

# Kentucky Fruit Facts

John Strang, Extension Fruit Specialist, Editor  
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## Fruit Crop News

*John Strang and Shawn Wright, U.K. Extension Horticulturists  
and Matt Dixon, U.K. Ag Meteorologist*

Apple and peach crops are growing rapidly and both spraying and fruit thinning have commanded considerable grower time this spring. Even though it is a lot of work it is good to thin peaches after two difficult years. Fruit set looks to be good on all of our Kentucky fruit crops, although rainy weather during bloom may have affected pollination of some crops in local areas.

Fire blight has been serious this year on apples since we had extreme chances of infection throughout the entire apple bloom period. Nicole Gauthier and Bernadette Amsden have found resistance to Streptomycin for the first time in the state. Streptomycin at a rate of 25 ppm is normally effective at killing fire blight and is labeled for use at 100 ppm in the orchard during bloom. The resistant strains have been growing well in the lab at 400 ppm and there is some fire blight bacterial growth at 2,000 ppm.

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Fortunately, a new bactericide, Kasumin 2L has been labeled and is labeled for use in Kentucky. Nicole will be discussing how growers may use oxytetracycline and Kasumin rotations next season to reduce resistance development during the summer and at our Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference in January. She is currently testing other commercial orchards across the state for fire blight resistance. Commercial apple growers that would like to have their orchard tested should contact Nicole at [nicole.ward@uky.edu](mailto:nicole.ward@uky.edu) Cedar apple rust is very apparent on apple trees that were not sprayed for this disease as the wet spring was ideal for infection.

Plasticulture strawberry harvest is over for the season and matted row strawberry harvest is almost completed in our most northern counties. Thorny blackberries, blueberries and raspberries are ripening across the state and harvest has begun. I have seen a few blackberry fruit that are made up of a mixture of large and small drupelets on the same berry. We believe that this is due to a variation in pollination time (caused by rainy weather) for the individual drupelets as each is pollinated individually.

Growers that are interested in establishing a plasticulture strawberry planting this fall should be thinking about ordering tips for rooting their own plugs or plug plants from a supplier. Beds need to be up the first part of August if Chateau herbicide will be used because of a 30 day pre-plant interval.

To provide an indication of how our season is progressing, Matt Dixon at the U.K. Ag. Weather Center plotted out the growing degree days in Lexington for several years up through July 13 in Figure 1. Years 2015, 2014 and 2013 are all clustered together on the far right side of the graph depicting years where floral development and the season tended to be closer to normal for Kentucky. Years 2012 and 2007, both years where we had major freezes and had

higher growing degree day accumulations earlier in the season track closer to the left side of the graph. This year, depicted by the darker blue line originally tracked closer to the 2012 and 2007 seasons and has gradually moved closer to the seasons that are more normal. Thus, positioning us for fruit harvest dates that are somewhat closer to normal.

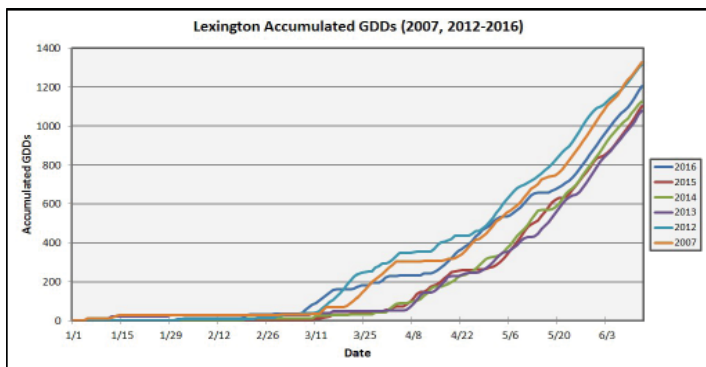
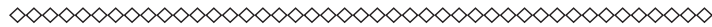


Figure 1. Growing degree day (GDD) accumulations for Lexington for 2012-2016 and 2007.



### Upcoming Meetings

*(All meetings are Eastern time unless specified.)*

**June 23, 4th Annual U.K. Research and Education Center Horticulture Field Day, UKREC,** 1205 Hopkinsville St., Princeton, KY 42445. Contact Christi Forsythe, 270-365-7541 Ext. 221, [cforsyth@uky.edu](mailto:cforsyth@uky.edu). See program below.

**July 11, Summer Meals: Cook and Eat Outside,** Robinson Center Auditorium, 176 Robinson Rd, Jackson, KY 42339. 6:00 p.m. Contact Joshua Mullins 606-666-2438 Ext. 290 or [josh.mullins@uky.edu](mailto:josh.mullins@uky.edu). Join Kayla Watts, Breathitt County Extension Agent for FCS, and Martha Yount, UK Nutrition Education Program specialist, to learn about cooking and eating outside! You will even learn how to bake a cake outdoors with charcoal and a cardboard box!

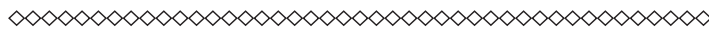
**July 14-16, Heartland Apiculture Society Conference,** Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY. For registration information and details see [www.heartlandbees.org](http://www.heartlandbees.org) or contact Tom Webster, [Thomas.webster@kysu.edu](mailto:Thomas.webster@kysu.edu) or 502-597-5682.

**Sept 1-3, Fourth International Pawpaw Conference,** Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY. Registration form available at: <http://www.pawpaw.kysu.edu>. Contact Sheri Crabtree at

502-597-6375; email: [sheri.crabtree@kysu.edu](mailto:sheri.crabtree@kysu.edu)

**Sept 17, Pecans for the North - Seminar Workshop and Tour of USDA Cooperator Test Grove** -Vaughn Family Pecan Farm, 1208 W. Craig Rd., Scottsburg, IN 47170. For backyard or commercial growers. Cost \$20.00/person, includes lunch. Phone 812-752-4929. Information and registration [www.vaughnfamilypecanfarm.com](http://www.vaughnfamilypecanfarm.com)

**Jan. 9-10, 2017 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference** - Embassy Suites Hotel, Lexington, KY. Contact John Strang 859-257-5685; email: [jstrang@uky.edu](mailto:jstrang@uky.edu)



### 4th Annual U.K. Research and Education Center Horticulture Field Day – June 23, 2016

1205 Hopkinsville Street, Princeton, KY

ORNAMENTAL TOUR		
8:45-9:00 am CDT	Registration	UKREC Ornamentals
9:00-10:30 am	Plant Evaluations & Overview Blueberries in Containers Controlled Release Fertilization in White Oak Seedlings Everris® Blue Max™ Coated Aluminum Sulfate in Hydrangeas Annual Bedding Plant Trial	Dr. Winston Dunwell Dr. Dewayne Ingram Carey Grable Dr. Zenaida Viloría Ginny Travis June Johnston
<p><b>Note:</b> There will be two tours of ornamentals, the first one will be at 9:00-10:30 am and the second 10:30-12 pm</p>		

<b>ORCHARD TOUR</b>		
8:45-9:00 am CDT	<b>Registration</b>	
9:00-12:00 pm	Blueberry Production in Containers Blackberry Cultivars, Production, and Pest Management Cherry Rootstock & Training Trial Peach Rootstock & Cultivars, Production and Pest Management Apple Rootstocks & Cultivars, Production and Pest Management Grape Cultivars, Production and Pest Management	Dr. John Strang Dr. Ric Bessin Dwight Wolfe Christopher Smigell Daniel Becker
<p><b>Note:</b> The tour will visit the fruit trials. Each panelist will contribute information relative to that fruit. There will be only be one fruit crop tour. This will be a good opportunity to visit with specialists about your fruit planting and concerns.</p>		

Contact information: Christi Forsythe, 270-365-7541 or Win Dunwell 270-261-9467



## First Spotted Wing Drosophila Capture of the Year

By Ric Bessin, U.K. Extension Entomologist

We have had our first spotted wing drosophila (SWD) detection for 2016. Patty Lucas, UK Extension IPM Specialist, recovered one SWD male (Figure 2) from a trap May 19 in strawberries in Caldwell County (western Kentucky). Over the 4 years Kentucky has had this invasive pest, the first capture has been earlier each year. So, are SWD really becoming active earlier

each year, or are traps becoming more effective so that SWD is captured at lower numbers, or are we just better at placing the traps in the right place at the right time? We don't know.



Figure 2. Male SWD captured on May 19th in Caldwell County (Photo: Ric Bessin, UK)

### Monitoring and Spraying

So now that we have captured the first SWD, what does this mean? For that particular field using an insecticide weekly to control SWD is warranted through the remainder of harvest. This does NOT mean that other fields throughout Kentucky need to be sprayed. It stresses the need for producers to monitor for this pest in their own fields. Last year, although we began trapping SWD on May 27, the numbers caught in traps remained very low until the start of blackberry harvest when SWD numbers in traps increased dramatically. Samples from Adair, Breathitt, Breckinridge, Daviess, Fayette, Larue, and Pulaski Counties were all negative for SWD for the week of June 10th. Our only positives remain Caldwell, Allen, McCracken, and Crittenden Counties with low numbers captured despite the very early captures. In 2015, SWD captured remained low until the start of blackberry harvest, at which point captures increased rapidly. Up until now, that pattern is holding with low numbers in the few locations where we have found them.

In some regions of the country, producers must meet zero tolerance requirements for insect infestation of the fruit when shipping blueberries, blackberries, or raspberries for wholesale marketing. Many of these producers do not have enough confidence with waiting to spray for SWD based on detection in traps and instead spray preventively to meet these strict requirements. Many of the Kentucky small fruit producers market crops locally and can tolerate a very low level of infestation by working directly with consumers. Trapping and spraying as needed has worked well in Kentucky and has been the most economical for our growers. Commercial berry

producers are advised to monitor for fruit infestations on undamaged berries by using the floatation method weekly. This method is listed in the second factsheet referenced below.

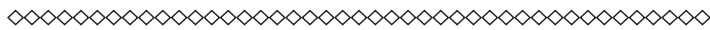
**Additional Resources**

For a list of recommended insecticides for SWD on various crops, see:

- Spotted Wing Drosophila Management (Entfact 230)

For a list of cultural and physicals controls for SWD, see:

- Spotted Wing Drosophila and Backyard Small Fruit Production (Entfact 231)



**Kentucky Department of Agriculture Launches Food to Fork Program**

*Press Release*

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

For more information contact:

Angela Blank  
(502) 573-0450

FRANKFORT, Ky. – The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is accepting applications from community organizations interested in hosting Kentucky Proud dinners now through fall of 2016.



Figure 3

The Kentucky Proud Food to Fork Program will provide funding to qualifying applicants for dinners that showcase local food products. The program will also promote local agritourism businesses and provide educational background on locally produced agricultural food and products.

“The purpose of the Kentucky Proud Food to Fork Program is to raise awareness of local farms, farmers, producers, and Kentucky Proud

products while helping a good cause,” Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles said. “I encourage local organizations to send us your proposals.”

Applicants must agree to display the Kentucky Proud logo in all graphics and promotional materials for the event. Successful applicants will agree to make every effort to source local agricultural products from area farms and producers. Applicants must designate a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization as the beneficiary of the dinner. The department will provide a 50-50 match for eligible expenses. Funding limit will be based on attendance.

Applications must be submitted by Sept. 2 to Alisha Morris, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Office of Agricultural Marketing and Product Promotion, 111 Corporate Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601 [oralisha.morris@ky.gov](mailto:oralisha.morris@ky.gov). Successful applicants must hold their events no later than Nov. 30.

To download an application and guidelines, go to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s website, [www.kyagr.com](http://www.kyagr.com), and click on “Kentucky Proud” in the Forms menu.



**Federal Low Interest Financing Program Expanded to Help Farmers Reach Local Food Markets**

Contact: Fred Hoefner or Juli Obudzinski, 202-547-5754

Washington, DC, April 29, 2016 – Small and mid-scale family farms operating in burgeoning local and regional food markets received some welcome news from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that their Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program can now help finance portable storage structures, portable equipment, and storage and handling trucks in addition to continuing its longstanding capacity to finance stationary crop and cold storage on-farm facilities.

This expansion of the low-interest loan program will help FSA service fruit and vegetable farmers and others who need to get crops safely and efficiently to local farmers’ markets, schools, restaurants, food hubs, and stores.

“We encourage farmers, especially those serving growing local and regional food markets, to take a

close look at the new options provided by the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program,” said Fred Hoefner, Policy Director at the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC). “This is not your father’s grain bin financing program, though grain bins are certainly still eligible. But the program now has options to finance produce packing and washing sheds and mobile equipment that very much puts the program on the map for farms that have never had reason to look at the program and its low-interest financing heretofore.”

The storage program’s expansion to cover mobile equipment and vehicles came via a federal rule making that is published in the Federal Register on Friday, April 29 and became effective immediately upon publication.

In addition to the new eligibility for mobile equipment, the new rule also provides for an easier loan application process with less paperwork for small loans of under \$50,000. FSA is still able to make loans of up to \$500,000 under the program, but the new “microloan” option might be attractive to small and beginning farmers who may be looking for a smaller loan with less red tape involved. The microloan option will require only a 5 percent down payment versus the 15 percent required for larger loans.

In the past two years, FSA has expanded the program to make packing sheds eligible. This is where fruit and vegetables washed, sorted, graded, labeled, boxed up, and stored before it heads to market. FSA also expanded program eligibility to unprocessed meat and poultry, eggs, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, flowers, hops, rye, and aquaculture, products previously not included in the FSFL program. The agency also started to coordinate the storage loan program with other federal farm credit programs, so farmers can put together loan packages more easily to cover a wider range of financing needs.

Those earlier changes did not require a change in federal regulations, but the change announced today to cover mobile structure, equipment, and vehicles and to create a “microloan” option needed to go through the rulemaking process, and hence took a bit longer to bring online.

“We applaud FSA for this additional expansion of the program to cover the needs of additional farmers and to help make the program more relevant to local and regional food markets,” said Juli Obudzinski, Senior Policy Specialist with NSAC. “We strongly encouraged USDA to make these changes to serve the needs of a more diverse range of farm businesses, and

we are very pleased with the results. Coupled with the changes from the past two years, today’s announced expansion of the program will help farmers keep food safe, facilitate new markets, and better serve the expanding customer base for healthy, local and regional food.”

*The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition is a grassroots alliance that advocates for federal policy reform supporting the long-term social, economic, and environmental sustainability of agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities.*



## Interested in Blackberry and Raspberry Industry Issues?

Debbie Wechsler who is Secretary of the North American Raspberry and Blackberry Association (NARBA) the only national bramble association is working up a data base of US raspberry and blackberry growers. The data base is to be used to communicate rapidly with those in the bramble industry on issues of food safety, federal policy and a possible research and promotion program for blackberries. If you would like to be included send Debby Wechsler at [raspberryblackberry@gmail.com](mailto:raspberryblackberry@gmail.com) your name, farm name, email address, mailing address and raspberry and blackberry acreage. She will contact you to see if you would like to receive only critical alerts and important messages or are interested in a higher level of involvement.



**FRUIT HUMOR**

**What’s Red & Hot**

**A Summer Strawberry**



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