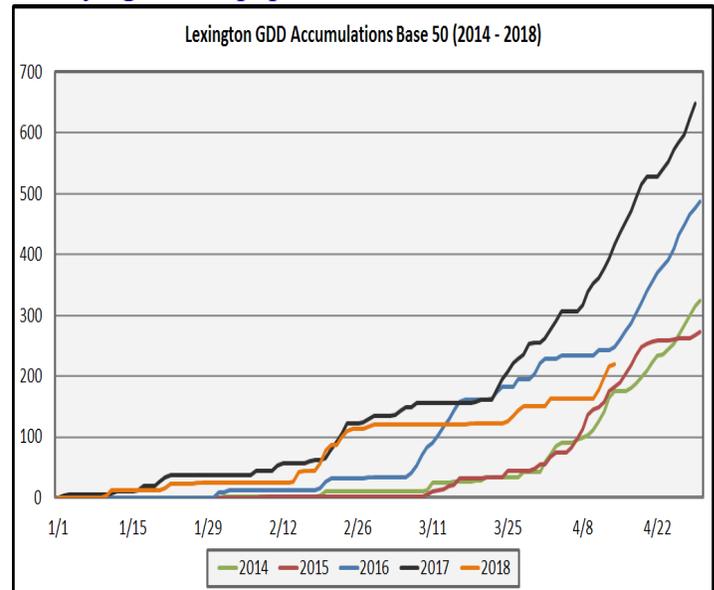


Figure 1. Growing degree day accumulations for 2018 and past years

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

## Kentucky Low Temperatures

Morning of 4/8/2018

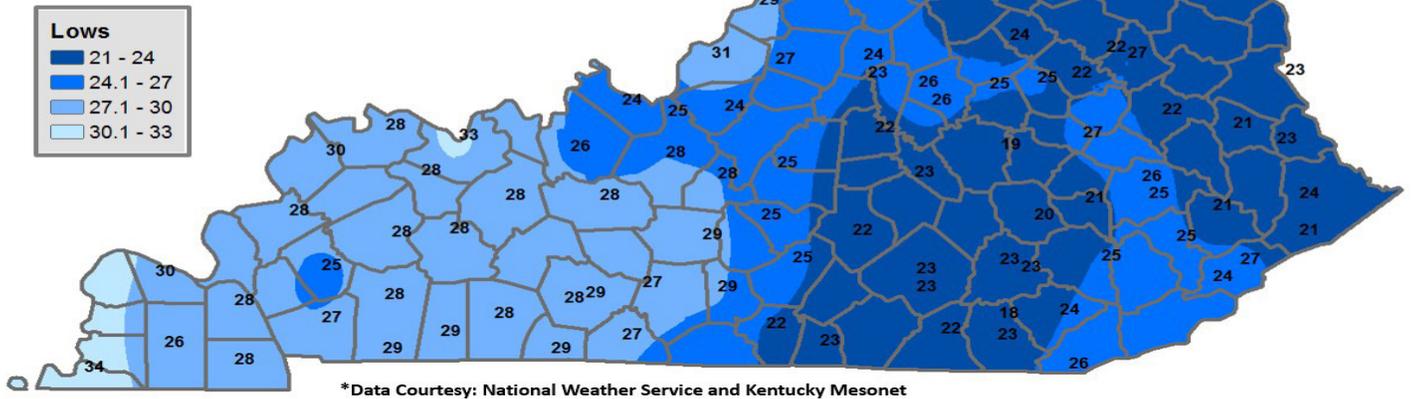


Figure 2. Low temperatures for the morning of April 8, 2018 across Kentucky

### New Publications

The Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers, 2018-19 is available and there are a number of updates and changes from the previous guide. Hard copies are available through your Kentucky County Extension Office or it may be down loaded at <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id36/id36.pdf>

We have an updated 2017 Kentucky Blackberry Cost and Return Estimates publication located at: <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id149/ID149.PDF>

Finally for those that missed the 2018 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference our 2017 Fruit and Vegetable Research Report may be found at: <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/PR/PR739/PR739.pdf>

### Upcoming Meetings

*All times EST unless noted*

**Apr. 19 Plasticulture Strawberry Field Walk**, Bob Craycraft Farm, 3075 E KY 8, Vanceburg, KY 41179, Lewis County, 5:00 p.m. Contact 606-796-2732.

**Apr. 19 Sustainable Agriculture Workshop, “Third Thursday Thing” A Step-by-Step Guide to USDA Farm Assistance**, Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm, 1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort,

KY Contact Marion Simon 502-597-6325; email [marion.simon@kysu.edu](mailto:marion.simon@kysu.edu)

**Apr. 21 Kentucky Nut Growers Association Spring Meeting**, Henderson County Extension Office, 3341 Zion Rd., Henderson, KY 42420. 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. CDT. Contact Danny Ganno 270-860-8362. See article below.

**May 3 Fruit Grower Orchard Meeting**, Reed Valley Orchard, 239 Lail Lane, Paris, KY 40361. 10:00 a.m. See program below.

**May 4 Kentucky State University Pawpaw Grafting Workshop \*RSVP Required\***, Kentucky State University H.R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm, 1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Learn the bark inlay field grafting technique for pawpaw with Neal Peterson of Peterson Pawpaws! Participants will also learn chip budding and grafting tool techniques on potted pawpaw trees and graft 2 pawpaw trees to take home. The event is free of charge and lunch is provided. Please RSVP by April 27 to Sheri Crabtree at [sheri.crabtree@kysu.edu](mailto:sheri.crabtree@kysu.edu) or 502-597-6375. Due to this being a hands-on workshop, registration is limited to the first 30 participants, so please RSVP early.

**May 7 Pruning Fruit Trees**, Bullitt County Extension Office, 384 Halls Lane, Shepherdsville, KY 40165 6:00 p.m. Contact 502-543-2257.

**May 10 Pecan Grafting Workshop**, Skip and Jennie Shearouse Farm, 3474 State Route 1684, Boaz, KY 42027, 9:00 a.m. CDT. Dr. Bill Reid, Pecan Research & Extension Specialist for Kansas and Missouri, has been invited to demonstrate

grafting techniques and to share his pecan production knowledge. Rain or shine, the meeting will be held in the shop and “hands on” grafting in the field. Lunch will be provided. Please confirm your attendance by May 7th: contact Jennie Shearouse at 270-210-3169 or [shearouse@wk.net](mailto:shearouse@wk.net)

**May 14 Pawpaw Grafting Workshop**, UK-RCARS, 130 Robinson Rd., Jackson, KY 41339. 6:00 p.m. Registration is limited to 25 people. Please contact Shawn Wright at [shawn.wright@uky.edu](mailto:shawn.wright@uky.edu) or 606-666-2438 for more information and to reserve a spot.

**July 26 UK Horticultural Research Farm Twilight Tour**, 4320 Emmert Farm Lane, Lexington, KY 40514. 6:00 p.m. until dark, Contact John Strang phone: 859-257-5685 or email: [jstrang@uky.edu](mailto:jstrang@uky.edu)

**July 26-28 2018 North American Fruit Explorers Annual Meeting**, Danville Area Community College, Danville, IL For more information contact Tom Knaust at [tknaust@gmail.com](mailto:tknaust@gmail.com)

**Aug. 5-9 109th Annual Conference of the Northern Nut Growers Association**, Le Baluchon Resort, St. Paulin, Quebec, Canada. All meals will be included in the price of lodging. If you are attending from outside of Canada, the credit card companies will adjust the prices, which are given in Canadian currency. Please note that a valid passport should be valid for at least six months past the end of the NNGA Conference. Additional details will be provided in upcoming Fruit Facts issues.

**Sept. 22 UK Robinson Center Mountain Ag Field Day**, 130 Robinson Road, Jackson, KY 41339. Contact bobby Ammerman Email: [bammerman@uky.edu](mailto:bammerman@uky.edu)

**Jan. 7-8, 2019 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference**, Embassy Suites Hotel, 1801 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY 40511. Contact John Strang Phone: 859-257-5685; Email: [jstrang@uky.edu](mailto:jstrang@uky.edu)

## **KNGA Spring Meeting Program Saturday, April 21**

Henderson County Extension Office, Expo Bldg.  
3341 Zion Rd.  
Henderson, KY 42420

## **Directions**

The Extension office is located on State Route 351 East in Henderson, Kentucky. State Route 351 is also referred to as “Outer 2nd Street” or “Zion Road”. Henderson County Extension Offices are adjacent to the Henderson County Farm Bureau offices. There is also another driveway to the Expo Center and it’s the blacktop road (on your left if you are coming from Henderson) just before you get to Therapy Associates.

## **9:30 am-2:00 pm CDT**

**KNGA Nut Display.** One of the main attractions at our meeting is the nut display. These exhibits afford our members the opportunity to see and examine first-hand the fine nuts that are grown in Kentucky and adjoining states.

**KNGA Swap-Shop and Scionwood Exchange.** These spring meetings offer a great opportunity to obtain scarce scionwood for nut tree cultivars and other plant material. Please bring a good supply of scionwood from your best producing pecans, hickories, black walnuts, Persian walnuts, persimmons, pawpaws, and various fruit cultivars. Please bring plastic bags or moisture proof wrappings, rubber bands, and labels for the scionwood. Please take care to label everything carefully for distribution at the meetings to avoid scionwood mix ups.

**9:45 am. KNGA Board of Directors Meeting.** If members have items to discuss or proposals to make, this is the time to present them. The fall KNGA meeting site will be determined.

## **10:45 am. General Business Meeting, KNGA meeting review, and other Announcements**

**12 Noon. Potluck Luncheon.** If you bring something that will need to be heated or warmed, there is a well-equipped kitchen that can be used for that purpose.

**12:30 pm. The KNGA Annual Spring Auction Sale.** In order to make the traditional spring sale the best ever, we request members bring items from their orchards, yards, farms or nurseries that they wish to donate for this occasion. Almost any items are

appropriate— seeds, plants, nuts of any kind, and especially grafted fruit and nut trees. Please label the items that you donate to auction. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the KNGA staff. Many members, nurserymen and others donate plant material and other items for door prizes.

**Fruit Grower Orchard Meeting - Thursday, May 3  
Reed Valley Orchard**

Dana and Trudie Reed, Owners

239 Lail Lane

Paris, KY 40361

Market: 859-987-6480

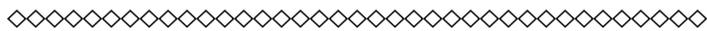
Dana Mobile: 859-229-1628

Website: <http://www.reedvalleyorchard.com>

**Program:**

All times EST

- 10:00 a.m. Registration, Tour of Reed Valley Orchard and Tall Spindle Training  
- *Dana Reed and Dwight Wolfe*
- 11:00 San Jose Scale Control - *Ric Bessin*
- 11:30 Enhancing Apple Fruit Quality  
- *John Strang*
- Noon **Lunch will be available at cost for those that preregister.**  
**Preregister for lunch by calling Pam Compton at 859-257-2909** between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. EDT weekdays by Monday, May 2 and give her a count for the Fruit Grower Meeting at Reed Valley Orchard.
- 12:30 p.m. How Plant Stress Affects Disease  
- *Nicole Ward Gauthier*
- 1:00 Fruit Marketing and Merchandizing  
- *Alex Butler*
- 1:30 Grower Round Table Discussion  
- *Matt Gajdzik, moderator*



**Welcome Dr. Rachel Rudolph**  
U.K. Extension Vegetable Specialist



The U.K. Department of Horticulture welcomes Dr. Rachel Rudolph as our new Extension Vegetable Specialist. She began work March 1 and is based at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Rachel received her B.S. degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, M.S. at New Mexico State University, and recently completed her Ph.D. at Washington State University. Rachel's vegetable crop production experience began when she was a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay. She worked with farm families and schools to build and sustain gardens and taught various sustainable production methods. Upon returning to the U.S., Rachel worked for private growers, assisting them with high tunnel construction and vegetable and ornamental production. Rachel's research in New Mexico focused on cover cropping in a chile pepper production system. Also while in New Mexico, Rachel assisted in the vegetable production lab and taught students how to construct small high tunnels and grow vegetables. She recently taught Advanced Practices in Local Food Production at Linn-Benton Community College in Corvallis, OR where she worked with students on all aspects of vegetable and fruit production, both in high tunnels and open field. Rachel's Ph.D. research took place in commercial growers' fields where she evaluated soil quality and alternative management practices in red raspberry. She is proficient in both Spanish and Guarani from her time in Paraguay. Rachel may be contacted at phone: 859-257-3374; email: [rachel.rudolph@uky.edu](mailto:rachel.rudolph@uky.edu)

## Kentucky Fruit Grower Retail Prices for 2017

By Chris Smigell, UK Extension Associate for Small Fruits & Vegetables and John Strang, UK Extension Fruit Specialist

Kentucky growers that sign up and participate in the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) are required to provide price figures and yields from prior cropping years to their Farm Service Agency office (FSA) to calculate the assistance funding that they receive. If a grower does not have his or her own price figures national wholesale prices are used, which are substantially lower than those that Kentucky growers that market retail typically receive.

The Kentucky State FSA office accepts average Kentucky fruit prices provided by U.K. Extension if a Kentucky grower does not have historical price records. Consequently, we surveyed growers and collected farm market, Kentucky produce auction and farmers' market prices for the 2017 growing season.

The prices shown in tables 1 and 2 are retail market fruit prices combining grower on farm market and \*farmers' market prices. These tables list average tree and small fruit prices as well as the highest and lowest prices that were reported as a price per-unit and price per-pound. Tables 3 and 4 show average tree and small fruit prices per-unit and per-pound allowing a comparison of prices for 2017, 2016 and 2011.

Generally, the highest prices were obtained from Lexington, Louisville and Bowling Green area farmers' market reports. The 2017 average prices, for the most part, increased from those in 2016 (Tables 2 and 4), but not for apples, blueberries, raspberries and plasticulture strawberries.

The NAP program provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops that have signed up for the program when low yields/grazing loss, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes. More information can be found at: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Kentucky/index>

\*Farmers market price reports can be found at: <http://www.uky.edu/ccd/pricereports/KYFM>

Produce auction price reports are located at: <http://www.uky.edu/ccd/pricereports/KYPA>

Table 1. Farm Service Agency 2017 Ky Grower NAP Tree Fruit Prices (Retail)

Crop	Sales Unit	Avg (\$/unit)	High	Low	Avg (\$/lb)	High	Low
Apple	bu	64.27	126.00	32.00	1.53	3.00	.76
Pear	bu	84.64	100.00	60.00	1.69	2.00	1.20
Peach	bu	97.75	175.00	34.00	1.96	3.50	.68
Nectarine	bu	75.75	84.00	64.00	1.52	1.68	1.28
Plum	½ bu	66.67	84.00	58.00	2.30	2.90	2.00
Cherry, tart	Qt	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pawpaw					2.00	2.00	2.00

Table 2 .Farm Service Agency 2017 Ky Grower NAP Tree Fruit Prices (Retail)

Crop	Sales Unit	2017 Avg	2016 Avg	2011 Avg	2017 Per lb. Avg	2016 Per lb. Avg	2011 Per lb. Avg
Apple	bu	64.27	69.80	44.50	1.53	1.65	1.05
Pear	bu	84.64	75.40	72.20	1.69	1.50	1.45
Peach	bu	97.75	86.90	65.80	1.96	1.75	1.30
Nectarine	bu	75.75	63.10	54.10	1.52	1.25	1.05
Plum	½ bu	66.67	56.00	55.20	2.30	1.95	1.70
Cherry, tart	Qt	-	-	3.45	-	-	2.30
Pawpaw					2.00	2.00	2.50

Table 3. Farm Service Agency 2017 Ky Grower NAP Small Fruit Prices (Retail)

Crop	Sales Unit	Avg (\$/unit)	High	Low	Avg (\$/lb)	High	Low
Blackberry	Qt.	7.53	14.00	3.65	4.82	9.33	2.43
Blueberry	Qt.	8.68	11.00	6.00	4.72	5.79	3.16
Raspberry (red & black)	Qt	8.33	10.00	6.00	5.56	6.67	4.00
Strawberry Matted Row	Qt	5.20	8.00	3.75	3.46	5.33	2.50
Strawberry Plasticulture	Qt	4.23	6.00	3.00	2.82	4.00	2.00

Table 4. Farm Service Agency 2017 Ky Grower NAP Small Fruit Prices (Retail)

Crop	Sales Unit	2017 Avg	2016 Avg	2011 Avg	2017 Per lb. Avg	2016 Per lb. Avg	2011 Per lb. Avg
Blackberry	Qt.	7.53	6.65	5.95	4.82	4.40	4.00
Blueberry	Qt.	8.68	9.20	7.90	4.72	4.85	4.25
Raspberry	Qt	8.33	11.10	8.80	5.56	7.40	5.90
Strawberry Matted Row	Qt	5.20	4.85	4.00	3.46	3.25	2.65
Strawberry Plasticulture	Qt	4.23	4.35	4.05	2.82	2.90	2.70

### FRUIT HUMOR

Why aren't grapes never lonely?



Because they always come in a bunch!



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