

Kentucky Fruit Facts

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Fruit Crop News

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In Lexington apples are at silver tip (Figure 1) and peaches are at the swollen bud stage. So it is time to get the dormant oil and fixed copper spray on apples and pears for San Jose scale, aphid, mite and fire blight control. It is a little too late to control peach leaf curl on peaches with fixed copper since the buds have begun to swell, but an oil spray is recommended for San Jose scale and mite control if it hasn't been applied as yet. Blueberry buds are reaching bud break (Figure 2) and a liquid lime-sulfur or Sulforix spray is strongly recommended for Phomopsis cane and twig blight. This same spray is recommended for grape varieties that are particularly susceptible

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Figure 1: 'Royal Empire' apple flower buds at silver tip on March 31 in Lexington

to anthracnose disease. Sulforix is much more available than liquid lime-sulfur.

Winter injury has been more severe than I expected. The 54°F on January 5 prior to the drop to -5.2°F on January 6 in Lexington was a considerable shock for fruit tissue. It looks like many peach growers in central, northern and eastern Kentucky may have lost the crop on less hardy varieties and many have some surviving buds on harder varieties. Bud survival is quite evident now as surviving buds are swelling. While pruning blackberries and rasp-



Figure 2: 'Bluecrop' highbush blueberry flower buds at bud break on March 31 in Lexington

berries at the UK Arboretum it became evident that the thornless and thorny blackberries were pretty much killed almost to the ground. The June bearing (Figure 3) and fall bearing red raspberries and June bearing, Royalty purple raspberry were also killed to the ground.



Figure 3: Dead floricanes on 'Caroline' fall bearing red raspberries on March 31 in Lexington

The Kentucky Strawberry Association field tour at Wilson's Cedar Point Farm owned by Joel and Beth Wilson in Pulaski county on March 22 was well attended. Both plasticulture and matted row strawberries have wintered well. Danny Van Meter shared some heat unit accumulations for Letchfield for the past five years and we are way behind, even later than 2013 spring. Several plasticulture strawberry growers are counting on the makeup snow days to enable them to market through the farm-to school program this year. Soil temperatures at the four-inch depth have reached 42°F so it is time to rake most of the straw off of the strawberries into the walk ways in matted row plantings.

After our challenging winter it is hard to believe that the Kentucky three month National Weather Service extended weather outlook for the next three months is for normal temperatures and precipitation across the state.

UpComing Meetings

(All meetings are Eastern time unless specified.)

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

Apr. 7 Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstration, Logan County Extension Office, 255 John Paul Rd., Russellville, KY 42276. 12:30 p.m. CDT. Contact 270-726-6323.

Apr. 7 Blackberry, Raspberry and Strawberry Production, Barren County Extension Office, 1463 West Main St., Glasgow, KY 42141. 6:00 p.m. CDT. Contact 270-651-3818.

Apr. 8 Farmer's Markets, Lawrence County Extension Office, 249 Industrial Park Rd, Louisa, KY 41230. Contact 606-673-9495.

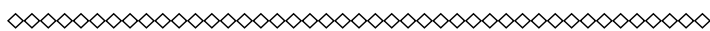
Apr. 8 Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop, Allen County Extension Office, 200 East Main St., Scottsville, KY 42164. 6:30 p.m. CDT. Contact 270-237-3146.

Apr. 10 Fruit Grower Orchard Meeting, Evans Orchard and Cider Mill, 189 Stone Rd., Georgetown, KY 40324. 10:00 a.m. Contact John Strang. Phone: 859-257-5685; Email: jstrang@uky.edu See program below.

Apr. 14 Farmer's Market Gardens, Fleming County Extension Office, 1384 Elizaville Rd, Flemingsburg, KY 41041. Contact 606-845-4641.

Apr. 19. 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 See write up below.

Apr. 26 Eastern Ky Foothills Eco-Agri-tourism Conference on High Tunnels, Contact Morgan County Extension Office - 606-743-3292.



May 15. Fruit Grower Orchard Meeting, The Bramble Ridge Orchard, 2726 Osborne Rd., Mt. Sterling, KY 40353. 10:00 a.m. Contact John Strang. Phone: 859-257-5685; Email: jstrang@uky.edu

Jun. 19 UKREC Horticulture Open House, Contact Winston Dunwell 270-365-7541 Ext. 209.

Jan. 5-6, 2015 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference and Trade Show, Embassy Suites Hotel, Lexington, KY. Contact John Strang 859-257-5685; email: jstrang@uky.edu

Fruit Grower Orchard Meeting - Thursday, April 10

Evans Orchard & Cider Mill
 Kevin Evans operator
 180 Stone Rd.
 Georgetown, KY 40324
 Market: 502-863-2255
 Mobile: 502-867-3044
 Website: <http://www.evansorchard.com/>

Bring your mobile device (smart phone or iPad) for the fire blight training and a spray water sample for pH testing.

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:

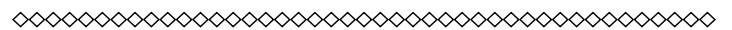
All times EDT

- 10:00 a.m. Registration & Tour of Evans Orchard & Farm Market – Kevin Evan
- 10:45 Spotted Wing Drosophila - Ric Bessin
- 11:15 Fire Blight Prediction using Mobile Technology – Nicole Ward Gauthier
- 11:45 Lunch & Spray Water pH Testing

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 Tuesday, April 8 and give her a count for the Fruit Grower Meeting at Evans Orchard.

- 12:45p.m. Clarity in Adjuvants – John Phillips
- 1:00 Peach and Bramble Crop Injury, Pruning and Care Following Severe Injury - John Strang, Ric Bessin & Nicole Ward Gauthier
- 1:30 Orchard Weed ID – Shawn Wright
- 2:00 Grower Round Table Discussion – Jeremy Hinton, moderator



Kentucky Nut Growers Association Spring Meeting, Saturday April 20

By Kirk Pomper, Director-Kentucky State University Agricultural Experiment Station

The Spring meeting of the Kentucky Nut Growers Association will be held Saturday, April 20, 2014, at the Hardin County Agricultural Extension Office in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, at 9:30 am EDT. The Extension Office Building is located just off U.S. 62 about two miles west from downtown Elizabethtown—directly behind the Cecilia Auto Sales Lot. In approaching Elizabethtown from western Kentucky on U.S. 62, turn left at Peterson Drive—first street past the Manakee Funeral Home. Eastern and northern Kentucky arrivals

driving west on U.S. 62 through Elizabethtown must turn right at Peterson Drive—first street past the Auto Sales Lot. KNGA signs will be posted. The luncheon will be potluck. 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. Additionally, please bring graft wood to exchange with other growers and nuts for people to taste and items, such as plants and trees, to be used as door prizes and for the auction.

For more information about KNGA contact Dan Ganno at (270) 860-8362 or dan-ganno@yahoo.com.

FRUIT HUMOR

Q: What did the green grape say to the purple grape?

A: Breathe! Breathe!



Four New Seedless Table Grapes Released from University of Arkansas

By Daniel Becker, UKREC Fruit and Vegetable Extension Associate

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture released four new seedless table grapes in 2012; Faith, Joy, Gratitude, and Hope. The grapes were bred and evaluated at the Cole Westbrook Fruit Research Station in Clarksville, Arkansas by Dr. John Clark, University Professor of Horticulture. All releases were selected for thin, adherent skin and resistance to rain-cracking. They constitute the ninth through thirteenth table grapes released from the program.

Faith is a dark blue, non-slipskin table grape ripening in late July to early August approximately with Jupiter, a previously released

table grape from the University of Arkansas. Flavor is neutral to slightly fruity and soluble solids content averages 19%. Berry size is medium to large, averaging four grams and cluster size is medium, averaging 150 to 200 grams. Primary bud hardiness is expected to be good, similar to Jupiter. Negative aspects reported in some years include uneven fruit set resulting in reduced cluster fill, occasional firm seed traces, and slight skin astringency.

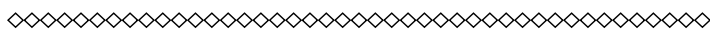
Joy is a blue non-slipskin, table grape ripening in mid August between Jupiter and Neptune, a previously released table grape from the University of Arkansas. Flavor is fruity with a mixture of *V. labrusca* and *V. vinifera* character with a soft berry texture. Berry size is small to medium, averaging three grams and cluster size is medium to large, averaging 300 grams. Primary bud hardiness is expected to be moderate, similar to Neptune. Negative aspects reported include very soft texture, occasional variable fruit set resulting in presence of shot berries and in some years shatter of ripe berries at maturity.

Hope is a white table grape ripening in late August slightly before Neptune. Flavor is neutral to slightly fruity with a soft berry texture. Berry size is small to medium, averaging three grams and cluster size is large, averaging 300 to 330 grams. Primary bud hardiness is expected to be good, similar to Jupiter. Common negative aspects reported include excessively tight clusters and moderately thick skin.

Gratitude is a white table grape ripening in late August similar to Hope and slightly before Neptune. Flavor is neutral, similar to *V. vinifera* table grapes with a very crisp berry texture. Berry size is medium, averaging three and a half grams and cluster size is large, often over 500 grams. Primary bud hardiness is expected to be moderate, similar to Neptune. Negative aspects include very tight clusters and occasional winter injury reported in some

years.

Faith, Joy, Hope, and Gratitude along with other unnamed advanced selections from the University of Arkansas breeding program have been planted in a research trial at the U.K. Horticultural Research Farm in Lexington for observation under local conditions. Bud hardiness has been good with named releases exhibiting over 90% live primary buds after a seasonal low of -6°F on the nights of January sixth and seventh. Yield characteristics have yet to be recorded due to youthful vine age, however, a significant crop is expected for the 2014 season.



Farm to School in KY: The USDA Farm to School Census

By Kevin Heidemann, U.K. Ag. Economics Extension Associate

The USDA, assisted in part by The National Farm to School Network, recently conducted a national Farm to School Census. This census asked public school districts about Farm to School activities throughout the 2011 to 2012 school year. In total, 133 out of 179 Kentucky public school districts completed the USDA Farm to School Census. In this article, I will discuss the data collected by the census in relation to Kentucky's growing Farm to School initiatives.

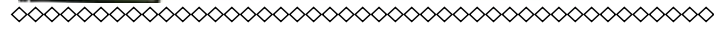
Kentucky school districts that bought local products from 2011 to 2012 spent about \$1,296,005 on local food during the school year, but they spent a total of \$48,014,739 on school food. Therefore, Kentucky schools already spend a notable amount of money on purchasing local food. However, the potential for Farm to School is enormous, reaching above \$48 million dollars.

The census noted that 58 Kentucky

school districts, which represent about 763 schools, have been participating in Farm to School. Overall, 44% of respondents indicated they are engaged in Farm to School activities, and another 19% plan to start in the future. Nearly half of our school districts in Kentucky already participate in Farm to School activities; and, in the near future, many more schools are likely to begin participating.

Currently, schools have been purchasing primarily local fruits and vegetables; tomatoes, apples, watermelon, lettuce, and berries have been the most popular local food purchases in Kentucky. However, some schools have been sourcing milk, meat, eggs, and other products locally. The Farm to School Census data also indicates there is expected growth in the future purchases of local herbs, plant-based proteins, eggs, vegetables, and baked goods by Kentucky schools.

In conclusion, Kentucky's Farm to School market is large and it has enormous potential. More schools will continue to become involved in Farm to School, and many of those who are already participating in Farm to School plan to buy much more local food in the future. Currently, schools are primarily purchasing local fruits and vegetables, but local purchases made by schools are likely to diversify in the future. In the future, Farm to School markets will likely continue to grow in importance to Kentucky farmers. To learn more about the census, or to take a look at the data for yourself, follow this link: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmentoschool/census#/national>.



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