Kentucky Fruit Facts

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

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

It has been a roller coaster winter! Temperatures have fluctuated wildly, but fortunately they have not dropped too low and our peach flower bud survival looks good. Dwight Wolfe cut some Redhaven peach buds at the Princeton UKREC and found 88% live flower buds.

Tree fruit and plasticulture strawberry growers should be monitoring vole populations in their plantings. Voles or short tailed mice are very productive and build up very rapidly causing damage particularly during periods when the ground is covered with snow and floating row covers are protecting plasticulture strawberries. Several plasticulture strawberry growers have been surprised this year by the severe damage that this pest can inflict. The 2016 Midwest Fruit Pest Management Guide covers vole control on page 66.

While we are discussing wildlife pests, the U.K. Forestry department has recently filled their Extension Wildlife position. Dr. Matthew Springer is our new Extension Wildlife Specialist. Matthew is originally from the Allentown, Pennsylvania area and has worked in the Midwest for the last several years. So he is very familiar with our Kentucky wildlife pests. He is currently working on learning about grower wildlife problems and will be at our March 8, Fruit Grower Orchard meeting at Haney’s Appledale Orchard. Matthew may be contacted through his office phone at: 859-859-257-7597; email: mattspringer@uky.edu.

The 2016 Midwest Fruit Pest Management Guide can be picked up at your County Extension Offices. It can also be found online at: https://ag.purdue.edu/hla/Hort/Pages/sfg_sprayguide.aspx. The tree and small fruit spray guides have been combined into one guide for 2016.

The 2015 Fruit and Vegetable Research Report has also been completed and may be found at: http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/PR/PR706/PR706.pdf. It contains the results of the 2015 seasons apple and peach rootstock trials; erect thornless blackberry, primocane blackberry, rabbiteye blueberry, matted row strawberry, wine and seedless table grape variety trials; as well as information on baiting for and management of spotted wing drosophila in blackberries.

Upcoming Meetings
(All meetings are Eastern time unless specified.)

Feb. 25 Blueberry and Blackberry Pruning Demonstration - Blueberry pruning before lunch and blackberry pruning after lunch; Monroe County Ext. Office, 1194 Columbia Ave., Tompkinsville, KY 42167. Contact 270-487-5504.

Feb. 25 Grape Pruning and Propagation Workshop - Western Kentucky University Research Vineyard, WKU Agricultural Research and Education Complex, 4660 Nashville Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42104. 2:30 -4:30 p.m. CT Contact Patsy Wilson 859-494-1657 or patsy.wilson@uky.edu.

Mar. 1 Orchard Pruning - Menifee County Ext. Office, 140 Main Street, Frenchburg, KY 40322. 5:00 p.m. Contact 606-768-3866.


Mar. 4 Grape Pruning and Propagation Workshop - U.K. Horticultural Research Farm, 4320 Emmert Farm Lane, Lexington, KY 40514. 1:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Registration is required. Contact Patsy Wilson 859-494-1657 or patsy.wilson@uky.edu.

Mar. 8 Fruit Grower Orchard Meeting - Haney’s Appledale Farm, 8350 W. Hwy 80, Nancy, KY 42303. 10:00 a.m. Contact the Pulaski County Ext. Office 606-679-6361 or John Strang 859-257-5685 or jstrang@uky.edu. Program information follows.

Mar. 10 Tree Fruit Pruning and Grafting Workshop - Russell County Ext. Office, 2699 S. Hwy 127, Russell Springs, KY 42642. 2:00 p.m. CST Contact 502-845-2811.

Mar. 10 Tree and Small Fruit Pruning Workshop - Clay County Ext. Office, 69 Jameson Road, Manchester, KY 40962, 1:30 p.m. Contact Jeff at 606 598-2789.

Mar. 12 Small Farm and Garden Conference - Henderson County Ext. Office, 3341 Zion Rd, Henderson, KY 42420, 8.30-4.00 CST. Contact 270-826-8387.

Mar. 12 Vineyard Hands on Pruning Workshop - Rose Hill Farm Winery, 199 KY Hwy 17, Butler, KY. 9:30-3:00 p.m. Participants are encouraged to bring their pruners. Organized by both the Pendleton and Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service. Pre-registration is required. Call 859-654-3395.

Mar. 12 Fayette County Farm Bureau Farm Machinery Consignment Auction to Benefit Youth - Kentucky Horse Park. Beginning at 8:30 am. This provides an avenue for farmers to buy and sell used equipment. For more information, contact Carrie McIntosh at 859-253-0023 or carrie.mcintosh@kyfb.info.

Mar. 14 Fruit Tree Pruning - Logan County Extension Office, 255 John Paul Rd., Russellville, KY, 1:00 p.m. CST, 42276. Contact 270-726-6323.

Mar. 14 Strawberry, Blueberry and Blackberry Production - Barren County Extension Office, 1463 West Main St., Glasgow, KY 42141, 6:00 p.m. CST. Contact 270-651-3818.

Mar. 15 Fruit Tree Pruning workshop/farm visit - McCracken Co. Ext. Office, 2705 Olivet Church Rd, Paducah 42001, 1:00-4:00 p.m. CST. Contact Kathy Wimerly at 270-554-9520.

Mar. 19 Kentucky Strawberry Association Plasticulture Strawberry Field Meeting - Butch Case Farm, 1316 County Infirmary Rd., Cynthiana, KY 41831. Time & Contact Henry Cardwell, phone: 606-499-5080; email: henry.cardwell@gmail.com or Shawn Wright phone: 606-272-3500; email: shawn.wright@uky.edu., Program is on page 3.

Mar. 21 Growing Fruit - McCreary County Extension Office, Whitley City, KY 42653, 6:00 p.m. Contact 606-376-2524.

Mar. 22 Fruit Tree Grafting and Pruning Workshop - Russell County Extension Office, 2688 S. Hwy 127, Russell Springs, KY 42642, 2:00 p.m. CST. Contact 270-866-4477.

Mar. 24 Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop - Jessamine County Extension Office, 95 Park Dr., Nicholasville, KY 40356, 5:30 p.m. Contact 859-885-4811.

Mar. 28 Strawberry, Bramble, and Watermelon Production - Letcher County Extension Office, 478 Extension Dr, Whitesburg, KY 41858, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Contact 606-633-2362.

Mar. 29 Home Apple, Bramble and Blueberry Production - Harlan County Extension Office, 519 South Main St., Harlan, KY 40831, 5:30 p.m. Contact 606-573-4464.

Mar 31 Backyard Gardening for Fruit - Henry County Fairgrounds, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Contact 502-845-2811.

Apr. 1 Effective Vineyard Spraying and Drift Management, UK Horticultural Research Farm Vineyard, 4321 Emmert Farm Lane, Lexington, KY 40514. This all day intensive course will be taught by Dr. Andrew Landers, Pesticide Application Technology Specialist from Cornell University. Details will be available soon.

Apr. 4 Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop - Madison County Extension Office, 230 Duncannon Lane, Richmond, KY 40476, 6:00 p.m. Contact 859-624-9510.

Apr. 5 Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop - Clark County Extension Office, 1400 Fortune Dr., Winchester, KY 40391, 6:00 p.m. Contact 859-744-4682.

Apr. 7 Basic Fruit Production - Hardin County Extension Office, 201 Peterson Drive, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, 9:00 -3:00 p.m. Contact Danny Ganno, Phone: 270-860-8362; Email: danganno@yahoo.com.

Apr. 8 Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop - Hardin County Extension Office, 201 Peterson Drive, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, 9:00 -3:00 p.m. Contact Danny Ganno, Phone: 270-860-8362; Email: danganno@yahoo.com.

Apr. 9 Kentucky Nut Growers Association Spring Meeting - Hardin County Extension Office, 201 Peterson Drive, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, 9:00 -3:00 p.m. Contact Danny Ganno, Phone: 270-860-8362; Email: danganno@yahoo.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, March 8*

Haney’s Appledale Farm  
Don & Mark Haney, owners  
8350 W. Hwy 80  
Nancy, KY 42544  
Phone: 606-636-6148  
Website: http://www.haneysappledalefarm.com/

**Directions:**

**From Highway 27** - In Somerset, take light four west onto Kentucky Highway 80 and drive eight miles. Haney’s is on the right.

**From Interstate 75** - Take exit number 62 (KY-461/Renfro Valley/Mt. Vernon). From exit, take Highway 461 to Highway 80. Follow to 80-27 Intersection. Take Highway 80 West to Nancy (8 miles)

**From the West** - Take the Louie B. Nunn Parkway (Cumberland Parkway) to exit 78 and proceed south on old 80. Appledale Orchard will be on the left on the far side of Nancy, KY.

**Program:**

All times EST

10:00 a.m.  Registration & Tour of Haney’s Orchard & Farm Market - Mark & Don Haney
10:45  Fruit Tree Pruning - John Strang
11:30  Pests and Insecticide Programs - 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 Haney’s Orchard

12:45 p.m.  Disease Research: Evaluating Published Fungicide Trials - Nicole Ward Gauthier
1:15  Wildlife Control - Matthew Springer
1:35  Grower Round Table Discussion - Dana Reed, moderator

**Kentucky Strawberry Association Program**  
*Saturday, March 19, 2016*

Butch Case Farm  
1316 County Infirmary Rd.  
Cynthiana, KY 41831  
Phone: 859-235-1535

**Program:**

All times EST

10:00 a.m.  Welcome - Jessica Barnes
10:05  Field Walk - Butch Case
11:00  Plasticulture Strawberry Diseases - Nicole Gauthier
11:30  Calibrating a Solo Backpack Sprayer - Shawn Wright
11:45  Deer Fencing and Vole Control - John Strang
12:00  Lunch available at cost
12:30 p.m.  Plug Production and Planting Techniques - Danny Van Meter
12:45  Plasticulture Strawberry Production - Shawn Wright
1:15  Grower Round Table Discussion - Considering An Ohio Valley Strawberry Growers Association - Brad Bergefurd, Hanna Scott & Henry Cardwell

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growers to offer practical help for developing food safety plans and in helping to implement them. In February Kristi moved into the position as manager of the CSA at the Horticulture Research Farm in Lexington. The Food Connection is planning to hire another Food Systems field extension associate in the future to help growers prepare for 3rd party Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audits and provide practical information on developing food safety plans. Until that position is filled, you can contact Lilian Brislen, the Executive Director of the Food Connection at the University of Kentucky, for more information. She can be reached at Lilian.brislen@uky.edu

Diversifying into wholesale markets requires GAP certification so scaling up and thinking about food safety are closely tied. The GAP certification process can seem intimidating or unattainable for many growers who would otherwise consider selling to wholesale markets. UK Faculty and Staff at the Food Systems Innovation Center (contact Dr. Paul Vijayakumar, paul.v@uky.edu), in collaboration with The Food Connection can help demystify the process and smooth the transition for your operation. The Sustainable Ag Unit at the U. K. Horticultural Research Farm passed a full USDA audit last year and is being used for GAP demonstration purposes. Getting GAP certified is not only attainable, but it makes good sense from a food safety and liability perspective.

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First Report of Bacterial Leaf Scorch of Blueberry in Kentucky
By Kimberly Leonberger, UK Extension Associate, and Nicole Ward Gauthier, UK Extension Plant Pathologist

Bacterial leaf scorch on blueberry was reported for the first time in Kentucky in October 2015. The disease is common within the southeastern states, including Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. While little is known about the disease, insect management is critical for preventing spread. Once infected, plants often die within one to two growing seasons. There is no cure for bacterial leaf scorch.

**Bacterial Leaf Scorch of Blueberry Facts:**
- Infected plants exhibit leaf margin browning, and often a dark band develops between diseased and healthy tissue (**Figure 1**).
- Defoliation occurs and stems/twigs may appear yellow (**Figure 2**).
- Symptoms of bacterial leaf scorch can resemble abiotic/stress, so confirmation by a diagnostic lab is advised.
-Caused by the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp multiplex. The same subspecies infects oak and other common landscape trees (**Figure 3**).
- Transmitted by leafhoppers and treehoppers.
- Highbush blueberry varieties are susceptible to bacterial leaf scorch.

**Management Options:**
There is no cure for bacterial leaf scorch, and blueberry plants will eventually die once infected. The following suggestions may help reduce the spread of the disease:
- Remove and burn, bury, or dispose of infected plants immediately
- Avoid propagating potentially infected blueberry plants
- Reduce plant stress and maintain plant vigor
- Manage insect vectors

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**Figure 1:** Marginal leaf scorch/burn on blueberry leaves infected with bacterial leaf scorch. (Photo: P. M. Brannen, et. al., *Bacterial Leaf Scorch of Blueberry, University of Georgia*)

**Figure 2:** Leaves drop from the plant and stems/twigs exhibit a yellow color. (Photo: P. M. Brannen, et. al., *Bacterial Leaf Scorch of Blueberry, University of Georgia*)

**Figure 3:** There are several subspecies of *Xylella fastidiosa*, all known to infect economically important crops. (Photo: European Food Safety Authority, 2013. Statement of EFSA on host plants, entry and spread pathways and risk reduction options for Xylella fastidiosa Wells et al., EFSA Journal, page 5, table 1)
Newly Redesigned Center for Crop Diversification Website
By Brett Wolff, U.K. Senior Extension Associate, Department of Ag Economics

We have just unveiled the Center for Crop Diversification’s newly redesigned and restructured website. Check it out: www.uky.edu/ccd

You’ll find all the fruit, vegetable, and specialty crops resources you have come to expect including:
• Farmer’s Market and Produce Auction Price Reports
• Crop, System, and Market Profiles
• Budgets
• Webinars
• Plus much more!

New features include:
• Attractive, Organized, Mobile-friendly design
• Enhanced Searchability (try the search bar!)
• All crop-related resources included in one place
• For example: http://www.uky.edu/ccd/production/crop-resources/fruit/blueberries contains links to all our blueberry resources
• Check out the “resources and links” section for the original crop profile and much more You can also find us on Facebook (make sure to click “like!”), and you can check out and sign up for our monthly electronic newsletter.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have feedback or suggestions.

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2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans at a Glance

The 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans have been released and the full report may be found at: http://health.gov/dietaryguidelines/2015/guidelines/. The five guidelines that encourage healthy eating are below and fruits and vegetables continue to hold prominent positions.

Follow a healthy eating pattern across the lifespan. All food and beverage choices matter. Choose a healthy eating pattern at an appropriate calorie level to help achieve and maintain a healthy body weight, support nutrient adequacy, and reduce the risk of chronic disease.

Focus on variety, nutrient density, and amount. To meet nutrient needs within calorie limits, choose a variety of nutrient-dense foods across and within all food groups in recommended amounts.

Limit calories from added sugars and saturated fats and reduce sodium intake. Consume an eating pattern low in added sugars, saturated fats, and sodium, but back on foods and beverages higher in these components to amounts that fit within healthy eating patterns.

Shift to healthier food and beverage choices. Choose nutrient-dense foods and beverages across and within all food groups in place of less healthy choices. Consider cultural and personal preferences to make these shifts easier to accomplish and maintain.

Support healthy eating patterns for all. Everyone has a role in helping to create and support healthy eating patterns in multiple settings nationwide, from home to school to work to communities.

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