

Kentucky Fruit Facts

John Strang, Extension Fruit Specialist, Editor
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Fruit Crop News

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

Kentucky fruit growers all have the potential for very heavy crops this year after a mild winter. Light crops on most fruit types last year also caused plants to set very high bloom levels for the 2016 season. The record warm winter has substantially accelerated bloom development and it looks like we are running about two to three weeks ahead of normal. Matt Dixon at the U.K. Ag. Weather Center plotted out the growing degree days in Lexington for several years in Figure 1. Years 2015, 2014 and 2013 are all clustered together on the far right side of the graph depicting years where floral development tended to be more normal for Kentucky. Years 2012 and 2007, both years where we had major freezes are tracking closer to the left side of the graph. This year, depicted by the darker blue line that is plotted to April 6 thus far is tracking closer to the 2012 and 2007 seasons. Plasticulture and matted row strawberries and tree fruit are blooming heavily or at petal fall across the state. Low temperatures are predicted for this weekend and growers that have the capability to protect their crops should have protection systems prepped for use.

These include floating row covers and overhead sprinkling for strawberries and wind machines and heat sources for tree fruit. The critical temperature for 90% kill on most tree fruit at this point is around 25°F at current states of development. See www2.ca.uky.edu/agg/pubs/id/id21/id21.pdf for critical temperature charts.

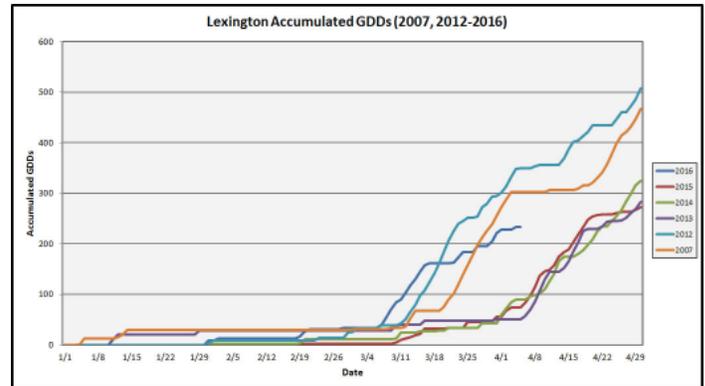
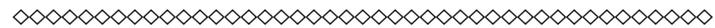


Figure 1. Growing degree day (GDD) accumulations for Lexington during 2012-2016 and 2007.



Upcoming Meetings

(All meetings are Eastern time unless specified.)

- Apr. 9 Kentucky Nut Growers Association Spring Meeting**, Hardin County Extension Office, 201 Peterson Drive, Elizabethtown, KY 42701 9:30 -3:00 p.m. Contact Danny Ganno Phone: 270-860-8362; Email: danganno@yahoo.com. Please bring nut grafting wood for exchange and items for auction and a dish for the pot luck.
- Apr. 12 Fruit Grower Orchard Meeting -** McGlasson Farms, 5665 River Rd., Hebron, KY 41048. 10:00 a.m. Contact the Boone County Ext. Office 859-586-6101 or John Strang 859-257-5685 or jstrang@uky.edu. See program below.

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Apr. 23 High Tunnel Strawberry Production,
Fannin Farm, 2140 Hwy 460, West Liberty, KY 10:30-noon. Contact 606-743-3292

May 14 Pecan Grafting and Production. Skip & Jennie Shearouse Farm, 3474 State Route 1684, Boaz, KY. Contact Jennie at 270-210-3169

June 23, Annual U.K. Research and Education Center Horticulture Tours and Educational Program, UKREC, 1205 Hopkinsville St., Princeton, KY 42445. Contact Christi Forsythe 270-365-7541 Ext. 221, cforsyth@uky.edu

Sept 17, Pecans for the North - Seminar Workshop and Tour of USDA Cooperator Test Grove - Vaughn Family Pecan Farm, 1208 W. Craig Rd., Scottsburg, IN 47170. For backyard or commercial growers. Cost \$20.00/person includes lunch. Phone 812-752-4929. Information and registration www.vaughnfamilypecanfarm.com

Jan. 9-10, 2017 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference - Embassy Suites Hotel, Lexington, KY. Contact John Strang 859-257-5685; email: jstrang@uky.edu

Fruit Grower Orchard Meeting Tuesday, April 12 McGlasson Farms

Lon and Ginny McGlasson, owners

5832 River Road (Route 8)
Hebron, KY
Phone: 859--689-5339
Website: <http://www.mcglassonfarms.com/>

Directions:

From The South –
Proceed North on I-75
Merge onto I-275 W via EXIT 185 follow signs toward Airport (4.42 miles)
There will be signs along the way to McGlasson Farms.
Merge onto KY-212 E/Airport Access Rd via EXIT 4A toward KY 20 (.33 miles)
Turn right onto Petersburg Rd/KY-20 (.99 miles)
Turn right to stay on Petersburg Rd/KY-20 (.7 miles)
Bare to the left onto KY-8/River Rd. (2.27 miles)
McGlasson's Market is on the right

Program:

All times EST

10:00 a.m. Registration and Welcome - *Mike Klahr*
10:10 a.m. Tour of McGlasson's Market and Peach Trees – *Lon & Jack McGlasson*
10:30 The Nuts & Bolts of Developing a Spray Schedule – *Nicole Gauthier & Ric Bessin*

11:30 Fruit Thinning – *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. EST weekdays by Monday, April 11 and give her a count for the Fruit Grower Meeting at McGlasson Farms

12:45p.m. New Fungicides and Several Older Ones Revisited – *Nicole Gauthier*

1:00 Grower Round Table Discussion - *Dana Reed, moderator*

1:15 Orchard Scouting and Tour of McGlasson's Apple Orchard – *Lon McGlasson and Specialists*



Reminder: Final Endosulfan Phase-out and Cancellation This Summer

By Ric Bessin, U.K. Extension Entomologist

One of the last organochlorine insecticides, endosulfan, has been undergoing a cancellation and phase-out over the past several years. This product's phase-out is due to unacceptable risk to farm workers and the environment, as well as persistence in the environment.

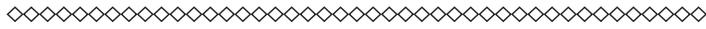
The phase-out/cancellation, which began in 2012, will be completed by July 31, 2016. Many growers are familiar with this product under its former names of Thiodan and Golden Leaf, but its current names include Thionex and Endosulfan. Under an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), it is being voluntarily phased out and uses cancelled; various uses will be terminated at specific times. When each of these termination dates passes, it will be unlawful to use these products for those specific uses.

The final termination date is July 31, 2016; the last uses will be eliminated by that date. The phase-out/cancellation schedule is as follows:

Group F Uses (7/31/16 termination)

- Livestock ear tags
- Pineapple
- Strawberry (perennial/biennial)
- Vegetable crops for seed (alfalfa, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, collard greens, kale, kohlrabi, mustard greens, radish, rutabaga, turnip)

After July this year, there will be no permitted uses of endosulfan. Producers with leftover endosulfan products after this date will need to find a pesticide disposal event in their area to discard these materials. Check with your county Extension office for more information.



Data-Byte: How Different are Millennials from their Parents?

By Brett Wolff, U.K. Senior Extension Associate, Ag. Economics

If you sell a product, you know that understanding how your consumers act and think is crucial. Food purchasing is particularly interesting as we can often see stark differences across age, income, race, and gender lines. Below is a table summarizing results from a recent University of Kentucky study comparing Millennial shoppers to older adults. The numbers in the first two columns indicate how many times per month each group engages in each activity. The third column tells us how confident the researchers are that the difference between groups isn't just statistical coincidence (more stars means more confidence).

Check back next month when we explore more results from this study that may help explain why these groups are different

Food Related Activity	Millennials†	Older Adults†	t-test‡
Breakfast at restaurant	1.6	1.4	
Dinner at restaurant	3.8	3.1	***
Eating in the car	2.9	2.1	***
Eat processed snack foods	6.1	5.2	***
Eat processed food for meals	5.9	5.0	***
Read nutrition labels	7.0	6.0	***
Eat salads	5.2	5.7	*
Discuss nutrition with friends and colleagues	3.8	2.6	***
Buy organic foods	3.1	2.3	***
Buy food marketed as locally produced	4.0	3.8	

Prepare dinner at home	15.8	17.2	*
Preserve food by freezing	7.1	6.6	
Preserve food by canning	2.3	2.1	
Visit a farm	2.1	2.0	
Buy food directly from farmers or farmers market	3.6	4.0	
Fruit and Vegetable Intake (servings per day)	4.1	5.0	**

† Values indicate average times per month group members engaged in the activity.

‡ t-test statistical significance between mean group responses reported at 90% (*), 95% (**) and 99% (***) confidence levels. Millennials reported here as participants born after 1980.

Source: T. Woods & J. Rossi, 2015 Kentucky Food Consumer Survey; N=502



Volunteers Needed for Spotted Wing Drosophila Trapping in 2016

By Ric Bessin, U.K. Extension Entomologist

Spring has arrived and several fruit crops are blooming or will soon bloom. The first of the spotted wing drosophila (SWD) susceptible crops will be strawberries, followed by cherries, blueberries, blackberries, fall raspberries, and grapes. SWD is a threat that requires monitoring and producers should be prepared to manage it as needed. Trapping Spotted Wing Drosophila

In many parts of the country where markets have zero tolerance for SWD and other insects, producers spray their susceptible crops throughout the harvest period regardless of trap captures. Many Kentucky producers selling products locally do not have the strict zero tolerance and have used SWD trapping to identify if and when SWD sprays are needed. The result has been that we have not needed to control SWD in June bearing strawberries, and in some years, blueberries have escaped SWD activity. I recommend small fruit producers monitor SWD before and throughout the harvest period with adult traps.



Figure 2. SWD traps are hung inside the canopy of susceptible crops and checked weekly. (Photo: Ric Bessin, UK)

Trap Specifications

The trap we are recommending is a clear 1 liter deli container, with two 3-inch by 1.5-inch windows cut in the side; plastic screening is glued in place over the openings. (Figure 2) Each trap should have about ½ cup apple cider vinegar plus one drop of dish soap as a drowning solution. A commercial SWD lure to attract the flies is hung from the inside on the lid. The lure only needs to be replaced monthly, but used lures should not be disposed of in the field.

Treatment Threshold

Our threshold for treatment is one trapped SWD on a farm. If SWD is not trapped, then sprays for SWD are not necessary; however, when SWD is captured, weekly sprays are recommended on susceptible crops for the remainder of the harvest period at weekly intervals. See Spotted Wing Drosophila Management (ENTFACT-230) for management recommendations.



Figure 3. A spotted wing drosophila female has an amber colored body and enlarged ovipositor. (Photo: Ric Bessin, UK)



Figure 4. Male SWD are relatively easy to identify with the single, large spot near the tip of each wing. (Photo: Ric Bessin, UK)

Volunteers Needed!

This year I am looking for cooperators in 20 to 30 Kentucky counties that would be willing to trap for SWD in their commercial small fruit crops. I can provide the trapping materials and plastic containers to mail the samples to me in Lexington. I will be reporting SWD activity with the participating counties on Facebook; results of the trapping will be posted on the SWDinKYFacebook site as samples are submitted.

Periodical Cicadas in Northeastern Kentucky?

By Lee Townsend, U.K. Extension Entomologist

Brood V of the 17-year periodical cicada (Figure 5), which is comprised of three separate species, is due to emerge this spring. The green-shaded area of the map (Figure 6) shows where they are expected. None of the Kentucky Pest News articles from 1999 provided information on activity in Kentucky, but a report by Kritsky et al. (1999) described the brood as “strong” in southeastern Ohio.



Figure 5. Periodical cicada (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK)



Figure 6. Brood V periodical cicada expected emergence map from 1999 (shaded area) (Map: USDA Forest Service)

There are indications that the western boundary of Brood V in Ohio is at least 10 miles east of its 1914 distribution, and the insects have disappeared from some northern counties. Apparently, small pockets outside of the general brood area can survive for centuries. Therefore,

isolated pockets of them may be seen along the Ohio River, possibly in Boyd, Greenup, Lawrence, and Lewis counties.

Kentucky Produce for Kentucky's Hungry

Have you ever found yourself with a surplus of fruits or vegetables and no market? What about product that is aesthetically unmarketable but still good to eat? Check out this program that helps the hungry while helping you avoid a total loss. Through the Farms to Food Banks program, the Kentucky Association of Food Banks pays just below wholesale prices for surplus and Number 2-grade produce not usually saleable on the retail market. The produce is distributed free of charge to hungry Kentuckians through the food bank network.

How It Works

- Any Kentucky farmer who grows the 25 crops included in the program may participate.
- Maximum prices per unit are set each growing season in consultation with specialists from the University of Kentucky. The goal of the price caps is to help farmers recover losses while also providing as much healthy food as possible to struggling Kentuckians.
- Produce auction and cooperative managers arrange to buy Kentucky-grown produce from farmers and oversee its delivery to food banks.
- Kentucky farmers can make direct sales to the Association and will be responsible for delivery to the closest food bank warehouse.
- Food bank warehouse staff will forward the farmer's invoice to the Association. The Association will pay the farmer within 2 weeks.

In 2014, 373 farmers from 66 counties benefited from increased cash flow and reduced losses through this new market for their produce. The average amount paid to producers was \$1,450.00. The largest amount paid was \$18,300. The Farms to Food Banks program was developed by KAFB member God's Pantry Food Bank and began in its eastern Kentucky service area in 2009. KAFB has been running the program state-wide since 2011.

For more information, or to get involved contact:
Angie Allman, Program Coordinator
PO Box 1824 Berea, KY 40403
606-256-0040 or Angie@kafb.org
www.kyfoodbanks.org



Figure 7

Check Sprayers for Signs of Wear and Tear

By Lee Townsend, Extension Entomologist

Checking sprayers now and replacing leaking pumps, cracked hoses, and worn or mismatched sprayer nozzles can save time and aggravation when it is time to go to the field. In addition, clean clogged strainers and check nozzles for wear, especially if abrasive formulations (wetttable powders, dry flowables, flowables, etc.) have been used.



Figure 8. Hoses can crimp and weaken along folding spray booms (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK)

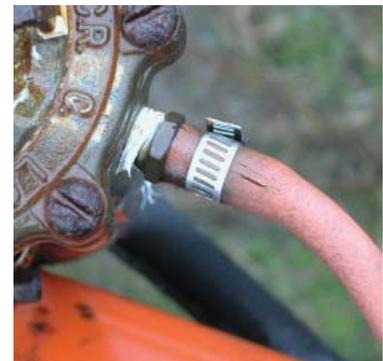


Figure 9. Replace cracked hose sections before they fail (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK)



Figure 10. Remove nozzles to check for clogs - like this spider web (Photo: Lee Townsend, UK)

The Perfect Pear

FRUIT HUMOR



Receiving Fruit Facts on the Internet

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