

2025 Rutgers-New Jersey Statewide Tree Fruit IPM Report

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Observation Overview

The IPM observations for 2025 come from the North and South Jersey Tree Fruit IPM Programs. There are 29 farms that participate in the North Jersey program and 12 farms in the South Jersey Program. The program includes approximately 500 acres of apples, 120 acres of pears, and 1,160 acres of peaches. Each farm is scouted once a week and baited traps are checked to monitor pests. The data for the charts below comes from the NEWA model, using weather stations located at the Rutgers Snyder Research and Extension Farm in Pittstown, NJ and the Rutgers and Upper Deerfield.

Horticulture/Thinning

There was significant bloom this year on apples and

peaches. Return apple bloom was strong on most cultivars with good pollinating conditions. Growers that used the nibble approach to chemical thinning and made both the bloom and petal fall applications had the majority of their thinning completed early this season. The bloom application of NAA is critical for return bloom in 2026.

2025 Weather. There were no large-scale frost events early in the season during bloom. This season in northern New Jersey June, July and August we had 17 days over 89F setting apples up for sunburn. **Temperatures 89F or higher occurred on** June 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, July 8, 16, 17, 25, 28, 29, 30 August 12, 13, 14, 17

Table 1. Peach Phenology 2025.

Location	Bud Swell	Pink	Full Bloom	Petal Fall	Shuck Split	Pit Hardening
Bridgeton, NJ	30-Mar	1-Apr	10-Apr	19-Apr	26-Apr	15-Jun
Pittstown, NJ	4-Apr	13-Apr	24-Apr	21-Apr	7-May	-

Table 2. Apple Phenology 2025.

Location	Silver Tip	Green Tip	½" Green	Tight Cluster	Pink	First Bloom	Full Bloom	95% Petal Fall
NJ	-	30-Mar	-	5-Apr	16-Apr	-	25-Apr	2-May
Pittstown, NJ	25-Mar	28-Mar	2-Apr	14-Apr	20-Apr	21-Apr	25-Apr	-

These high temperatures in summer (Figs. 1 and 2) resulted in the need for sun protectants to be sprayed on specific apple cultivars (Honeycrisp, Empire) to prevent

September and October were one of the driest harvest seasons on record: Aug -1.5", Sept 0.8", Oct 0.9".

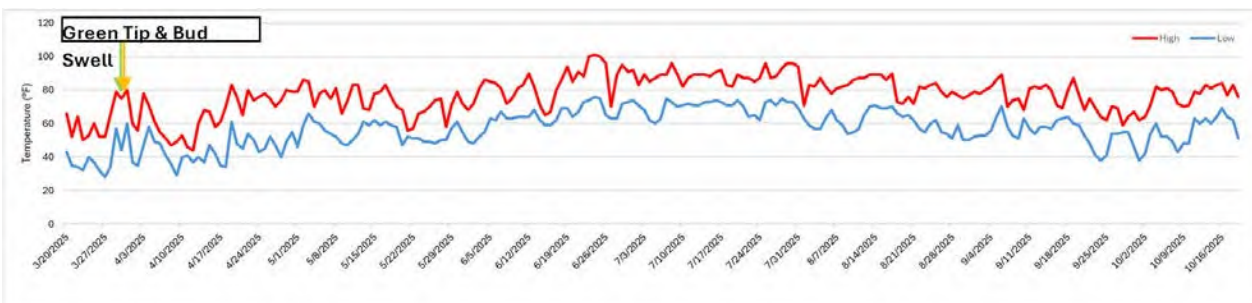


Figure 1. Maximum and minimum temperatures for the growing season in Pittstown, NJ.

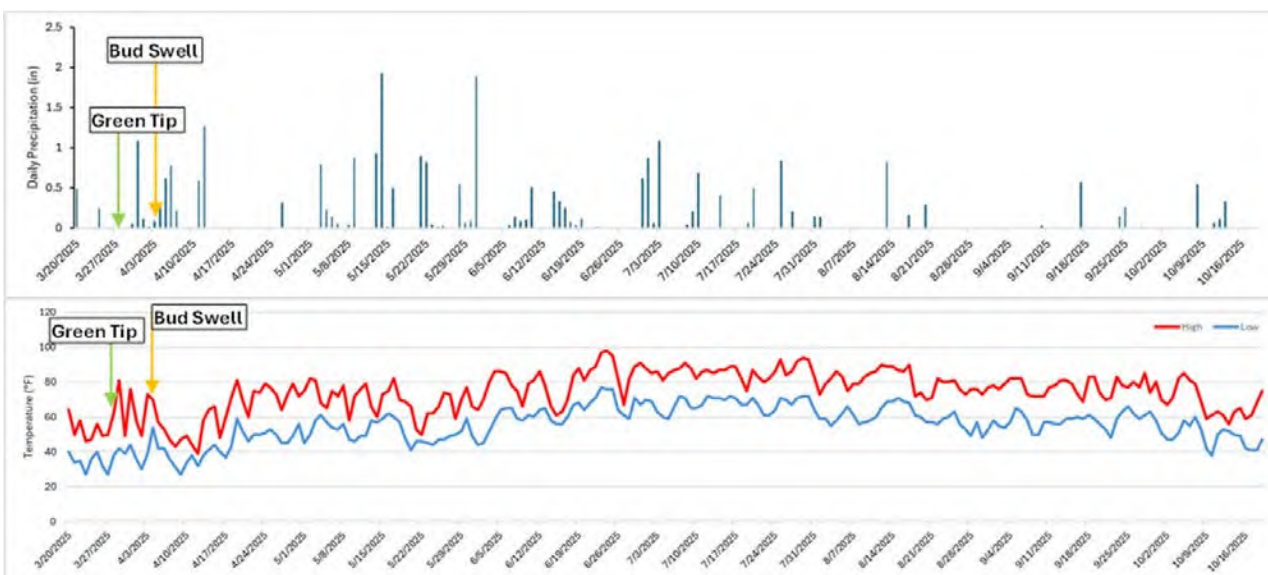


Figure 2. Maximum and minimum temperatures for the growing season in Upper Deerfield (near Bridgeton), NJ.

injury and bitter rot infection. In Northern New Jersey warm temperatures in June, July through mid-August advanced ripening of peach and apple cultivars 4- 7 days. September continued early ripening of several peach and apple, though apple maturity evened out by October 10 give or take. These advances in ripening dates made applications of Retain stop drop harder to plan.

Overall total precipitation in 2025 was about normal with above average rainfall occurring in May followed by below average rainfall in June and August, September and October in Northern NJ. In fact, August,

Fireblight. Although we had a shorter bloom than previous years, fireblight presented an issue during the blossom blight phase for growers in both North and South Jersey. As you can see from the chart below, which pulls data from the [NEWA fireblight model](https://newa.cornell.edu/) <https://newa.cornell.edu/>, there were at least two infection periods during bloom where the EIP value was over 100 (Fig. 3). One of these periods persisted over the course of 6 days which required two applications of an antibiotic, 3 days apart from each other for optimal control.

Apple Scab. Green tip occurred at the Rutgers Snyder Research farm on 3/20 for Empire, one of our earliest

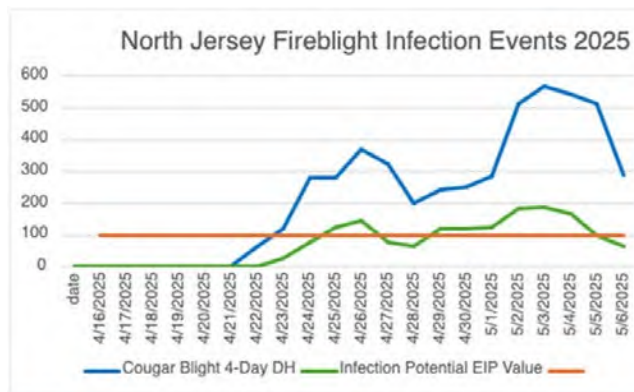


Figure 3. Fireblight Infection Events.

blooming varieties. Compared to last year, we experienced fewer scab infection periods during the primary scab phase. Most of these infection periods spanned over a couple days with the longest combined infection period lasting 10 days (Fig. 4). This extended infection period included 2 days of 11% daily ascospore discharge. There were two major scab infection periods at the tail end of primary scab, the first coincided with a 20% daily ascospore discharge and the second with a 31% daily ascospore discharge. Most growers were able to avoid primary scab by applying effective fungicides prior to NEWA predicted infection periods. There were a few orchards with heavy scab pressure that experienced major scab outbreaks.

Rots. Bitter Rot remains the most challenging to control throughout all New Jersey orchards. Incidence of this disease occurred in almost all farms in our Tree Fruit IPM Program and appeared most devastating in the Honeycrisp, Empire, and Ambrosia varieties. White Rot was present but not prevalent this season in South and North Jersey counties.

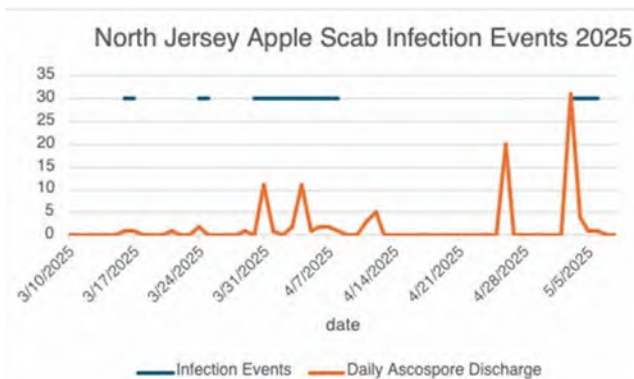


Figure 4. North Jersey Apple Scab Infection.

Cedar Apple Rust and Quince Rust. In Southern New Jersey these diseases are prevalent, especially in Asian Pear.

Bacterial Spot. In North and South Jersey control of this disease was very good and not a significant issue for growers as it has been in past years.

Peach Scab. Control of this disease remains very good in commercial orchards across both North and South Jersey.

Brown Rot. This disease did not present a major issue in North or South Jersey this season. In North Jersey, most growers had less than 2% crop loss caused by brown rot.

Codling Moth. A biofix was set for this pest on 4/28 in South Jersey and 4/30 in North Jersey. Across the state, trap captures of the first generation were high. Trap counts for later generations were generally low, and damage to fruit was decreased compared to last year indicating that early season management minimized losses. Mating disruption remained effective in most blocks, but small amounts of damage were found at a few farm locations.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. In both North and South Jersey, trap counts for this pest were higher than the past few seasons. There was also a higher incidence of damage found in post-harvest assessments of Pome fruit. In North Jersey, some Stone fruit growers had up to 3% damage caused by this pest.

Ambrosia Beetle. We continued to monitor this pest in North Jersey utilizing clear sticky traps baited with Trece's ethanol lures. We began monitoring at a farm in South Jersey and we plan to expand the monitoring program for this pest next year. We had significant trap captures in North Jersey counties. This pest attacked apples at 7 of the 29 scouted farms, which is an increase from previous seasons and only 4 of which were previously known infestation sites. This increase in infestation sites may have been triggered by tree stress caused by the drought in fall of 2024. In South Jersey, new infestation sites and tree losses were documented. In NJ chloryrifos is the only insecticide effective for control.

European Apple Sawfly. Damage from this pest was noted at higher levels than previous years. In severe

cases, growers experienced up to 15% damage. Traditionally growers that make a pink insecticide application have had less sawfly damage.

Scales. In South Jersey, incidence of San Jose Scale infestation notably decreased in heavily infested sites from previous seasons. Attention was given to early season controls which seemed to suppress crawler populations. Damage was notable in some orchards in August with scale infested fruit. In North Jersey, this pest did not cause notable damage except in known problem areas.

Oriental Fruit Moth. A biofix for this pest was set on 4/2 in South Jersey and 4/17 in North Jersey. This pest did not present a major issue to growers across the state this season. Few growers had a small incidence of damage to their peaches found in post-harvest assessments.

Plum Curculio. Similar to last year, plum curculio damage was above average in stone fruit. This pest also

caused significant damage to pome fruit due to the long bloom period which made control difficult. Traditionally north Jersey growers that make a pink insecticide application have get a jump on pc control.

Lesser Peach Tree Borer (LPTB) and Greater Peach Tree Borer (GPTB). Trap counts of LPTB and GPTB were higher this season compared to previous years. Historically orchards in New Jersey had used chlorpyrifos on an annual basis to control these pests. Mating disruption displaced this annual treatment of chlorpyrifos about 10 years ago because it was highly effective and less toxic to the applicators. Increased pest activity may be a result of environmental stress from drought and change in climate/temperature, reduced use of chlorpyrifos, and or skipping a year of mating disruption. Damage and tree loss from peach tree borers was observed in South Jersey orchards. Generic chlorpyrifos as of this writing is labeled in NJ and available from multiple distributors.

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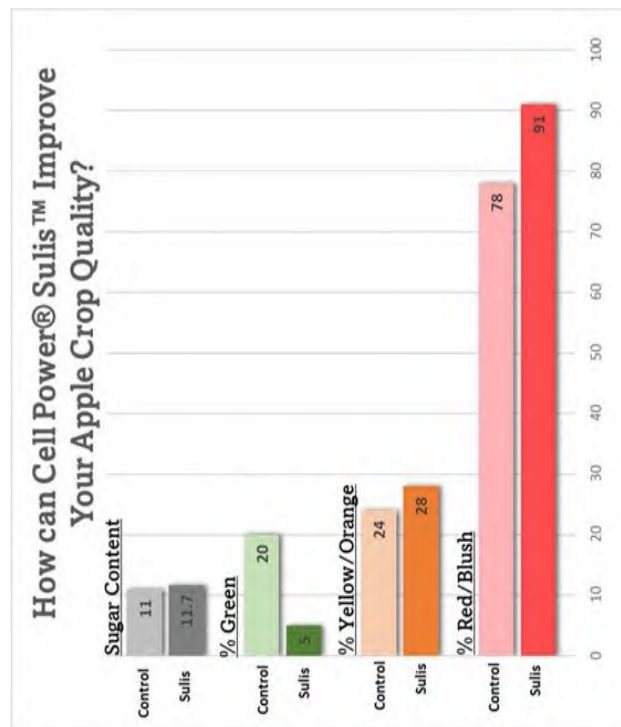
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