



Kentucky Fruit Facts

Research & Education Center

P.O. Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445

January/February 2002 (1-02)

John Strang, Editor, Marilyn Hooks and Karen Shahan, Staff Assistants

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

Fruit Crop Status and News

We had an unusually warm fall. In Lexington the crocus and star magnolias bloomed in December. These are plants that have a very short chilling requirement (requirement for a certain number of hours below 45° F before they will begin growth) and once this was satisfied they bloomed as a result of the warm temperatures. Most of our temperate zone fruit crops have long chilling requirements which were not satisfied in December. However, grapes, blackberries and raspberries begin dehardening after accumulating relatively few hours of chilling. Grapes have an unusual chilling requirement in that they can begin growth after a short period of chilling, however bud break is not as concentrated or as uniform as if they have a long chilling requirement. Blackberries and raspberries are occasionally injured in Kentucky by low temperature drops, because they have dehardened due to warm temperatures in mid-winter.

Fortunately our fruit crops hardened off much better this fall than they did last fall. Last year many of our apples and peaches retained their leaves late into the winter, because an early fall freeze killed the leaves before an abscission layer had formed to allow leaf drop. January 2002 temperatures have been relatively mild. Our initial concern about grape, blackberry and raspberry

dehardening did not become a problem until the latter part of January when we experienced temperatures of 60° & 70° F. At this point the ornamental Bradford pear buds have swollen considerably here in Lexington, but we have not found any injury in any of our fruit crops.

Keep an eye on orchard vole activity as populations can increase very rapidly. Make sure that vegetation is mowed close in and around the orchard to eliminate vole habitat. Ditch banks and fencerows near orchards should be cleaned up to prevent vole populations from increasing in these areas and moving into the orchard. Watch for recently used burrows and runways and use zinc phosphide if needed. This material is a restricted use material and the only pesticide cleared for vole control in Kentucky.

Plum growers can use this time to clean wild plum and cherry trees from fencerows. These trees harbor the black knot inoculum that infects plum trees. When pruning begins on plums, old black knot infections should be pruned out of the trees 6 to 8 inches below the knots.

Beginning in fiscal year 2002, one hundred million dollars will be used to purchase specialty crops for federal nutrition programs. At least 50 million dollars per year must be spent for fresh fruit and vegetable purchases. The funding is to be

increased to \$170 million by fiscal year 2006.

According to the Washington Apple Commission apples currently make up 7% of produce sales and 1% of total supermarket sales. There are now 50% more items in the produce department than there were 5 years ago.

John Schlei recently turned over the President's role in the KSHS to Walter (Coleman) Mathis of Mathis Orchard in Mayfield at our Annual Fruit and Vegetable Conference and Trade Show in Lexington. Coleman will hold the position for a three year period.

If you have been wondering what happened to the Kentucky Vineyard Society web site for the last several months, you are not alone. Ann Karsner, said that the company that put up the web site was sold and our web site disappeared. Consider it to be under construction for the time being.

Stark Bro's Wholesale Co. is back. It is now run under the independent ownership of Cameron Brown and Tim Abair. Contact Anna Flory, Wholesale Sales Manager at 800-435-8733 or Paul Wooley at 1-888-485-3220.

Tommy Bennett of Tommy Bennett's Orchard in Buffalo, KY passed away on December 14. He had been quite ill for about six months. Tommy grew apples and peaches for many years. Jerry Metcalf, Metcalf Orchards in Grays Knob, KY passed away during the second week of January. Jerry grew apples for many years in Harlan county. Both growers will be missed.

Upcoming Meetings

Feb. 12-13 - Third Annual Michigan Wine Industry Meeting, Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, MI. Contact Linda Jones 517/373-9789, website: www.michiganwines.com

Feb. 15 - Northern Piedmont Specialty Crops School, Southern Livestock Center, Oxford, NC. Contact Carl Cantaluppi 919/603-1350.

Feb. 16-20 - 45th International Dwarf Fruit Tree Association Annual Conference and Tours, Grand Hotel, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada. For complete program and conference information visit the IDFTA website at <http://www.idfta.org/>

Feb. 21 - Fruit Pruning Demonstration, 1:00 - 3:30 PM and Apple Grafting Demonstration 6:00 PM, Clay and Laurel Counties. Contact Jeff Casada 606/598-2789 or Glenn Williams 606/864-4167.

Feb. 21 - Southwest Ohio Fruit & Vegetable School, Valley Vineyards, Morrow, OH. Contact Vicki Butler or Gary Gao 513/732-7070.

Feb. 28 - Fruit Grafting Workshop, Kentucky Utilities Bldg., 2201 Cumberland Ave., Middlesboro. 6:00 PM. Contact Stacy White 606/337-2376 or Jeremy Williams 606/573-4464.

Feb 29 - Fruit Pruning Demonstration, Robert Sizemore Farm at Stony Fork, Pineville, Contact Stacy White 606/337-2376 or Jeremy Williams 606/573-4464.

Feb 29 - Grape Production Meeting, Pikeville. Contact Brian Combs 606/432-2534.

Mar. 5-6 - Illinois Small Fruit and Strawberry Schools, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon. IL. Contact Mosbah Kushad 217/244-5691 or Bronwyn Aly 618/695-2444.

Mar. 7 - Blueberry Farm Tour in Edmonson, KY; Contact: Ted Johnson, Wolfe County Ag. Agent 606/668-3712.

Mar. 11 - Fruit Grafting Demonstration, Nicholasville, KY 6:30 PM. Contact Robert Amburgey 859/885-4811.

Mar. 14 - Pruning and Grafting Workshops; 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM in Whitesburg (Letcher Co.). Contact: Shad Baker (606/633-2362).

Mar. 16 - Kentucky Vineyard Society Grape Pruning Demonstration, Bob and Ann Karsner's Horseshoe Bend Vineyard, 1187 Lawson Lane, Willisburg, KY (Washington County); 10:00 AM to Noon. Preregister for \$10.00 BBQ lunch by March 10 by calling Ann Karsner 859/375-0296. Additional contacts: John Pitcock at 502/227-4630 or Rick Greenwell, Washington Co. Agent, at 859/336-7445. **Directions:** From the Bluegrass Parkway, take Exit 42 for 555 to Willisburg and Springfield. Turn South for Willisburg and Springfield. Take the first left after the E-Z Stop, Chaplin Road Route 1754. About 4.1 miles on Chaplin Road (roughly 200 yards past Mile Post 1 on the left), take a left onto Lawson Lane. This is a paved but very narrow road with blind curves. Drive to the end of the pavement. Turn left. Drive 4 tenths of a mile to the sign for Horseshoe Bend Vineyards on the right. Just a tad further is the driveway entrance on the right.

Mar. 18 - Blackberry Production Meeting, McCracken County Extension Office, Paducah KY; evening. Contact: Kathy Keeney at 270/554-9520.

Mar. 19 - Blackberry Production Meeting - Fairview Produce Auction, Fairview KY (Christian County) 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Contact: Jay Stone at 270/886-6328.

Mar. 23 - Kentucky Vineyard Society Grape Pruning Demonstration; Research and Education Ctr., Princeton KY 10:00 AM to Noon. We will meet at the Research & Education Center and then proceed to the vineyard as a group. Contact: John Pitcock 502/227-4630 or Dwight Wolfe 270/365-7541, ext 219.

Apr. 9 - Apple IPM Meeting,

Haney's Appledale Orchard, Don and Mark Haney owners, Pulaski County, Nancy, KY. Contact Beth Wilson 606/679-6361 or John Strang 859/257-5685.

Apr. 13 - Growing Vinifera

Grapes/Grape IPM Meeting, Broad Run Vineyards, Marilyn and Gerald Kushner owners, 1026 Broad Run Rd., Louisville, KY. 1:00- 4:00 PM. Contact Donna Michael 502/425-4482

Jun. 4 - Apple IPM Meeting,

Joseph Beachy's Orchard, Casey County, Liberty, KY Contact Tommy Yankey 606/787-7384 or John Strang 859/257-5685.

Jun. 15 - Kentucky Vineyard Society Summer Meeting & Grape IPM Meeting,

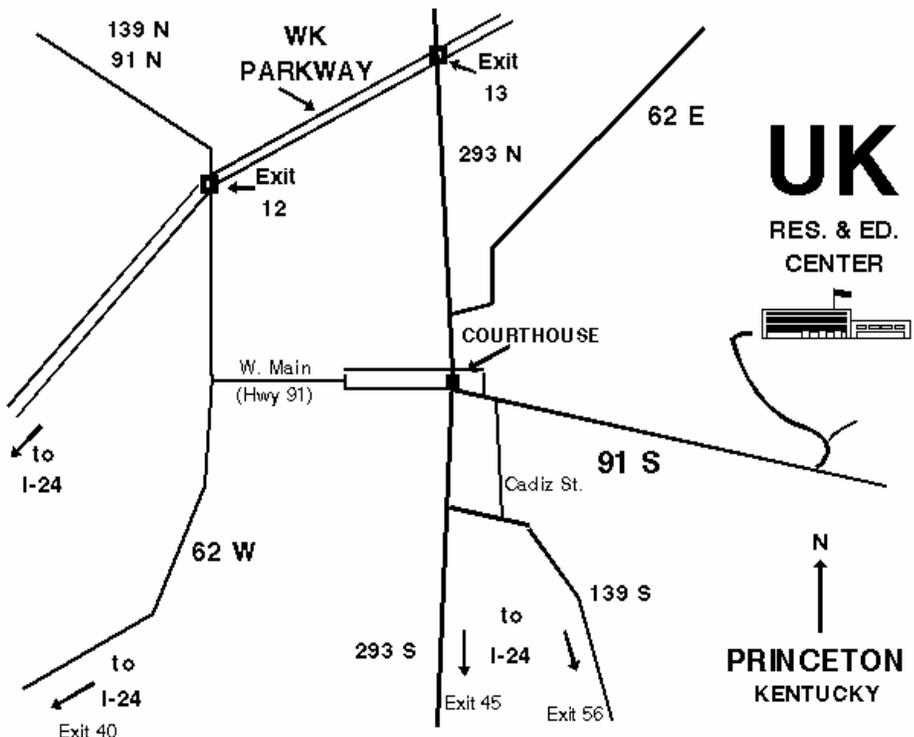
Lover's Leap Vineyards and Winery, Ann and Jerry Holder owners, 129 Lovers Leap, Lawrenceburg, KY. Contact John Pitcock 502/227-4630.

Jul. 10-12 - 27th Conference of

The American Society for Enology & Viticulture - Eastern Section meeting, Sheraton Baltimore North, 903 Dulaney Valley Rd., Towson, MD, Baltimore, MD. For the program see the website: <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/fst/asev/>

Jan. 6-7, 2003 Kentucky Annual Fruit and Vegetable Grower Conference and Trade Show,

Holiday Inn North, Lexington, KY. Contact John Strang 859/257-5685



EPA Releases Report on Minor Use Pesticides and New Web Page

From: Facts for Fancy Fruits, IN and EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides>

The Environmental Protection Agency has released a Report on The Minor Uses of Pesticides, mandated by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) of 1996. The report describes actions taken by EPA to increase communication with minor use stakeholders and to expedite registrations for minor use pesticides. For example, EPA has designated a minor crop advisor and a public health coordinator to increase

responsiveness to minor use concerns. The report also describes the coordinated approach between EPA, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for dealing with minor use issues during FQPA implementation. EPA in partnership with USDA's Interregional Research Project 4 (IR-4) has aggressively sought to increase pesticide registrations for minor uses, reregistering 814 new uses in 1999 and 901 in 2000. Over 80% of the new use registrations have been for reduced-risk pesticides. Minor use priorities for re-registration and tolerance reassessment have been guided by recommendations from the EPA/USDA Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC) and the Committee to Advise on Reassessment and Transition (CARAT), both established to provide EPA and USDA advice on strategic approaches for pest management planning and tolerance reassessment while implementing FQPA. EPA has also created a new minor use web page, <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/minoruse/> which provides links to the report and related information on the Agency's minor use activities and partnerships with other agencies. Copies of the Report on Minor Use Pesticides may be obtained on the new minor use web site or by calling (800)490-9198. Minor uses of pesticides are those for which the total US production for a crop is fewer than 300,000 acres, or

those uses that do not provide sufficient economic incentive for a registrant to support initial or continuing pesticide registrations. Minor uses of pesticides occur on fruits and vegetables and for control of disease vectors, such as mosquitos, ticks, cockroaches, rodents and disease-causing organisms.

Best Apple Varieties for Pies and Sauce - Unofficial Survey

John Strang, Horticulturist

Back in October a lively discussion concerning the best apple varieties for pies and sauce took place on the apple-crop list serve. The following are the discriminating conclusions of commercial growers and extension specialists. Some people like pies in which the apples hold their shape after cooking and maintain a firm crunchy texture, while others prefer apples that break down completely for both pies and sauce. Keep in mind the quality of apples can differ between northern and southern growing areas and some northern varieties do not have the same high quality when grown in Kentucky. The location of each recommendation is noted where it was given. I suggest that you try some of these and form your own conclusions.

Best for sauce

- ▶ McIntosh - smooth as baby food and the flavor with a hint of cinnamon can't be beat (IL, VA)
- ▶ McIntosh + Golden Delicious (IL)
- ▶ Cortland - heavy annual bearer, good size, keeps well, excellent taste and cheaper than Honeycrisp (MI, New Brunswick, Canada)
- ▶ Golden Delicious (IL)
- ▶ Golden Glory
- ▶ Golden Supreme
- ▶ Jonagold
- ▶ Mix at least 3 varieties: Empire, Golden Delicious, McIntosh, Mutsu, Idared etc. Duchess or Oldenburg (ME)
- ▶ Carroll (ME)
- ▶ Geneva Crab - beautiful cherry red sauce with a sharp bite (ME)
- ▶

Best for Pies

- ▶ Lodi (KY)
- ▶ Golden Delicious (KY)
- ▶ Pristine (IN, KY)

- ▶ Golden Glory
- ▶ Prima (IL)
- ▶ Smoothee
- ▶ Jonagold (IL)
- ▶ Stayman Winesap (IL, VA)
- ▶ Jonathan (IL)
- ▶ Spitzenburg (WA)
- ▶ Johathan + McIntosh (WA)
- ▶ Elstar (Europe)
- ▶ Honeycrisp - It maintains its texture and produces a juicy mellow flavored apple pie. Less sugar needs to be added than with many other varieties (WA)

Best for Pies and Sauce

- ▶ Northern Spy and Cortland - firm crunchy texture (New Brunswick, Canada)
- ▶ Sandow - Has a zesty, fruit punch flavor, a good blend of sweetness and tartness, a delicate juicy texture, without the need of adding other varieties or much if any seasoning. Cut pieces do not turn brown, so the cooked color is not as dark. (New Brunswick, Canada)

Update On Benomyl Cancellation and Proposed Tolerance Revocations

From Federal Register

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPAFR-CONTENTS/2002/January/Day-15/contents.htm>

On January 15, 2002, the EPA published two Federal Register notices on benomyl (Benlate). The first notice is the final cancellation order for benomyl which is effective January 15, 2002. Existing stocks may be sold by persons other than the registrants until December 31, 2002. In the second notice the EPA proposed to revoke all tolerances (pesticide residues allowed to remain in food) for residues of the fungicide benomyl, because this pesticide is no longer registered for use in the U.S. The EPA must receive any comments on this proposal by March 18, 2002, identified by docket number OPP-301201. If the EPA receives comments expressing interest in retaining any of these tolerances, EPA will not immediately revoke the tolerance but will provide an opportunity for parties to commit to submitting data to support the tolerance.

Kentucky Farm Bureau's Certified Roadside Farm Market Program

*J. K. Henshaw, Director of Commodity Relations,
Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation*

Bringing more customers to your market is the purpose of the Kentucky Farm Bureau's Certified Roadside Farm Market Program. By collectively advertising we can help you reach more customers for your market for a fraction of the cost of advertising individually.

A featured promotion of vineyards and wineries is a natural fit for our promotional programs. Services provided last year included half-page color advertising, internet listings at <http://www.kyfb.com>, 40,000 roadside brochures and individualized press releases. We plan to offer similar programs again this season.

This year we are looking for more opportunities to work with each member market, targeting local media outlets for promotion and agri-tourism development. All of these services are available to members of the Certified Roadside Farm Market Program at the cost of \$250 per market per year.

If you have an interest in expanding your customer base and increasing sales contact J. K. Henshaw at 502/495-5106.

Use Cultural Practices to Manage Strawberry Diseases

John Hartman, Extension Plant Pathologist

Kentucky strawberry growers want to minimize losses to diseases. When growing strawberries, there are many cultural practices that help to reduce disease development and spread. Growers should be carefully consider and implement the following practices in their strawberry disease management program. This information can be found in the Midwest Small Fruit Pest Management Handbook, Bulletin 861, available at Kentucky County Extension Offices.

Use disease-free planting stock. Always start the planting with healthy, virus-indexed plants obtained from a reputable nursery. Remember that disease-free plants are not necessarily disease resistant: cultivar selection determines disease resistance.

Select a well-drained site. Avoid low, poorly-drained wet areas. Good water drainage (both surface and internal drainage) is especially important for control of leather rot and red stele. Both of these

diseases require free water (saturated soil) in order to develop. If there are low areas in the field that have a tendency to remain wet, this is the first place that red stele will develop. Under Kentucky growing conditions, any time there is standing water in the field, plants are subject to leather rot infection. Any site in which water tends to remain standing is, at best, only marginally suited for strawberry production and should be avoided. Any practice, such as tiling, ditching, or planting on ridges or raised beds, that aids in removing excessive water from the root zone will be beneficial to the disease management program.

Consider the previous cropping history. Select a site that does not have a previous history of crops with *Verticillium* wilt or old strawberry land that does not have a history of red stele or black root rot. To minimize the risk of black root rot, it is not advisable to replant strawberries immediately after removing an old strawberry planting. In general, it is also not a good practice (due primarily to *Verticillium*) to plant strawberries immediately after other *Verticillium*-susceptible crops such as tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplant, melons, okra, mint, brambles, chrysanthemums, roses or nursery crops. If possible, select sites that have not been planted to any of these crops for at least 3 to 5 years. There should be no herbicide residual in the soil from previous crops.

Site exposure is important. A site with good air circulation that is fully exposed to direct sunlight should be selected. Avoid shaded areas. Good air movement and sunlight exposure are important to aid in drying fruit and foliage after a rain or irrigation. Any practice that promotes faster drying of fruit or foliage will aid in the control of many different diseases.

Use crop rotation. If the land has no recent (5 years or more) history of strawberry production or *Verticillium* diseases in other crops, soil-borne diseases such as red stele or *Verticillium* wilt should not be a problem.

However, if strawberries are to be replanted in the same field where they grew before, either crop rotation must be used or the field should be fumigated. Fumigation is currently not an option in organic production systems. With rotation, the site should be plowed, worked down and planted to a crop that is not susceptible to *Verticillium* wilt for a minimum of 2 years. Many soil-borne pathogens form specialized survival structures and are capable of surviving for several years in soil, even when strawberries are not present. The longer the site can be rotated away from strawberries prior to replanting, the better.

The combination of crop rotation plus soil fumigation is a sound approach that is used by many conventional growers. However, for organic growers

(that can not use soil fumigation), crop rotation alone often provides acceptable control for most soil borne diseases, if the rotation is sufficiently long. Neither crop rotation nor soil fumigation will reliably provide adequate control of red stele. With red stele, disease resistant varieties and improved soil drainage must be emphasized. Cultivars with resistance to red stele and verticillium wilt should always be used.

Nitrogen fertility affects disease. Soil should be analyzed and nutrient levels adjusted before planting. The use of excess fertilizer, especially nitrogen, should be avoided. Sufficient fertility is essential to produce a crop, but excess nitrogen results in dense foliage that stays wet longer and also results in softer berries that are more susceptible to fruit rots. Avoid the application of nitrogen in the spring prior to harvest on medium to heavy soils. Excessive use of nitrogen has been shown to increase the level of Botrytis fruit rot (gray mold).

Manage weeds. Good weed control is essential to successful strawberry production. Weeds in the planting prevent air circulation and result in fruit and foliage staying wet for longer periods. Gray mold, in particular, is a much more serious problem in plantings with poor weed control versus plantings with good weed control.

Use mulch. Research and grower experience has shown that a good layer of straw mulch is very beneficial for controlling fruit rots, especially leather rot. Bare soil between the rows should be avoided and a good layer of straw mulch is highly recommended. The mulch keeps berries from contacting the soil where the leather rot fungus overwinters. In addition, it also aids in preventing infested soil from splashing onto the berries. Plastic mulch should be avoided because a layer of plastic under the plants and/or between the rows increases splash dispersal of the pathogens that cause anthracnose and leather rot.

Apply good sanitation. Any practice that removes old leaves and other plant debris from the planting is beneficial in reducing the amount of Botrytis fungus and therefore, gray mold. Leaf removal at renovation is highly recommended.

Irrigate knowledgeably. The application of supplemental water should be timed so that the foliage and fruit will dry as rapidly as possible. If diseases, such as gray mold, leather rot, anthracnose or bacterial blight, become established in the planting, overhead irrigation should be minimized or avoided. On the other hand, with no irrigation, water-stressed plants are more subject to black root rot disease. Use water wisely.

People and machinery can spread diseases. Movement of people (pickers) and machinery from a field or area that is infested to a clean or uninfested

field should be avoided. Diseases of primary concern are anthracnose, leather rot and angular leaf spot (bacterial blight). These diseases are usually spread over relatively short distances by splash dispersal (rain or irrigation). Movement from one field to another field through the air (wind blown spores) is generally not a problem with these diseases. However, pickers moving from a field where the disease is present to a non-infested field can transport fungal spores or bacteria very efficiently on shoes, hands, and clothing. If people or machinery are used in fields where these diseases are a problem, they should complete work in non-infested fields before moving to infested fields.

In addition, any machinery that moves soil from one field to another can introduce soil-borne diseases, such as red stele, Verticillium wilt, leather rot, and nematodes, from infested into non-infested fields.

Kentucky strawberry growers that pay attention to cultural practices and to resistant varieties will benefit from increased yields and reduced chemical usage.

Manage Strawberry Diseases With Resistant Varieties

John Hartman, Extension Plant Pathologist

Strawberry diseases can sometimes limit yields and profitability for Kentucky fruit growers. To manage strawberry diseases it is important to use all strategies for disease management including disease-suppressing cultural practices, chemical management, and resistant varieties. For some diseases, especially soil-borne diseases such as red stele and Verticillium wilt, resistant varieties are the most effective means of control. Thus, in any integrated disease management program, the use of strawberry varieties with disease resistance must be emphasized.

Many commercial cultivars have good resistance and/or tolerance to Leaf Spot, Leaf Scorch, Red Stele, Verticillium Wilt and Powdery Mildew. The more disease resistance within the program, the better. The following table lists ratings for disease resistance in several of the more commonly grown cultivars. This table was derived from the Midwest Small Fruit Pest Management Handbook, Bulletin 861, a Cooperative Extension Service publication available at County Extension offices statewide. This type of information is also available from a number of sources. Most nurseries should be able to provide information on disease resistance for the cultivars they sell.

Table 1. Disease resistance of Several Strawberry Cultivars Commonly Grown in the Midwest

Cultivar Junebearing	Red Stele	Verticillium Wilt	Leaf Spot	Leaf Scorch	Powdery Mildew
Allstar ⁵	VR ¹	R	R	R	R
Annapolis ⁵	S	I	S	S	U
Blomidon	U	U	U	U	U
Canoga	I	I	R	R	U
Cardinal	S	S	R	R	R
Catskill	S	VR	S	R	R
Cavendish ⁵	R	I	T-R	T-R	S
Delite	R ²	R	R	T-R	S
Dalmarvel ⁴	R	R	T-R	T-R	T
Earliglow	R ²	T-R	T-R	R	I
Guardian	R ²	T-R	T-R	R	S-I
Honeoye ⁵	S	S	R	R	U
Jewel	S	S	R	R	U
Kent ⁵	U	U	U	U	U
Lateglow ³	R	R	T	T	T
Latestar ³	R	R	T-R	T-R	T
Lester	R	R	R	R	R
Midway	R ²	S-I	S	S	I
Noreaster	R	R	T-R	T-R	T
Primetime	R	R	T	T	T
Raritan	S	S	S	S	I
Redchief	R ²	R	T-R	R	T-R
Scott	R	I-R	S-I	R	R
Seneca	S	S	U	U	U
Sparkle	S-R	S	S	S-I	R
Surecrop	R ²	VR	T-R	T-R	U
Veestar	S	T	T	T	U
Everbearing					
Tribute	VR	T-R	T	T	R
Tristar	R	R	T	T	R

1. **VS**= very susceptible; **S**= susceptible; **I**= intermediate; **T**= tolerant; **R**= resistant; **VR**= very resistant; **U** = unknown.
Resistant characteristics of the cultivar usually preclude the need for other controls.

2. Resistant to several races of the red stele fungus.
3. Susceptible to leaf blight.
4. Delmarvel has resistance to Anthracnose foliage and fruit rot.
5. Highly susceptible to angular leaf spot (bacterial blight).

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, \$300

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- ★ ID-92 Commercial Tree Fruit Spray Guide 2002
- ★ ID-94 Kentucky Commercial Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide 2002 (This is also available on the web at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Horticulture/comfruit.html>)
- ★ PR-452 Fruit and Vegetable Crops Research Report 2001. This research report is also available on the web at: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Horticulture/newcrops/>

These publications have recently been printed and will be available through local county extension offices.

Receiving Fruit Facts Electronically on the Internet

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John Strang, Extension Horticulturist