

Kentucky Fruit Facts

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Fruit Crop News

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

It has been a very mild exceptionally warm winter and despite this we have had enough chilling hours or units to break the chilling requirements on all of our fruit crops. Once trees become dormant fruit trees require a certain number of chilling hours to break their dormancy which allows them to begin responding to warmer growing conditions and to begin growth. If fruit trees do not receive enough chilling to completely break dormancy trees express this as delayed bloom, extended bloom, delayed leaf development, reduced fruit set, and lower fruit quality. The accumulation of enough chilling hours is a serious fruit production problem in the southern U.S. and in California where they grow low chilling varieties. Satisfying the chilling requirement is almost never a problem in Kentucky and we do not have problems growing varieties with long chilling requirements. Chill units are accumulated based on hours below 45°F. Once the chilling requirement is satisfied plants break dormancy and develop based on heat unit accumulations. In Lexington we accumulated 1,650 chilling units between November 1, 2016 and February 26, 2017.

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Heat units necessary for fruit crop development, have accumulated very rapidly and our fruit crops have broken dormancy exceptionally early. Figure 1 shows Lexington heat unit accumulations expressed as Growing Degree Days for 2017 in comparison with a number of previous years. As of February 23 plant development is running about a month earlier than normal. This means that we will have an exceptionally long period of freeze and frost exposure. Critical temperatures for the different fruit crops based on floral developmental stages can be found in Disease and Insect Control Programs for Homegrown Fruit in Kentucky (ID-21) at <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id21/id21.pdf>.

If San Jose Scale <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef204> was a problem in your orchard last year it would be a good idea to apply a dormant oil spray very soon and to add a fixed copper material to this spray if fire blight was also a problem on apple and pear trees. A dormant oil would also be good on peach trees if San Jose scale was a problem and the buds on your trees have not developed too much. Dormant oil can be applied on peaches up to the pink stage. It is too late to apply a peach leaf curl spray because the buds have already begun swelling and some growers in southern areas of the state have already seen bloom.

The 2017 Midwest Fruit Pest Management Guide 2017 is out and hard copies are available in most Kentucky County Extension Offices or it can be down loaded for free from https://ag.purdue.edu/hla/Hort/Pages/sfg_sprayguide.aspx.

Fruit crop pruning should be proceeding a full speed now. Prune the oldest trees and plants first leaving your youngest until last. If you have semi dwarf or dwarf trees that are spaced out and trained to a Central Leader this heritage video may help refresh your memory on pruning <http://video.ca.uky.edu/videos/video/187/>. If you have dwarf trees that are being trained to a Vertical Axis System this publication should be helpful <http://www.uky.edu/hort/sites/www.uky.edu.hort/files/documents/appletraining.pdf>. Finally if you are trying the new high density Tall

County Extension Office, 4800 New Hartford Rd # A, Owensboro, KY 42303 1:00 and 6:00 p.m. CT. Contact: 270-685-8480.

Apr. 3 Fruit Tree Pruning and Grafting Workshop – Mason County Extension Office, 800 U.S. 68, Maysville, KY 41056. 4:00 p.m. Pruning; 6:00 p.m. Grafting. Contact: 606-564-6808.

Apr. 10 Pruning and Thinning Fruit Trees – Bullitt County Extension Office, 384 Halls Lane, Shepherdsville, KY 40165. 6:00 p.m. Call to preregister, there is no charge. 502-543-2257.

Apr. 11 Berry Production – Lee County Extension Office, 257 Industrial Park Rd., Beattyville, KY 41311. Time to be determined. Contact: 606-464-2757.

Apr. 24 Grafting Fruit Trees – Bullitt County Extension Office, 384 Halls Lane, Shepherdsville, KY 40165. 6:00 p.m. Call to preregister, there is no charge 502-543-2257.

Apr 29 Kentucky Nut Growers Association Spring Meeting – Harden County Extension Office, 201 Peterson Dr., Elizabethtown, KY 42701, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Contact: Danny Ganno Phone: 270-860-8362 or Email: danganno@yahoo.com

May 2 Kentucky State Horticultural Society Fruit Grower Orchard Meeting – University of Kentucky Horticultural Research Farm, 4321 Emmert Farm Lane, Lexington, KY 40514. Dr. Andrew Landers from Cornell University will conduct a day long training on sprayer calibration for tree fruit growers. Specifics will be provided in a future Fruit Facts Newsletter.

Fruit Grower Orchard Meeting - Wednesday, March 8 Evans Orchard & Cider Mill

Kevan Evans, owner
180 Stone Rd.
Georgetown, KY 40324
Market: 502-863-2255
Mobile: 502-867-3044
Website: <http://www.evansorchard.com/>

Directions:

From Lexington take Newtown Pike (Rt. 922) north 8 miles from I-75/I-64. Turn right on Stone Road at the Evans Orchard and Cider Mill sign. The orchard entrance is just past Kevan's house about one block up on the left.
I-75 from the south take Georgetown exit 125 and turn right onto Rt. 460. Travel about 3 miles east on 460 and turn right onto Rt. 922. Proceed 0.8 miles to Stone Rd. and turn left at the Evans Orchard sign and proceed as described above.

I-75 from the north take Georgetown exit 126 and turn right off the exit ramp. Follow signs to Rt. 460 through a commercial area. Turn left onto Rt. 460 at the light (don't

get on the bypass), travel about 3 miles east to Rt. 922, turn right and proceed as described above.

Program:

All times EST

- 10:00 a.m. Registration & Tour of Evans Orchard & Farm Market – *Kevin Evans*
- 10:45 Frosts & Freezes – *John Strang*
- 11:15 Applying Pesticides in the Orchard – *Ric Bessin*
- 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. EST weekdays by Monday, March 7 and give her a count for the Fruit Grower Meeting at Evans's Orchard
- 12:45p.m. Grower Practices Survey Results & Discussion – *Nicole Ward Gauthier*
- 1:15 Roadside Signs, What Works Best – *Alex Butler*
- 1:35 Grower Round Table Discussion – *Dana Reed, moderator*

Kentucky Strawberry Association Plasticulture Strawberry Meeting

Saturday, March 18, 2017

Russell County Extension Office

2688 S. Hwy 127
Russell Springs, KY 42642
Office phone: 270-866-4477
Jonathan Oakes (ANR Agent) Cell: 270-585-0985

Directions:

From Lexington:

Follow US 127 South. Extension office is located on the left 1/2 mile past the Russell County High School, Middle School, and Vocational School. It is located directly across the road from the Mighty Dollar Store and next to Unlimited Marine.

From Somerset:

Follow the Louie B. Nunn Cumberland Parkway west to Russell Springs/Jamestown exit. Exit to the right, turn left on 127 and go south on 127 to 1/2 mile past the Russell County High School, Middle School, and Vocational School. The office is on the left side of the road directly across the road from the Mighty Dollar Store and next to Unlimited Marine.

From Columbia:

Follow the Louie B. Nunn Cumberland Parkway east to the Russell Springs/Jamestown exit. Exit to the right, turn right onto 127. Go south on 127 to 1/2 mile past the Russell County High School, Middle School, and Vocational

School. The office is on the left side of the road directly across the road from the Mighty Dollar Store and next to Unlimited Marine.

From the south:

Follow 127 north through Jamestown, continue on 127 for 3.3 miles. The Extension office is on the right side of the road directly across the road from the Mighty Dollar Store and next to Unlimited Marine.

Program:

All times CT

- 10:00 a.m. Welcome – *Jonathan Oakes*
- 10:05 Plasticulture Strawberry Production for Beginners – *John Strang*
- 11:00 Deer and Bird Control – *Matt Springer*
- 11:30 Extension Office Plasticulture Strawberry Variety Trial Perusal – *Henry Cardwell & John Strang*
- 11:45 Grower Questions & Answers Panel – *Danny Van Meter and Henry Cardwell*
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch available at cost
- 12:45 Drive to Henry Cardwell’s Planting & Field Walk – *Henry Cardwell and John Strang*



Kentucky Fruit Grower Retail Prices for 2016

By Chris Smigell, Extension Associate for Small Fruits & Vegetables

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 2016 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

2016, 2015 and 2011.

Generally, the highest prices were obtained from Lexington, Louisville and Bowling Green area farmers’ market reports. The 2016 average prices, for the most part, increased from those in 2015 (Tables 3 and 4). Also remember that orchards sustained severe to at least some

Table 1. Ky. Grower Tree Fruit Retail Prices for 2016

Crop	Sales Unit	Avg (\$/unit)	High	Low	Avg. (\$/lb)	High	Low
Apple	bu	69.80	168.00	24.00	1.65	4.00	.55
Pear	bu	75.40	100.00	42.50	1.50	2.00	.85
Peach	bu	86.90	160.00	48.00	1.75	3.20	.95
Nectarine	bu	63.10	100.00	40.00	1.25	2.00	.80
Plum	½ bu	56.00	64.00	48.00	1.95	2.20	1.65
Cherry, tart	Qt	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pawpaw					2.00	2.00	2.00

Table 2. Ky. Grower Small Fruit Retail Prices for 2016

Crop	Sales Unit	Avg (\$/unit)	High	Low	Avg. (\$/lb)	High	Low
Blackberry	Qt.	6.65	12.00	4.00	4.40	8.00	2.65
Blueberry	Qt.	9.20	12.65	5.50	4.85	6.65	2.90
Grape, Table	Qt	-	-	-	-	-	-
Raspberry (red & black)	Qt	11.10	16.00	6.00	7.40	10.70	4.00
Strawberry Matted Row	Qt	4.85	8.00	3.00	3.25	5.35	2.00
Strawberry Plasticulture	Qt	4.35	6.00	3.25	2.90	4.00	2.15

Table 3. Ky. Grower Tree Fruit Average Retail Prices for 2016, 2015 & 2011

Crop	Sales Unit	2016 Avg	2015 Avg	2011 Avg	2016 Per lb. Avg.	2015 Per lb. Avg.	2011 Per lb. Avg.
Apple	bu	69.80	62.00	44.50	1.65	1.40	1.05
Pear	bu	75.40	80.00	72.20	1.50	1.60	1.45
Peach	bu	86.90	63.75	65.80	1.75	1.30	1.30
Nectarine	bu	63.10	-	54.10	1.25	-	1.05
Plum	½ bu	56.00	-	55.20	1.95	-	1.70
Cherry, tart	Qt	-	6.75	3.45	-	4.50	2.30
Pawpaw		-	-	-	2.00	2.00	2.50

Table 4. Ky. Grower Average Retail Small Fruit Prices for 2016, 2015 & 2011

Crop	Sales Unit	2016 Avg.	2015 Avg.	2011 Avg.	2016 Per lb. Avg.	2015 Per lb. Avg.	2011 Per lb. Avg.
Blackberry	Qt.	6.65	6.35	5.95	4.40	4.20	4.00
Blueberry	Qt.	9.20	8.85	7.90	4.85	4.65	4.25
Grape, Table	Qt	-	3.65	3.30	-	2.40	2.20
Raspberry	Qt	11.10	10.70	8.80	7.40	7.15	5.90
Strawberry Matted Row	Qt	4.85	4.90	4.00	3.25	3.30	2.65
Strawberry Plasticulture	Qt	4.35	4.00	4.05	2.90	2.65	2.70

injury from severe low winter temperatures and spring frosts in 2015 and this impacted prices.

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>

*Farm market reports can be found at: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/NewCrops/farmersmarket.html>

Produce auction reports are located at: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/NewCrops/auctions.html>

New Bonus Depreciation on Fruit and Nut Trees and Grapevines

By Jerry S. Pierce, Jr., UK Farm Business Management Program Coordinator, Elizabethtown, KY

The 2015 PATH Act allows farmers an election to deduct 50% of the cost of planting or grafting plants that have a pre-productive period of two years or more. This includes orchard and vineyard crops like apples, blueberries, grapes, nuts, and peaches. See IRS Notice 2013-18 for list of crops. Planting costs include plants & planting, ground preparation, fertilizer, equipment, labor, spraying, repairs, and other costs. Plants must be planted or grafted after December 31, 2015 and before January 1, 2020 to qualify.

The Act provides two benefits that give taxpayers more flexibility in the timing of deducting costs. First, farmers may claim bonus depreciation in the year plants are planted rather than waiting until the year plants become productive. Second, farmers who elect out of uniform capitalization (UNICAP) rules are not allowed to claim bonus depreciation when the plants become productive.

Now they may elect the new bonus depreciation on planting costs incurred before the pre-productive period.

New Resource: Apple Scout Website

By Kim Leonberger, U.K. Plant Pathology Extension Associate

The publication “An IPM Scouting Guide for Common Problems of Apple in Kentucky” was first introduced in 2014 as an online/paper version. In order to improve access to this important scouting guide, a mobile website was developed. The Apple Scout Website (applescout.ca.uky.edu) is now available for grower, agent, and homeowner use. The website can be easily accessed from any phone, tablet, iPad, or computer. This website provides users with the information available in the scouting guide publication. The home page (Figure 6) allows visitors to select a major disease topic. Next, users can select from a menu of various diseases or pests to obtain more information and view images.



Figure 6: Apple Scout website home page.

FRUIT HUMOR

What Do You Give to a Sick Citrus Tree?



Lemon Aid!!

Receiving Fruit Facts on the Internet

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