Another year with spring frosts in the southwest gave us a challenging thinning season, and uncertainty at this time about how much crop is set. Sepal closure shortly after petal fall is the first indication of set. Growth of fruitlets over a few days usually indicate if the thinners worked, or whether more applications are necessary. We are now approaching the June drop, which will hopefully result in enough drop to minimize the hand thinning time required.

Remember that seeds control fruit growth from now on, and the more seeds that are set, the larger and faster the fruit will grow. Take a knife and slice across some fruitlets to count how many seeds are set. Most apples can have up to 10 seeds, and our goal should be to set 8-10 of those in each apple.

Some interesting research is being done in Michigan to count seeds in Honeycrisp apples. It seems that some Honeycrisp may have more than 10 seeds, often at 12 – 14! This may explain the large fruit size, but more important, this may contribute to the problem of biennial bloom, and to the bitter pit problem. Keep an eye on this – and cut some of your own to see how our Honeycrisp (and other cultivars) compare.

### Summer Tree Fruit Orchard Meeting, July 22, Cedar Springs

This afternoon research tour and BBQ is your opportunity to learn about fruit research at the University of Guelph at Cedar Springs, Simcoe and Vineland. Dr. John Cline, Dr. Jay Subramanian and John Zandstra will report on research projects on apples, peaches and other stone fruits, including rootstocks, high density production, plant growth regulators and breeding selections. As well, Dr. David Hunter from AAFC will report on pear research, and Dr. Phil Schwallier from Michigan State University will speak about Michigan’s approach to chemical thinning and the use of Apogee. And Ken Slingerland and Leslie Huffman will speak about new advances in apples and tender fruits.

This program runs from 2-6 pm, with a complementary BBQ at 5 pm. For further information see page 7 or, contact John Zandstra at 519-674-1627 or email jzandstra@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca
# Common Leaf Diseases in Strawberries

Erin Styles, Summer Assistant—Berry Crops, OMAFRA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angular Leaf Spot</td>
<td>Common leaf spot with purple spots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Leaf Spot</td>
<td>Common leaf spot with white spots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf Scorch</td>
<td>Leaf with brown or red discoloration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf Blight</td>
<td>Leaf with brown or yellow discoloration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powdery Mildew</td>
<td>Leaf with white powdery substance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**New Organic Regulations**

Hugh Martin, Organic Crop Production Program Lead

The Government of Canada recently announced the new Organic Products Regulations. These will be implemented on June 30th, 2009. The regulations regulate all sales of organic products between provinces and imports of organic products. Exports of organic products to the USA are covered under the US-Canada equivalency agreement that was signed last week. Exports to other countries need to meet the organic requirements of the importing country. These regulations currently do not cover intraprovincial products that are produced and sold within the same province, however Quebec and Manitoba do have such regulations.

The new regulations also include a new organic logo that can be used on any organic product that meets the requirements of the new regulations (including intraprovincial).

Organic producers that are certified will need to be certified by a certification body (CB) that is accredited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Most of the current CBs in Ontario are expected to be accredited by the CFIA.


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**Funding for Food Safety and Traceability Available**

You have probably received mailings about this new program for farmers and food processors, which will provide funding to support implementing or improving your food safety program, and/or traceability of your product. The funding is under “Growing Forward - Food Safety and Traceability Initiative (FSTI)”.

Many growers are now required by their packers or buyers to follow either CanadaGAP (prepared by the Canadian Hort Council), or EurepGAP (often required for produce exported to Europe). As they work through these checklists, many growers are also pleasantly surprised to discover that many of these practices are already included in their operations, and with a few minor adjustments, they are ready for the required audits.

An added bonus is that by signing up for a training session under FSTI, taking a one-day program and filling out the application, you can qualify for up to $20,000 funding (covering 75% of costs) to implement your food safety/traceability plan.

**Note:** Training sessions on July 7 in Leamington, and July 14 in London. Watch for further sessions planned at [http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/foodsafety/grants/infosessions.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/foodsafety/grants/infosessions.htm)

Everything you need to know is online - [http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/foodsafety/grants/fsti.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/foodsafety/grants/fsti.htm)

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**Wanted! Colorado Potato Beetle**

Dr. Jeff Tolman, Research Scientist with the Southern Crop Protection and Food Research Centre in London is interested in obtaining live Colorado potato beetle samples. In conjunction with fellow researchers, he is running the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Colorado Potato Beetle survey once again this year.

The purpose is to document the continuing spread of tolerance to the neonicitinoid insecticides (e.g. Admire, Assail, Alias) and to measure variation in susceptibility to a new insecticide, Coragen, before its widespread commercial application.

**What does he need?** Jeff is looking for approximately 150-200 adults per sample. If you have a few you can spare, let him know and he will arrange for someone to come and collect some. Jeff can be reached at 519-457-1470 (ext. 232) or jeff.tolman@agr.gc.ca.