

Kentucky Fruit Facts

January 2004 (1-04)

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

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Upcoming Meetings

Jan. 21-22 Ohio Fruit and Vegetable Growers Congress, Direct Marketing Conference and Christmas Tree Association Winter Meeting. Toledo SeaGate Centre and Toledo Radison Hotel, Toledo OH. Contact the Ohio Fruit and Vegetable Growers office at 614/246-8292 or growohio@ofbf.org
<mailto:baly@uiuc.edu>

Jan. 22 Illinois Specialty Crops Conference, Organic Production Workshop. Springfield Crown Plaza, Springfield, IL. 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Registration is \$30. Contact Elizabeth Wahle (wahle@uiuc.edu, 618/692-9434 for additional information and Diane Handley (handley@ilfb.org, 309/557-2107) for registration materials.

Jan. 22 Vegetable Production Meeting, Fairview Auction House, Fairview, KY (Christian county). Contact Harold Eli 270/886-6328.

Jan. 26 Beginners Apple Growing Workshop. Adam's Mark Hotel and Conference Center, Indianapolis, IN. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. This is held in conjunction with the Indiana Horticulture Congress. Contact Peter Hirst 765/494-1323 or e-mail hirst@hort.purdue.edu

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Jan. 26-28 Indiana Horticultural Congress, Adam's Mark Hotel, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN. Includes a Winery Start-up Workshop, Beginners Grape Growing, Indiana Wine Grape Symposium, Fruit Program, Specialty Crops/Organics sessions and many more. The complete program may be found at: <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/hort/ext/hortcongress>
Contact Peter Hirst 765/494-1323 or e-mail hirst@hort.purdue.edu

Jan. 29 Introduction to Commercial Vegetable Production, Bath County Extension Office, Owingsville, KY. 7:00 p.m. Contact Gary Hamilton 606/674-6121.

Feb. 2-8 North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Assoc. (NAFDMA) Conference and Trade Show, Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel, Sacramento, CA. For additional information, contact Marcia Touchette, NAFDMA, 413/529-2471, e-mail marcia@whiteloafridge.com or check their web site at www.nafdma.com

Feb. 4 Southwest Illinois Tree Fruit School, Hardin, IL (location to be announced) Contact Elizabeth Wahle (wahle@uiuc.edu, 618/692-9434.

Feb. 3 Grafting and Budding Workshop. Boone County Extension office. 6:30 p.m. Contact Mike Klahr 859/586-6101.

Feb. 7-9. Midwest Regional Grape and Wine Conference 2004. Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MD. Conference fee \$100/person; pre-conference seminar A - \$25, Seminar B - \$25; late registrations (after Jan. 23, 2004) is additional \$100. Contact Denise Kottwitz; 800/392-WINE for program information.

Feb. 24 Production for Farmers Markets, Estill County Extension office. Contact Eric Baker 606/723-4557.

Feb. 26 Fruit Tree Pruning and Grafting Workshop. Laurel County. Contact Glenn Williams 606/864-4167.

Feb. 27 Northern Piedmont Specialty Crops School, Person County Office Building Person County Cooperative Extension Center, 304 S. Morgan St., Roxboro, NC. 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Cost for one-day school is \$25. Preregistration is required to guarantee you a seat and a meal (included in registration fee.) The program will cover, What it takes to Become a Successful Grower and Direct Marketer, Roadside Marketing, and Community Supported Agriculture. Speakers are John Sedlock and family that raise and market 10 acres of asparagus in IL, John Whitmore, a specialty crop grower in Leesburg, VA, William Brinkley, a vegetable grower in Creedmoor, NC, and Theresa Nartea, program director for the NC Center for Environmental Farming Systems. Contact Carl Cantaluppi phone: 919/603-1350 or e-mail: carl_cantaluppi@ncsu.edu

Mar 2-3 Small Fruit and Strawberry School, Mt Vernon Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, IL. Contact Elizabeth Wahle (wahle@uiuc.edu, 618/692-9434.

Mar. 6 Kentucky Vineyard Society Grape Pruning Demonstration, Princeton Research and Education Center, Princeton, KY. 1:00 p.m. CST. Contact Joe Masabni 270/365-7541 ext. 247.

Mar. 13 Kentucky Vineyard Society Grape Pruning Demonstration and Grape IPM Program, Talon Winery, Harriet Allen and Charles Tackett owners, Lexington, KY. 1:00 p.m. EST. Contact John Pitcock 502/859-0101 or John Strang 859/257-5685

Mar 19 Purchase Area Blackberry Workshop. McCracken County Extension Office 1:00.p.m. Contact Kathy Keeney 270/554-9520.

Mar 23 Mammoth Cave Area Blackberry Workshop. Sherman Marklin's

farm, 1432 Harris School Rd., Franklin, KY. 1:00.p.m. Contact Joe Masabni 270/365-7541 ext. 247 or Sherman Marklin 270/586-7513.

Mar 26 Pennyrile and Green River Blackberry Workshop. Crittenden County Extension Offices and Yoder's farm, 346 Rooster Lane, Marion, KY. 1:00 p.m. Contact Tom Moore 270/965-5236.

Apr. 13 Apple IPM Program. Mathis Orchard, Coleman (Walter) Mathis owner, Mayfield, KY. Contact Joe Masabni 270/365-7541 ext. 247 or Coleman Mathis 270/247-5466.

Apr. 24 Kentucky Nut Growers' Association Spring Meeting. Elizabethtown Extension Office, Elizabethtown, KY. Contact Hugh Ligon 270/827-9044.

Apr. 28 Ag Expo, Henderson, KY. Contact Mike Keen 270/826-8387.

Jun. 8 Apple IPM Program, Jackson's Orchard, Bill Jackson owner, Bowling Green, KY. Contact John Strang 859/257-5685 or Bill Jackson 270/781-5303.

Jun. 19 Kentucky Vineyard Society Summer Meeting and Grape IPM Program. Site to be announced. Contact Len Olson 502/540-5650.

Oct. 15-16 Kentucky Vineyard Society Fall Meeting and Amateur Wine Competition, Buffalo Trace Distillery, Frankfort, KY. Contact Len Olson 502/540-5650.

Fruit and Vegetable Insect and Disease Picture Sheets Now Available

Ric Bessin has added Fruit and Vegetable Insect and Disease picture sheets to the Entomology Department Web site. These include pests of apples, grapes, cole crops, sweet corn, peppers, pumpkins, and tomatoes. They can be found at: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/IPM/picturesheets/picturesheets.htm>

Division of Pesticide Regulation License Renewal and Pesticide Certification

Pesticide license renewal forms were mailed in mid- November. Current commercial and non-commercial pesticide licenses expired

December 31, 2003. All that is required to maintain a valid license is to return the license renewal form (and applicable fees).

Check the business address on your license because that is where the renewal form will be sent. If you have moved or your address has changed, inform the Division of Pesticide Regulation office right away - (502) 564-7274 or email Wendy.cleveland@kyagr.com

Failure to renew the license will require taking the test again, even if your certification is still valid. The expiration date of your certification is on your white card.

Changes in Kentucky pesticide laws and regulations shifted continuing education to a credit hour system. Commercial and non-commercial applicators must accumulate 12 hours of training (9 general + 3 category specific) to maintain certification. A continuously updated list of approved training meetings, along with locations, numbers of hours, and contact information is posted at - www.kyagr.com/enviro_out/pesticide/programs/testing/CEUlistAG.htm
Visit the site regularly to see what has been added.

Pesticide Applicator Training Categories 1, 4, 10, 12

Jan. 16 -- Graves County Extension office
270/247-2334

Feb. 27 -- Fayette Co. Extension office,
859/257-5582

New Label Changes for Sinbar on Strawberry

by Joe Masabni

Recently, DuPont Company amended the Sinbar label by releasing a special 2EE label for use on newly-transplanted and established strawberries.

In this article, I will detail the new changes made to the Sinbar label. Any information copied from the label will be highlighted in bold. In some instances, I made additional comments that you can find in regular font.

I would like to remind all pesticide applicators that the label is Federal law and should be followed to the letter.

Use Precautions and Restrictions:

· **Do not apply within 110 days of harvest.** In Kentucky, winter applications of Sinbar should be carefully timed to meet the minimum 110 days requirement (around Feb. 1st).

· **Do not apply more than 8 ounces per acre per season.**

· **Do not apply to soils with less than 0.5% organic matter.**

** If you have a sandy or sandy loam soil with <1% organic matter (still >0.5%), then 3 oz/acre is the maximum you can use in a single application, with 6 oz/acre maximum per season.

** If you have a sandy or sandy loam soil with 1-2% organic matter, or a medium or fine soil with <2% organic matter, then the maximum rate allowed per application is 4 oz/acre, and the maximum rate allowed per season is 8 oz/acre.

· **Avoid spray overlap, as crop injury may result.** If spraying broadcast over the entire field, make sure that no one row is sprayed twice as the application rate is doubled and risk of injury is increased.

· **A Sinbar treatment may reduce runner production or plant stand. Strawberry varieties vary in their sensitivity to Sinbar.** Before you use Sinbar in your field sprays, test it on a small area to make sure your strawberry varieties are tolerant. Personal experience with Sinbar has shown me that most varieties are tolerant to Sinbar application.

· **A reduction in residual weed control may occur under adverse environmental conditions such as heavy rainfall or when low rates are used on soil high in organic matter.**

Planting Year:

· **Apply 2-3 oz/acre after transplanting but before new runner plants start to root. If plants are allowed to develop new foliage prior to Sinbar application, the application must be immediately followed by 0.5-1" of irrigation (overhead) or rainfall to wash the Sinbar off the foliage.**

· **Apply 2-6 oz/acre starting in late summer or early fall for control of winter annual weeds. If plants are not dormant at**

time of application, the application must be immediately followed by 0.5-1" of irrigation (overhead) or rainfall to wash the Sinbar off the foliage.

· To extend weed control through harvest of the following year, apply 2-4 oz/acre prior to mulching in the late fall.

Make sure the total amount of Sinbar for the above 2-3 applications does not exceed 8 oz/acre/season.

Harvest Year:

· After post-harvest renovation, before new growth begins in midsummer, apply 4-8 oz/acre. Growers should mow the strawberry rows before renovation to reduce plant Sinbar uptake. With most if not all the leaves mowed off, the risk of injury with over-the-top broadcast Sinbar application is minimized.

· To extend weed control through harvest of the following year, apply 4-8 oz/acre prior to mulching in late fall.

Additional Label information:

· Sinbar controls susceptible weeds for an extended period of time, the degree of control and duration of effect will vary with the amount of chemical applied, soil texture, rainfall, and other conditions. Soils high in clay or organic matter require higher dosages than soils low in clay or organic matter. Moisture is required to active the chemical; best results occur if rainfall (or sprinkler irrigation) occurs within 2 weeks after application.

· Best results are obtained if application is made shortly before or after weed growth begins. If dense growth is present, remove tops and spray the ground. Sinbar may not provide adequate control of established perennial grasses such as orchardgrass, bromes, fescues, and timothy.

· Unless otherwise directed, do not replant treated areas to any crop within 2 years after last application as injury to subsequent crops may result.

The following crops are labeled for use with Sinbar: alfalfa, apple, asparagus, peach, blueberry, mint and caneberries. Still, Sinbar has

such a long residual activity that a 1 year period is recommended after the last Sinbar application and before replanting of any of these crops.

Currently, most vegetable crops are very sensitive to Sinbar injury if replanted within 2 years of the last application. Only sweet corn is tolerant enough that it can be planted the season after a strawberry planting has been removed.

Sinbar has excellent control of the following weeds: barley, barnyardgrass, annual bluegrass, downy brome, common chickweed, cinquefoil, clover, crabgrass, crowfootgrass, dandelion, dogfennel, fiddleneck, fireweed, flixweed, foxtail, galinsoga, geranium, henbit, horseweed, jimsonweed, johnsongrass (seedling), knotweed, prostrate knotweed, common lambsquarters, prickly lettuce, hill mustard, nightshade (no postemergence activity), fall panicum, orchardgrass, peppergrass, pigweed, buckhorn plantain, common purslane, Florida pusley, common ragweed, yellow rocket, annual ryegrass, sandbur, annual sedge, shepherds-purse, signalgrass, smartweed, tansy, mustard, and Russian thistle.

Sinbar has moderate control of common groundsel, horsenettle, yellow nutsedge, and quackgrass.

Sinbar has poor activity on Johnsongrass and Canada thistle.

Pristine, A New Fungicide for Fruit Crops Disease Control

by John Hartman

Kentucky fruit growers are often faced with fighting serious diseases of fruit crops. This is especially true during wet growing seasons such as this year where Kentucky experienced the 2nd wettest April-September since weather data have been recorded. Although for the most part several fungicides are available for use against most fruit crop diseases, availability of additional effective fungicide tools are welcome to most fruit growers.

Pristine fungicide, manufactured by the BASF Company, was recently registered for use on many fruit crops. Pristine 38WG is a combination of two fungicides, pyraclostrobin

and boscalid. Pyraclostrobin is the active ingredient in the fungicide Cabrio and is similar in chemistry to other strobilurin fungicides registered for fruit disease control such as Abound, Sovran, and Flint. These fungicides are all reduced risk fungicides made from chemicals derived from a mushroom that grows on pine cones. Boscalid, an anilide fungicide, is the active ingredient in the fungicide Endura, an excellent powdery mildew control chemical. This combination of fungicidal compounds not only interferes with fungal cell respiration and production of energy, but it also deprives the fungal cell of its energy source and eliminates the availability of chemical building blocks for synthesis of essential cellular components. This pre-packaged mix of fungicides gives the fungicide Pristine broad-spectrum activity against many fruit diseases.

Pristine is registered for control of diseases important to Kentucky in the following crops:

—Grapes - Powdery mildew (*Uncinula*), cane and leaf spot (*Phomopsis*), anthracnose (*Elsinoe*), downy mildew (*Plasmopara*), black rot (*Guignardia*), bunch rot (*Botrytis* suppression only), and ripe rot (*Colletotrichum*). There is a pre-harvest waiting period of 14 days for grapes, and the product should be used no more than 5 times in one season. **(This product should not be used on certain grape varieties including Concord, Fredonia, Warden, and grapes related to these types.)**

—Blackberries and raspberries - Anthracnose (*Elsinoe*), spur blight (*Didymella*, *Phoma*), leaf spots (*Septoria*), rust (*Arthuriomyces*, *Phragmidium*), powdery mildew (*Sphaerotheca*), and gray mold (*Botrytis*). There is a 0-day preharvest interval and the product should be used no more than 4 times per season.

—Blueberries - Anthracnose fruit rot (*Colletotrichum*), twig blight and canker (*Phomopsis*), rust (*Pucciniastrum*), mummy berry (*Monilinia*), powdery mildew (*Microsphaera*), gray mold (*Botrytis*). The pre-harvest waiting interval is 0 days and seasonal applications should be limited to 4.

—Strawberries - Anthracnose (*Colletotrichum*), gray mold (*Botrytis*), powdery mildew (*Sphaerotheca*), leaf spot (*Mycosphaerella*). For strawberries, the

preharvest interval is 0 days. The fungicide should be used no more than 5 times during the growing season.

—Stone fruits - Pristine is cleared for use on all stone fruits and is labeled for control of brown rot blossom blight and fruit rot (*Monilinia*), cherry leaf spot (*Blumeriella*), peach scab (*Cladosporium*), powdery mildew (*Sphaerotheca*), and shot hole leaf spot (*Wilsonomyces*). The preharvest interval for plums, cherries, and peaches is 0 days and the fungicide should not be used more than 5 times per season.

—Nut trees such as pecans and walnuts. Pecan scab (*Cladosporium*), various foliar fungal diseases including anthracnose and shot hole leaf spot; shoot blight, fruit rot, and rust are also listed. The preharvest interval is 14 days and maximum seasonal fungicide use is 4.

Fungicide resistance management will still be important for Pristine fungicide. For most crops, no more than 2 consecutive applications are suggested before changing to a fungicide with a different mode of action. Fungicides having similar modes of action to pyraclostrobin such as Abound, Flint and Sovran would not be appropriate in the fungicide rotation. Pristine and other new fungicides will be listed in the 2004 Commercial Tree Fruit Spray Guide and the 2004 Commercial Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide, available at Kentucky County Extension Offices early next year.

The Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D

Press Release - September 25, 2003

TWO MORE INDEPENDENT STUDIES CONFIRM 2,4-D NOT A CANCER RISK
OTTAWA - Two studies recently published in peer-reviewed journals by researchers of the U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI) reinforce the existing body of scientific evidence that the herbicide 2,4-D does not present a cancer risk to farmers and other pesticide applicators. The first study is a re-analysis of data from three earlier studies conducted in Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa-Minnesota during the 1980s and 1990s. The NCI researchers determined:

“Whereas an indicated effect of 2,4-D exposure on NHL (non-Hodgkin,s lymphoma) was reported in the NCI’s Nebraska and Kansas studies, this analysis of the pooled data found no association with having ever used 2,4-D.”

NCI researchers also concluded:

”Although epidemiological data on cancer risks from exposure to specific pesticides are scant, it also suggests that while some pesticides may present a cancer risk, many, maybe even most, pesticides do not.” The article by A.J. De Roos was published in the Journal of Occupational Environmental Medicine. The second report concerns NCI’s Agricultural Health Study of 55,332 male pesticide applicators. The researchers determined that the cancer incidence among farmers and applicators was significantly lower than the cancer incidence in the general population. Furthermore, the researchers found that there was no association between the use of 2,4-D and prostate cancer. The article by Michael C.R. Alavanja was published in the American Journal of Epidemiology (Am J Epidemiol 2003;157:800). This latest research by the National Cancer Institute is critically important because it reinforces earlier decisions of the World Health Organization, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the European Commission, stated Donald Page, Executive Director of the Task Force. “The overwhelming body of modern scientific evidence clearly demonstrates that the use of 2,4-D by farmers and other applicators does not present a cancer risk.”

About 2,4-D Since being first registered in Canada in 1946, the herbicide 2,4-D has become the most widely used agricultural herbicide in this country and worldwide. It is used on many crops that are an important element of an individual’s diet such as wheat, barley, rice, soybeans, potatoes, and pome, stone and citrus fruits. It is also a component of herbicides used by lawn care professionals and homeowners to protect turf grass from weeds. Since 1986, more than a dozen government and expert panels, including the Canadian Centre for Toxicology review conducted for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, World Health Organization, European Commission, Harvard University School of Public Health, University of Michigan School of Public Health,

have concluded that 2,4-D does not pose an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment when used according to label instructions.

Diseases Affect Blueberry Production in Kentucky

by John Hartman

Kentucky blueberry growers sometimes experience plant and crop losses due to diseases. Most losses are due to root rot or to stem and twig canker diseases. With good crop management, most blueberry diseases can be avoided. The following are diseases found on Kentucky blueberries.

Twig blights, stem cankers, stem blights. These diseases are caused by several fungi including *Phomopsis vaccinii*, *Fusicoccum putrefaciens*, *Botryosphaeria corticis*, and *B. dothidia*. These fungi produce canker symptoms which cause dieback of twigs, branches or entire stems. The most visible symptoms of canker diseases are dead twigs and branches on the plant, often adjacent to healthy branches. Dead branches may have brown or reddish- brown leaves clinging to them. Sometimes symptoms begin on smaller twigs and then spread into larger branches and the crown. Some lesions appearing on infected stems may be a red-maroon-brown color and be centered around a leaf scar, with a bulls-eye pattern. Other lesions may appear as a broad brown or tan discoloration of the woody tissue, often on one side of the stem. Extensive stem infections quickly lead to flagging and dieback of the entire stem.

—Phytophthora Root Rot. Root rot, caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi* or other species of Phytophthora, is usually associated with poorly drained areas of a field where the fungus thrives and survives for long periods of time. The very fine absorbing roots turn brown to black; larger diameter roots may also be discolored. In severely infected bushes, the entire root system is reduced and totally black. Above-ground symptoms include chlorosis and reddening of the leaves, small leaves, defoliation, branch dieback, death of entire stems, stunting, and

death of the entire bush. The disease may be present in a few infected plants scattered throughout the planting or localized in a group of plants in a low-lying area of the field. The disease is most severe where plants are growing in heavy clay soils.

—Mummy Berry. This sometimes-devastating disease is caused by the fungus *Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*. The fungus overwinters in mummified fruit on the ground. Spores of the fungus infect young tissue and cause rapid wilting, also called leaf and twig blight, or bud and twig blight which is difficult to distinguish from frost injury. The fungus also infects the developing fruit causing it to become malformed, resembling a pumpkin, and turning salmon or grey by midsummer. By fall, these fruit drop to the ground where they turn to mummies, ready to produce spores the next spring.

—Botrytis Blight/Gray Mold. The fungus *Botrytis cinerea* causes ripening fruit to rot with a typically gray, moldy cast. The fungus also causes a stem canker which is similar to that caused by other fungi. Cultivars with tight fruit clusters are more prone to gray mold.

—Anthracnose. Caused by the fungus *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*, anthracnose primarily rots fruit, but also infects twigs and spurs. The disease causes a soft, sunken berry rot, usually on the calyx end, which ruins fruit quality. The fungus may produce a salmon or rust-colored mass of spores on the rotted berry. Anthracnose can also cause a post-harvest fruit decay and is favored by warm, wet weather.

—Iron Chlorosis. This abiotic disease appears as chlorotic (yellow) and stunted plants. The major cause of chlorosis is planting on a site with pH levels above 5.5. The best soils for blueberries are well-drained sandy silt loam or silt loam, with a pH of 4.5 to 5.2, organic matter of 4 to 7% and adequate phosphorus and potassium. Blueberries with iron deficiency will be growing under stress and be more susceptible to many of the canker diseases.

Blueberry disease management

—To avoid Phytophthora root rot disease, choose a site that is well-drained or install tiles or raised beds to improve drainage.

—Choose a site that receives full sun with no shade.

—Determine in advance if soil buffering capacity will allow soil pH adjustments. Begin soil pH adjustments a year or two before planting.

—Select disease-resistant cultivars where they are available.

—Purchase only healthy, disease-free, virus-indexed plants from a reputable nursery.

—Sanitation is essential; remove and destroy canker-infected canes and branches.

—A dormant application of lime sulfur may be helpful in canker disease management.

—If mummy berry disease is a problem: before bud break, rake up and burn mummies or cultivate between rows or apply at least 2 inches of mulch to bury them.

—To reduce fruit rot disease, use pruning practices such as removing old canes and twiggy wood to promote improved ventilation and sunlight penetration.

—Avoid unnecessary wounding; remove old and weak stems; remove badly diseased plants.

—Avoid use of excess nitrogen fertilization; do not fertilize in late summer.

—Control weeds to improve drying of the fruit and foliage.

—Water plants during dry periods to reduce stress.

In some circumstances, canker diseases have devastated Kentucky blueberry plantings. In most of these instances, plants were growing under stressful conditions such as drought or high pH soils. For most Kentucky locations, blueberry diseases are not a serious problem as long as the site is well-drained, the soil pH is near 5.0, the soil has adequate organic matter, good sanitation pruning practices are used, and the plants are watered regularly during dry periods. With good growing conditions and following good cultural control practices, use of fungicides can be minimized.

Disease management advice can be found in U.K. Cooperative Extension Publication ID-94, Midwest Commercial Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide 2004 and the Midwest Small Fruit Pest Management Handbook available at Kentucky County Extension Offices.

Receiving The Fruit Facts Newsletter Electronically on the Internet

Fruit Facts is available electronically 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 University of Kentucky Listserve.

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John G. Strang,
Extension Fruit & Vegetable Specialist

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