
Kentucky Fruit Facts

Jan-Feb 2012/ (1-2/2012)

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

John Strang, Extension Horticulturist, Editor
Karen Shahan, Administrative Assistant

Fruit Crop News

The early spring is at the forefront of just about every Kentucky fruit grower's mind lately. The weather has been exceptional for accomplishing outdoor winter jobs and in particular pruning. In a conversation with Dr. Dave Lockwood, Tennessee Extension Fruit Specialist, two weeks ago he mentioned that peaches were in full bloom in South Georgia. This is one of the earliest blooms that they have on record. In Kentucky, James Bennett, Larue County noted that his apples were in silver tip and that he had lost a significant portion of his peach flower buds to winter injury, but still had enough left for a crop. When I visited the UKREC in Princeton, KY last Friday we noted that there were not as many peach flower buds on the young 'Redhaven' trees and decided that a number of the peach flower buds had been killed previously and dropped from the shoots. Unfortunately this season is shaping up to be a real nail biter.

I think that our climate seems to be changing. When I started working in Kentucky in the late 70's we



expected a peach crop once in every 4 to 5 years or 20 to 25 percent of the time in the Lexington area. Examination of Fruit Facts crop records for the past 18 years showed that we have lost only three crops and had some 60% crops for this period. This works out to be a peach crop 83 percent of the time.

It appears that there are a number of jobs that should be completed several weeks earlier than normal this season. Unfortunately it is a little too late to apply the peach leaf curl spray as the buds have already begun to swell. However, the warm weather is very conducive for applying the fixed copper and dormant oil spray on apples and pears, particularly if San Jose scale has been a problem. If the dormant oil spray is applied while the trees are dormant considerably better coverage can be achieved in comparison with a delayed dormant spray and better scale control is obtained. February and early March are traditionally the time to apply nitrogen fertilizer if it is needed. A close examination of last season's tree growth will help in evaluating nitrogen needs.

Now is a good time to plan ahead and order some of the more difficult to obtain pesticides for the coming season. See Ric Bessin's note below concerning Kentucky registrations for apple thinning and codling moth mating disruption materials.

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Cicadas were a major problem in western Kentucky in 2011 and many tree branches feature egg laying wounds. These depressions are often colonized by woolly apple aphids the following season. If cicadas caused damage to your trees this past season, please note Ric Weinzierl's article on woolly apple aphids in this issue.

In the past dogwood borers have not been a significant apple tree problem for us. They have become a serious problem in New York and Michigan orchards in high density plantings. As we move into high density plantings this problem may change for us. We had some serious problems with this pest in our high density orchard this past summer at the Horticultural Research Farm in Lexington. This past week I extracted two borers from a dwarf apple tree in a home planting in Hart County and one out of a graft union at our UKREC in Princeton. It wouldn't hurt to check some high density apple graft unions for borers now to head off potential problems. Stay tuned for a more complete update on dogwood borers on our spring orchard tours.



Dogwood borer in apple graft union

It was a pleasure to hear Aleta Botts from the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development speak at our Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference on agricultural funding sources for growers. Her position with KCARD is to help growers locate grant funding and to help them develop grants to secure funding. Check the website: www.growkentuckyag.com or contact her by email at: botts@growkyag.com (703-401-0089).

Upcoming Meetings

Feb. 28 Apple Grafting Workshop, Barren County Extension Office, 1463 West Main St.,

Glasgow Glasgow, KY 12:30 p.m. CT. Contact Kristin Gooden 270-651-3818.

Feb. 28 Apple Grafting Workshop, Simpson County Extension Office, 300 North Main St., Franklin, KY. 4:00 p.m. CT. Contact Jason Phillips 270-586-4484.

Feb. 28 Pruning Demonstration for Grapevines, Eddy Grove Vineyard, 300 Martin Rd., Princeton, KY. 1:30 p.m. CT. Directions <http://www.medicinemanwines.com> Contact Vaden Fenton 270-365-7541 Ext 262; email: vaden.fenton@uky.edu

Mar. 1 Beginning Grape Growers Workshop, Wolfe County Extension Office, Campton, KY. Topics include vineyard economics, site selection, soil preparation, cultivar selection, planting and disease control. Contact Daniel Wilson 606-668-3712.

Mar. 2 Organic Fruit and Vegetable Production for Home Gardeners, Bell County Extension Office, 101 Courthouse Square, Pineville, KY 11:00 a.m. ET. Contact Stacy White 606-337-2376

Mar. 2 Home Fruit Production, Harlan County Extension Office, 519 South Main St., Harlan, KY. 4:00 p.m. ET. Contact Jeremy Williams 606-573-4464.

Mar. 5 Fruit Tree Sprays, Bullitt County Extension Office, 384 Halls Lane, Shepherdsville, KY. 6:00 p.m. ET., This class will cover a multitude of fruit tree problems, preventative care and chemical control for these problems. Contact Lorilee George 502-543-2257.

Mar. 6-7 Illinois Small Fruit and Strawberry School, Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. March 6th will feature bramble and blueberry presentations. March 7th will concentrate on matted row and plasticulture strawberry production. Contact Jeff Kindhart at 618-695-2770 or jkindhar@illinois.edu

Mar. 8 Beginning Grape Growers Workshop, Wolfe County Extension Office, Campton, KY. Field demonstrations will include pruning and training new and established vines. The vineyard location is to be determined. Contact Daniel Wilson 606-668-3712.

Mar. 13 Grafting Workshop, Boyle County Extension Office, 99 Corporate Dr., Danville, KY. 10:00 a.m. ET. Contact Jerry Little 859-236-4484.

Mar. 16 Blueberries, What Did I Do Wrong?, Managing Diseases in Backyard Fruit, and Apple Grafting Workshop, Garrard County. Lancaster Baptist Church Family Life Center on Richmond St., Lancaster, KY. 9:30a.m.-2:30 p.m. ET. Contact Jay Hettmansperger 859-792-3026.

Mar. 19 Pruning Fruit Trees, Bullitt County Extension Office, 384 Halls Lane, Shepherdsville, KY.

6:00 p.m. ET., This class will cover the basics of pruning fruit trees and the challenges of pruning older trees. Contact Lorilee George 502-543-2257.

Mar. 22 Apple Grafting Workshop, Jessamine County Extension Office, 95 Park Dr., Nicholasville, KY. 6:30 p.m. ET. Contact Rob Amburgy 859-885-4811.

Mar. 27 Blackberry and Raspberry Production and Home Strawberry Production, 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. CT respectively, Barren County Extension Office, 1463 West Main St., Glasgow, KY. Contact Kristin Gooden 270-651-3818.

Apr. 13 KSHS Orchard Tour, Boyd's Orchards, 1390 Pickard Pike, Versailles, KY. Terry and Susie Boyd operators and Black Diamond Blackberry Farm, Lexington, KY, Dr. John and Lucie Dvorak operators.

Apr. 16 Budding and Grafting Fruit Trees, Bullitt County Extension Office, 384 Halls Lane, Shepherdsville, KY. 6:00 p.m. ET. Contact Lorilee George 502-543-2257.

Apr. 21, Kentucky Nut Growers Association Spring Meeting, Marion County Extension Office, 415 Fairgrounds Rd., Lebanon, KY. 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Contact Danny Ganno phone: 270-860-8362 or email: danganno@yahoo.com

May 17, KSHS Orchard Tour, Ayres Family Farm, 525 Wilson Lane, Owenton, KY. Contact John Strang 859-257-5685; email: jstrang@uky.edu

Jun. 3 Kentucky Vineyard Society Field Day, U.K. Horticultural Research Farm, 4321 Emmert Farm Rd., Lexington, KY. Contact Alicia McGuire phone: 502-777-8777; email: kvsdirector@gmail.com

July 22-25 Northern Nut Growers Association Annual Meeting, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY and Kentucky State University Research Farm, Frankfort, KY. Contact John Strang 859-257-5685 or email: jstrang@uky.edu

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

2011 Horticulture Review and 2012 Outlook Report

Dr. Tim Woods, Agricultural Economics Extension Specialist

2011 Review:

Just 10 years ago when Kentucky was starting to make a concerted push toward diversification and

development of the horticulture industry, the value of all horticulture farm cash receipts was \$78.6 million; floriculture, nursery, greenhouse, and sod was at \$59.7 million, and produce was at \$18.9 million. Kentucky's produce (vegetables/fruit) industry has seen steady growth over this period, even through a difficult economy. The green (nursery/greenhouse) industry has been more negatively impacted during the slow recovery. Current industry sales trends point toward 2011 gross sales winding up somewhere around \$115 to \$120 million, up about 10% from 2010.

Produce Industry:

Gross produce receipts have steadily increased each year for the past decade as more producers have benefited from additional direct market channels, especially farmers' markets, and more auction sales. We could easily see record 2011 Kentucky produce sales, particularly with vegetables. Producer numbers and acreage have continued to expand. Generally good growing conditions prevailed for most of the state. Direct markets remain an important channel for most of our producers. Over 2,300 vendors sold in farmers' markets in 2011, and the number increases each year. Auctions and other wholesale channels have experienced significant growth in the number and scale of markets as well as producer numbers with the sustained interest in local produce in Kentucky markets.

The most recent planting intentions data indicates a total of around 13,000 acres of produce crops in Kentucky. Fruit crop acreage was an estimated 3,000 acres and vegetable crop acres were estimated at 10,000. Kentucky had around 10,500 produce acres in 2002. While Kentucky remains a relatively minor produce supplier compared to surrounding states, the sales growth in Kentucky has significantly outpaced that of surrounding states, especially for fruit.

Green Industry:

The green industry nationwide is driven by new home construction and healthy consumer spending, both of which have been in a deep and extended slowdown for the past three years. Greenhouses, sod operations, landscapers, and mid-size nursery businesses grew rapidly from 2002 to 2006 but have each been in difficult times since. A continued weak overall economy and relatively high input costs, especially labor, resulted in another weak, though slightly improved, marketing season for 2011. Demand has

remained subdued for most green products, particularly trees, shrubs, and sod.

2012 Outlook:

Direct market, auction, and independent grower-shipper wholesale sales will likely increase again this next year. There are six active produce auctions in Kentucky, several opening within the last few years. A number of important issues, however, will shape commercial fruit and vegetable production in Kentucky. A recent survey of horticulture extension specialists in the southeast pointed to labor management and food safety standards and compliance as the top issues influencing production at this time. These issues will remain as the key industry drivers during the next few years. Gross sales will continue to be driven by higher value direct marketing at farmers' markets, directly off the farm, and direct to foodservice. Wholesale opportunities will continue to expand as demand for local products remains strong in local markets. Overall produce acreage will continue to move higher, and higher value market channels should see sales increasing over the next few years. The green industry should see a modest rebound in 2012 as the economy moves toward recovery. Floriculture and service-oriented enterprises should see an earlier response to the recovery, followed by nursery and sod. While nursery firms are continuing fairly conservative business strategies, a relatively high percentage (35%) indicated they were planning at least some capital improvements this year with a view to future growth. Gross sales for 2012 for all Kentucky horticulture could surpass the record high realized this year.

Additional Pesticides for Apples Registered for KY in 2012

By Ric Bessin, U.K. Extension Entomologist

There has been an issue the past couple of years with a number of companies choosing not to register their pesticides in Kentucky. While I don't know the exact reason for this, one could speculate that with our relatively small number of orchards compared to the major apple producing states and the cost of state registration each year, some companies may have decided to save some money. However, the pesticides which include fruit thinning materials and softer chemistry for insect control are very important and necessary to our growers.

Tamra McMichael, Pesticide registration coordinator at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, has been instrumental in working with these companies this year to encourage them to register their products so that our growers will have access to them. Her efforts have resulted in a number of products registered again including; Fruitone-N, Amid-Thin-W, Accel, Carpovirusine, NoMate CM, and NoMate OFM. Since the Kentucky Department of Agriculture listing of registered products will not be updated until March, growers will need to wait until March in order to be able to purchase these materials.

Woolly Apple Aphid Management

*Rick Weinzierl, University of Illinois
Extension Entomologist*

Last spring's newsletter included a fairly lengthy discussion of woolly apple aphid (WAA). I'll not repeat it all here, but the article, which covers the insect's life cycle, cultural controls, scouting methods, and the effectiveness of several insecticides, is still available at <http://ipm.illinois.edu/ifvn/volume16/frveg1618.html>. Woolly apple aphids move up and down from roots to twigs and back throughout the season, and controlling them with foliar sprays of insecticides in midsummer has not worked very well for most growers. Last year I mentioned that applications of Delegate and Rimon may be killing important natural enemies of woolly apple aphid and that prebloom application of Lorsban has been shown to be effective for control. Recent reports from growers tend to support both of these ideas.

Last year's article included a discussion of why woolly apple aphid populations have increased in recent years. I noted that the two recurrent themes in answers to this question are: (1) key insecticides that previously killed this insect – Lorsban and Penncap M are no longer labeled for use after bloom; (2) insecticides used to kill codling moth also kill the natural enemies of WAA (a predaceous fly and a parasitic wasp) but not the pest itself, allowing it to increase in the absence of natural controls. On the natural enemy side of the story, David Biddinger of Penn State University has linked repeated applications of Delegate or Rimon to increases in WAA infestations, and preliminary evidence indicates that Delegate kills the parasitic wasp and possibly the syrphid flies that are important natural enemies of WAA. He notes that Delegate sprays are not always causing WAA flare-ups, but they increase



Woolly apple aphid colony on shoot
(Photo courtesy Ric Bessin)

the probability of flare-ups. A couple of Illinois growers have observed WAA in blocks where Delegate or Rimon have been used, so that association seems to accurate here as well.

Last year's article also included a recommendation for the use of Lorsban before bloom (along with oil in the spray applied to control European red mites, rosy apple aphid, and San Jose scale). Again, Illinois growers who used Lorsban in 2011 on blocks where WAA was a severe problem in 2010 reported excellent control. It's not needed everywhere, but if WAA has been a problem, prebloom application of Lorsban (4E, 50W, or 75WG) should work well. Thorough coverage is important for successful control. The 2012 Midwest Tree Fruit Spray Guide lists rates for the different formulations of Lorsban. See <http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/factsheets/treefruit/pests/waa/waa.pdf> for Cornell University's fact sheet on woolly apple aphid.

Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Announces 2012 Scholarship

The Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association (BTGCA) is proud to announce that the 2012 BTGCA Scholarship applications are now being accepted.

The Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative will award four \$1000 scholarships to students for the 2012-2013 school years," explained Roger Quarles, BTGCA President. "It is a great way for our organization to help our farm families as they work to provide educational opportunities to their children."

The BTGCA scholarship is awarded on the basis of the student's overall grade point average, writing ability, and leadership potential. All applicants

must have a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 from their current educational institution. The BTGCA will show preference to those applicants who have a tobacco farming background.

The BTGCA scholarship is awarded for one academic year, in two equal amounts for the fall and spring semesters. Students may re-apply each year. The scholarships are available to individuals from the states of Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, and West Virginia.

The 2012 BTGCA Scholarship application is available on the BTGCA website at www.burleytobacco.com, or by calling the office at (859) 252-3561. Applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2012 and mailed to the BTGCA office.

Each application will be reviewed by the Burley Co-op Scholarship Committee, and recipients will be notified of the award offer by the April 25, 2012. The first installment of the scholarship will be directly paid to the individual upon proper proof of enrollment from the registrar's office by May 15th. The winners will be requested to attend our Annual Meeting and Tobacco Expo for recognition.

The BTGCA is proud to be part of the rich tradition of Kentucky's independent, resourceful tobacco farmers that are the foundation of our rural communities. BTGCA is dedicated to providing opportunities to allow its members and their families to continue the tradition, quality and excellence that is the foundation of U.S. Burley, the gold standard of burley tobacco.

To learn more about the BTGCA visit their website at www.burleytobacco.com.

Contact: Roger Quarles (859) 948-6281 or Brian Furnish (859) 298-0465.

Capitol Area Extension Master Gardener College Scholarship Application

By Kim Cowherd, Franklin County Horticulture Agent

Applications are being accepted by the Capitol Area Master Gardeners (CAMG) for the Capital Area Extension Master Gardener College Scholarship. This is a \$500 scholarship to be awarded to a student majoring in horticulture, plant pathology, landscape design, botany, forestry, entomology, environmental concerns, urban planning, land management, agronomy, or allied subjects. To be eligible to apply, your home county must be Anderson, Boyle, Franklin, Mercer, or Woodford

counties; you must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident with permanent resident ID; enrolled as a full-time student in a KY university with an accredited program; have a minimum, cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale; and must be a freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate student. The application is available at <http://sites.google.com/site/capitolareamastergardeners> or you may call 502-223-7346 for further information. The deadline to apply is April 1, 2012.

Table 1. FSA high, low and average tree fruit prices for 2010.

Farm Service Agency 2010 Ky. Grower NAP Tree Fruit Prices

Crop	Sales Unit	Avg (\$)	High (\$)	Low (\$)	Avg. (\$/lb)	High (\$/lb)	Low (\$/lb)
Apple	bu	39.78	105.00	14.70	.95	2.50	.35
Pear	bu	58.53	80.00	35.00	1.17	1.60	.70
Peach	bu	60.59	100.00	23.72	1.21	2.00	.47
Nectarine	bu	37.49	54.00	26.48	0.75	1.08	.53
Plum	½ bu	47.40	83.75	18.00	1.64	2.89	.62
Cherry, tart	Qt	3.25	5.00	1.50	2.17	3.33	1.00
Pawpaw					2.50	3.00	2.00

Farm Service Agency 2010 Kentucky NAP Fruit Prices

By John Strang, U.K. Extension Horticulturist

The following are high, low and average tree and small fruit prices collected from Kentucky growers and submitted to the Farm Service Agency to provide a basis for Non Insured Assistance (NAP) program payments. These prices are a combination of retail fresh market, farmers' market, roadside market, u-pick market, auction and wholesale prices.

Table 2. FSA high, low and average tree fruit prices for 2010.

Farm Service Agency 2010 Ky. Grower NAP Small Fruit Prices

Crop	Sales Unit	Avg (\$)	High (\$)	Low (\$)	Avg. (\$/lb)	High (\$/lb)	Low (\$/lb)
Blackberry	Qt.	6.24	10.00	3.00	4.16	6.67	2.00
Blueberry	Qt.	7.63	10.00	4.90	4.02	5.26	2.58
Grape, Table	Qt	4.00	7.25	2.00	2.67	4.83	1.33
Raspberry	Qt	7.97	12.00	4.50	5.31	8.00	3.00
Strawberry Matted Row	Qt	3.41	5.00	1.89	2.28	3.33	1.26
Strawberry Plasticulture	Qt	5.70	7.00	5.00	3.80	4.67	3.33

Table 3. Average annual prices received by Kentucky growers for tree fruit for the respective harvest seasons

Year	Apples (\$/lb)	Peach (\$/lb)	Nectarine (\$/lb)	Pear (\$/lb)	Plum (\$/lb)	Cherry, tart (\$/lb)	Pawpaw (\$/lb)
2010	\$0.95	\$1.21	\$0.75	\$1.17	\$1.64	\$2.17	\$2.50
2009	\$0.85	\$1.05	\$1.09	\$1.16	\$1.27	\$1.61	\$2.50
2008	\$0.78	\$1.05	\$0.89	\$1.08	\$1.29	\$3.13	\$2.50
2007	\$0.80	\$1.36		\$1.40			
2006	\$0.65	\$0.89		\$1.39			
2005	\$0.57	\$0.86		\$1.29			
2004	\$0.54	\$0.86		\$1.17			
2003	\$0.50	\$0.75					
2002	\$0.50	\$0.75					
2001	\$0.48	\$0.70					

Table 4. Average annual prices received by Kentucky growers for small fruit for the respective harvest seasons

Year	Blueberry (\$/lb)	Blackberry (\$/lb)	Grape, table (\$/lb)	Raspberry (\$/lb)	Strawberry, matted row (\$/lb)	Strawberry, plasticulture (\$/lb)
2010	\$4.02	\$4.16	\$2.67	\$5.31	\$2.28	\$3.80
2009	\$4.23	\$4.17	---	\$5.57	\$2.44	\$2.76
2008	\$3.66	\$3.87	\$1.84	\$6.13	\$2.74	\$2.55
2007	\$3.79	\$3.25		\$5.54	\$2.55	
2006	\$2.43	\$2.68		\$4.75	\$2.32	
2005	\$2.23	\$2.13		\$4.59	\$2.16	
2004	\$2.22	\$2.35		\$4.89	\$2.08	
2003					\$1.87	
2002					\$1.74	
2001					\$1.74	

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.

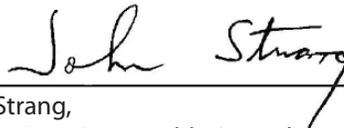
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John G. Strang,
Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist