

Fruit Growers Concerned About Killing Frosts

BY LISA RISSER

LITITZ — When cold winds blow during spring, they're unwelcome to most of us who yearn for warmer breezes. To fruit growers, cold weather after their trees bloom often means a damaged crop.

"We're concerned about cold

weather and frost between now and May 22," said Dick Haas, owner of Cherry Hill Orchard in New Danville. Of particular concern will be the full moon that comes in early May, bringing cold weather with it.

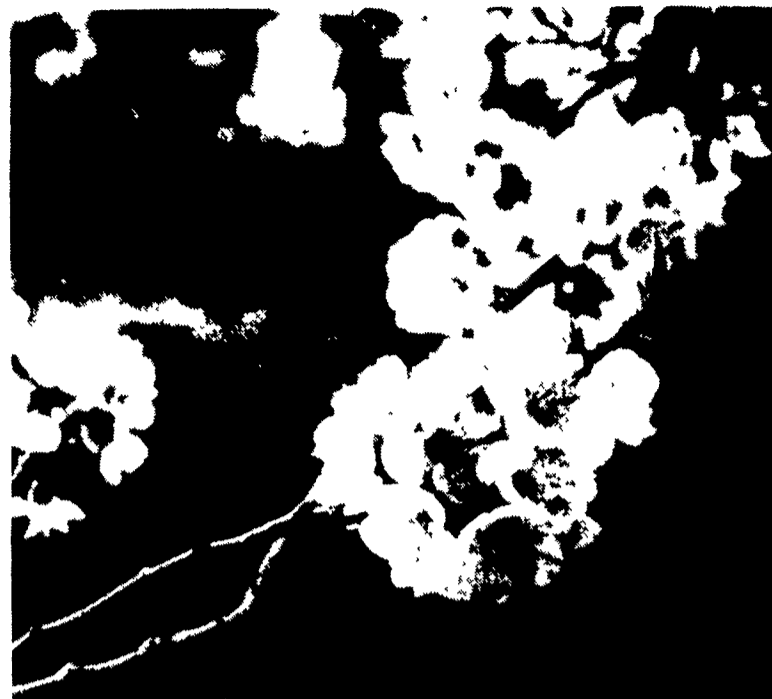
The extent of the damage caused by the weather depends on the sev-

erity of the cold spell. "On a clear night the trees are more vulnerable," explained Haas. "This is because warm air rises from the ground and the cold air filters in behind and sits in the low spots, damaging them."

"If a high-pressure system comes out of Canada bringing wind with it, the trees will be killed on the top, in high spots."

Orchards in southeastern Pennsylvania that vary in topography are best protected, according to Haas.

The apricot and plum trees in Cherry Hill blossomed in March, which was early. The recent cool spell has slowed growth and the trees are now back on a normal schedule. Haas' nectarine and peach trees are blooming and cherry trees will soon be flowering. About a week ago, Haas released 600 bee colonies from Florida, which will stay in the orchard until the apple trees are pollinated, about a month.



Fruit growers are concerned about frost and cold weather occurring from now until late May. Cold weather can damage blossoms such as these found on apricot trees.

Chester Bicentennial Farms

BY MARJORIE KEEN

Chester Co. Correspondent GUTHRIESVILLE — Owners of two Chester County Bicentennial Farms, who were unable to attend the Pennsylvania State Farm Show in Harrisburg in January, were recognized at Crops Day here. Four other county farms that have been owned by the same families for 200 years were cited at the Farm Show.

District Conservationist Elbert Wells of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service office in West Chester presented certificates and books to T. Edwin and Elizabeth Martin and

Col. Charles McFarlan.

"Misty Pines" in West Marlborough Township has been in the Martin family since 1727. Edwin Martin has worked the farm for 71 of his 79 years and still milks nine head, he said.

McFarlan, whose farm just north of Downingtown has been in his family since 1747, told the Crops Day audience that he was surprised to see so many farmers in attendance. Considering the pressure he is receiving from developers, McFarlan said he didn't think there would be that many farms left in Chester County.

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