

Kentucky Fruit Facts

August 2012/ (8/2012)

Fruit Facts can be found on the web at: <http://www.ca.uky.edu/fruitfacts/>

John Strang, Extension Fruit Specialist, Editor
Karen Shahan, Administrative Assistant

Fruit Crop News

By John Strang, U.K. Extension Horticulturist

I have seen some excessive apple drop which is most probably due to a combination of a lack of seeds and the heat. Keep a close eye on apple maturity as fruit are ripening very early this year. Gala is already being harvested and with the light crop expect water core to be a problem. High temperatures are delaying apple red color development so don't be fooled and wait too long to harvest. On top of this, birds are pecking the fruit and green June beetles are feeding on injured fruit as it ripens. Some peach varieties are showing substantial cracking from fluctuating soil moisture levels. Sugar contents look good particularly on the seedless table grapes that are ripening. Green June beetles are not passing up the opportunity to take advantage of these sugars. There is intense competition between us and the wildlife this year.

Early August is an excellent time to take leaf tissue samples for matted row strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, grapes, and all of the tree fruits for nutrient analysis. Guidelines can be found at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Horticulture/foliar.pdf>

The drought has broken at least for a portion



of the state, but is hanging on in western Kentucky. The latest Palmer drought index indicates that Western Kentucky continues in extreme hydrologic drought. The Bluegrass and central sections are in moderate hydrologic drought and eastern sections are near normal. NOAA indicates that the chances are increasing for El Nino beginning sometime between July and September 2012. El Nino tends to produce below normal precipitation in Kentucky.

Upcoming Meetings

Aug 7 Horticultural Research Farm Field Day, 4320 Emmert Farm Lane, Lexington, KY; 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Contact: Tim Coolong 859-257-3374; email: timcoolong@uky.edu

Aug. 16 Market Ready, Kentucky State University, Frankfort (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) What is MarketReady? A producer sales training program based on industry best practices. MarketReady caters to a variety of farming operations interested in selling to wholesale or retail businesses. Cost: \$25, includes lunch, refreshments and materials. For more information or to register, contact Kevin Heidemann with

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the Food Systems Innovation Center at (859) 257-7272 ext. 223 or Kevin.Heidemann@uky.edu. <http://www.uky.edu/fsic/marketready/index.php>

Sept 22 UK Robinson Center Mountain Ag Field Day, 130 Robinson Rd., Jackson, KY 41339. Contact Rosalee Bradley 859-257-9511 X 233 or email Rosalee.Bradley@uky.edu

Oct. 20 Kentucky Nut Growers Association Fall Meeting, Daviess County Extension Office, 4800A New Hartford Rd., Owensboro, KY. Contact Danny Ganno 270-860-8362; email: danganno@yahoo.com

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Jan. 7-8, 2013 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Embassy Suites Hotel, Lexington, KY. Contact John Strang phone: 859-257-5685 or email: jstrang@uky.edu

Horticultural Research Farm Field Day – August 7

By Tim Coolong, U.K. Extension Vegetable Specialist

Welcome growers and agents - The 2012 Horticulture Field will be held at the UK Horticulture Research Farm from 10-2 pm on Tuesday August 7. Several tours will be offered including vegetable and fruit production, biofuels, grapes, high tunnels, ornamental production, equipment for vegetable production, and our organic community supported agriculture program. Tours will be offered every hour and last about 45 minutes. You'll have time for plenty of questions as well as meeting agents and growers from around the state.

The program is open to everyone who would like to attend and agents get 2 CE credits for attendance. Lunch will not be offered, but we will have refreshments.

The farm is located on the south side of Lexington at 4320 Emmert Farm Lane, Lexington, KY

40514 approximately one block west of the intersection of Man O'War Boulevard and Nicholasville Road (U.S. 27). The entrance to the farm (Emmert Farm Lane) is off of Man O'War Boulevard at the traffic light opposite the entrance to the Lowe's and Walmart.

Come see what new research is being conducted that can impact you! In the event of severe weather the field day may be cancelled. There will be no make-up day.

Grape Root Borer Active

By Ric Bessin, U.K. Extension Entomologist

We have had several grape root samples brought in that have had grape root borer larvae or evidence of extensive grape root borer damage. Plants in the vineyards appeared weak with limited growth and/or dead. Unfortunately, with insecticides we can help to prevent new infestations rather than kill the larvae that are already established on the vines. Grape root borer is potentially the most destructive insect attacking grapes in Kentucky. Injury by grape root borer is often most severe in low, poorly drained areas of the vineyard, but one of the vineyards from a recent sample had very good drainage. Larvae tunnel into the larger roots (generally 1/3" in diameter and larger) and crown of vines below the soil surface. Symptoms include poor vine growth and fruit set, even loss of some vines. Because damage is restricted to below ground, problems often go unnoticed until vine decline is observed. This pest causes a slow decline of the vineyard.

Grape root borer adult moths are active in early July and can be monitored with pheromone traps by vineyard managers. In mid-summer, growers should examine around the bases of vines out to a distance of 18 inches for empty pupal skins of grape root borer. In Kentucky, a control action is recommended if more than 5 percent of the vines are found to have grape root borer pupal cases emerging from the soil. If an insecticide is to be used, then it is best to apply the insecticide (Lorsban 75WG and Lorsban 4E are labeled for this) just as the adults are beginning to emerge, but the preharvest interval may make it necessary to spray after harvest. Both of these products have a 35-day preharvest interval.

Only one application is permitted per year. The insecticide should be applied as a coarse spray to a 15 square foot area surrounding each vine. Treat with an insecticide only if necessary. If grape root borer is not a problem, there is no reason to risk destroying the natural control processes and increasing production costs.



Figure 1. Male and Female grape root borer moths.



Figure 2. Pupal skin emerging from the soil.

Farm Service Agency Now Accepting Pollinator Habitats in Continuous CRP

By Kara Keeton, Keeton Communications,
Kentucky Agriculture Report

Kentucky USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that pollinator habitats, which support a variety of pollinator species, will now be accepted as a

Continuous Sign-up Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) practice. CCRP is a voluntary program that helps producers apply conservation practices to safeguard environmentally sensitive land.

Pollinator habitats are areas of permanent vegetation located in an agricultural landscape: field edges, field middles, odd corners, or any agricultural location that is suitable for establishing pollinator habitat.

Pollinators provide a very important ecological service. Approximately three quarters of all flowering plants rely upon external assistance to pollinate their flowers. In addition to agricultural crops such as fruits and many vegetables, these plants include seed producing wildflowers, fruit producing shrubs and nut producing trees which provide a source of food for many wildlife species. Studies indicate that birds, bees, bats, and other pollinators are in significant decline across the country and around the world. Nearly 80% of the crops grown in the world require pollination. In the United States, insects pollinate crops that producer \$40 billion worth of products annually.

Participants of newly enrolled pollinator habitat practices are eligible to receive a \$150 CRP Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) per acre. The SIP is a one-time payment issued to CRP participants after the contract is approved. The following practices qualify for the \$150 SIP: 1) Pollinator Habitats; 2) Wetland Restoration & Wetland Restoration (non-floodplain) practice which restores the functions and values of wetland ecosystems that have been devoted to agricultural use and; 3) Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds practice which provides food and cover for quail; and 4) Upland birds in cropland areas.

The SIP for all other continuous sign-up practices remains unchanged at \$100 per acre. Continuous CRP sign-up allows participants to submit offers for selected CCRP practices to enroll in CRP at anytime instead of waiting for a General CRP sign-up period. Participants and offered lands must meet certain eligibility requirements to be accepted into the program.

For more information about the continuous conservation reserve program, please contact your local FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Keep up with Tick Protection

By Lee Townsend, U.K. Extension Entomologist



Figure 3. Lone star tick larva with distinctive long mouthparts and 3 pairs of legs.

Tiny lone star tick larvae (also called seed ticks and turkey mites) will be very active over the next few weeks, as normal; and adult American dog ticks will seek hosts through early August.

Dressing appropriately, using repellents, and checking regularly for ticks are important actions to take to reduce the chances for ticks attaching and feeding on you during the remainder of the tick season.

Ticks seeking blood meals work from the ground up. They will climb on vegetation and wait for a passing host so most are picked up on the lower legs. Anyone unfortunate enough to walk through or stand in an area where a mass of lone star tick eggs has hatched may find themselves covered with hundreds of the tiny parasites.

Have a clothing barrier. Wear long pants and tuck the bottoms into socks, this keeps ticks out on clothing where they can be seen and removed, especially if you wear light colors.

Clothing sprays containing permethrin (for example Sawyer Premium Insect Repellent for Clothing & Gear and Permanone) can be used when in areas where ticks are known to be abundant or if the risk is unknown. These products are not for application to the skin.

Deet-based repellents with a concentration of at least 20% can provide good protection. Picaridin and botanical or herbal repellents are unlikely to provide much protection against ticks. Check yourself thoroughly for ticks and remove all that are found carefully.



Figure 4. Bites from lone star tick larvae. These attached under socks worn by the hiker.

What are “no-see-ums”?

by Lee Townsend, UK Extension Entomologist

“No-see-ums” are tiny members of a family (Ceratopogonidae) of small midges (gnats) with painful bites that can produce dermatitis or slow-healing sores. They tend to be active early in the morning and again around dusk but may feed on calm, cloudy days. There are several species; some have a relatively limited host range while others feed on a range of animals and humans.

In addition to their nuisance value, no-see-ums can impact animal health. These gnats can be vectors of the virus that causes epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) of white-tailed deer and bluetongue virus of sheep. Outbreaks of EHD can occur during years of record high temperatures and drought. This occurred most recently in Kentucky and neighboring states in 2007. The EHD virus can infect domestic animals but rarely causes disease. It probably does not infect humans.

2012 Produce Planting and Market Survey

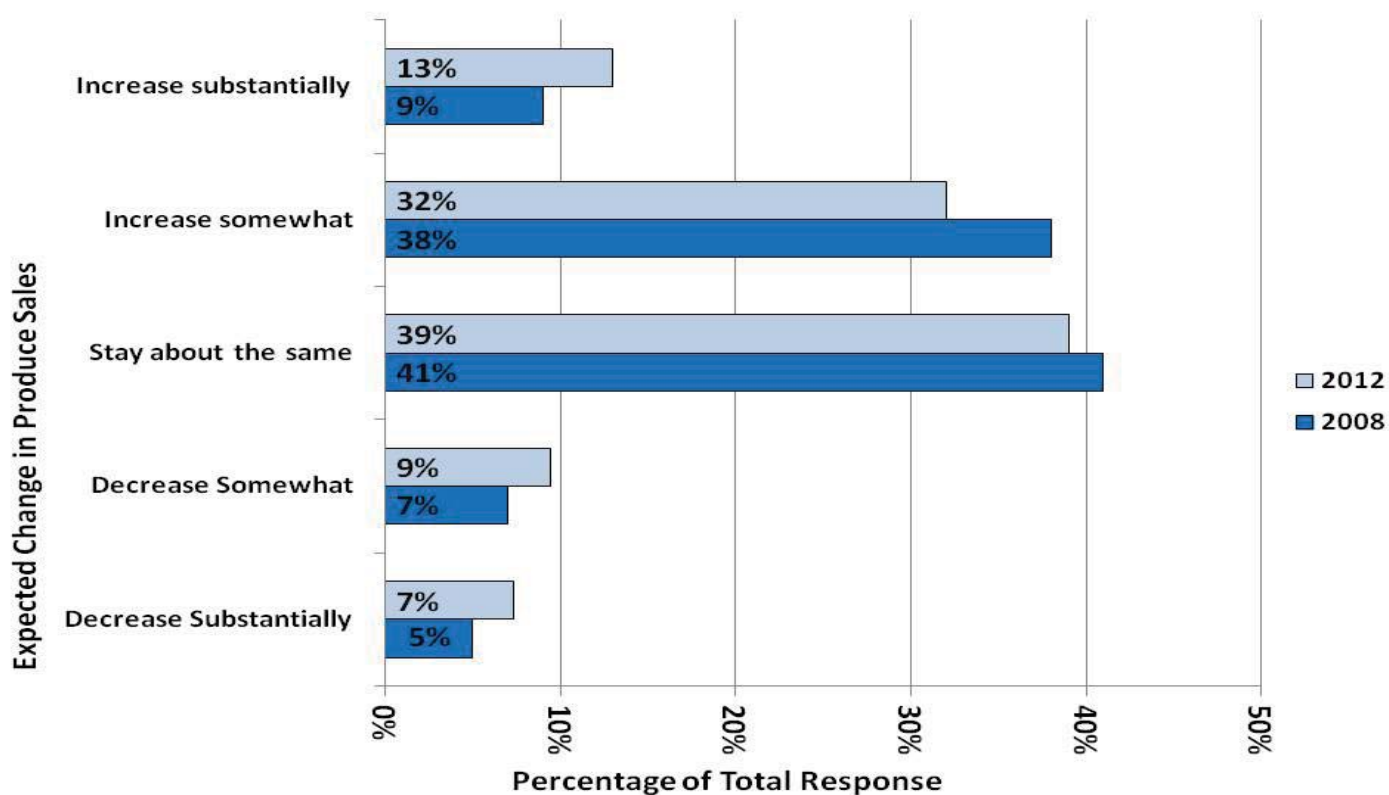
By Tim Woods, U.K. Extension Agricultural Economist

Kentucky's produce sector will likely exceed \$30 million in sales for 2012 as growth has continued since the last survey in 2010. Commercial vegetable area is estimated to remain steady at 12,000 acres with an increasing value of production. Commercial fruit acreage is estimated to decline to around 3,000 acres due to the exit of some apple and peach acres; however, fruit production value remains steady due to strong price projections for 2012 and an increase in higher-value marketing options

Kentucky's smaller, local wholesale produce channels, especially local restaurant and produce auction sales, have seen continued growth. Produce growers in Kentucky continue to emphasize direct sales by selling 1) from the farm; 2) at farmers' markets; 3) through local wholesale deals underpinned by produce auctions.

Produce farmers were asked to indicate their expectations regarding their own fruit and vegetable production over the next three years; a similar question was posed in 2008. Responses suggest growers continue to generally expect to expand their sales. The full report will be available at the UK Crop Diversification Site (New Crop Opportunity Center).

Table 1. Three Year Produce Sales Projections – Comparing 2008 to 2012



Receiving Fruit Facts Electronically on the Internet

Fruit Facts is available on the web in the pdf format. To get notification of the monthly Fruit Facts posting automatically and approximately two weeks earlier than it would normally be received via mail, you can subscribe to the UK College of Agriculture's Fruit Facts listserv.

New subscription requests and requests to unsubscribe should be addressed as follows.

To subscribe type "ListServer,l-s-v" in the To: line of your e-mail message.

Please enter a subject in the Subject: line -- the system needs for the Subject line not to be empty (blank).

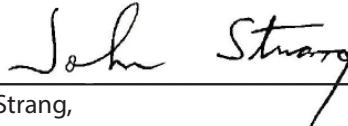
In the message body, enter the following two lines (nothing more!):

subscribe KY-FRUITFACTS

Or, to unsubscribe, the lines:

unsubscribe KY-FRUITFACTS

You should receive confirmation by return e-mail. If you have a problem, or if you wish to communicate with a person about "fruitfacts", the owner's address (the To: line of the message) is: owner-ky-fruitfacts@lsv.uky.edu



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