

TREE FRUIT Storm Preparedness

The risk of severe storm impacts is rising in Nova Scotia as warmer oceans allow stronger hurricanes and tropical storms to reach the region. High winds can damage orchard blocks and surviving trees face increased infection risk from wounded tissue. Additional storm hazards include heavy rains that cause flooding and wash off pesticide protection. While storms can't be prevented, the strategies below can help reduce damage and support recovery.

Key Adaptation Strategy

Before the storm...

Secure young trees

- Periodically tie new growth to stakes, prioritizing steel rods over bamboo
- Reinforce MAX Tapener by using rubber tree ties
- Check supports for trees known to be brittle at the union (ie. G.11, G.41, G.16)



Prepare mature plantings

- Support or reinforce old, weak end-posts, focusing on high-density orchards
- In-fill posts where post spacing is too far apart
- Apply temporary reinforcements such as anchors on the windward side used to hook wires or brace weakened trellis using wood posts
- Focus on reinforcing outside rows

Prepare harvestable fruit (if applicable)

- Communicate with packers prior to modifying usual harvest practices
- Consider lightening the fruit load to protect tree infrastructure
 - » Spot-picking tree-tops may offer early harvest option
 - » Prioritize trees with a heavy crop load to lighten trellis strain
 - » Prioritize trees on weakened trellis
- Consider preharvest fungicide, e.g. Pristine or Merivon
 - » Target before the storm if time will be limited after the storm. The fungicides are absorbed and should provide storage benefits when applied up to two weeks prior to harvest.

Prepare operations

- Prepare generators and have fuel available
- Store or secure items that can become windborne
- Clear ditches and irrigation channels
- Make equipment available for recovery including saws, shovels, and spare parts

Monitor the storm



**Perennia's
weather map on
Farm Data Tools**



**Cape Breton
Mesonet**



**Environment
Canada Weather
Conditions and
Forecast**



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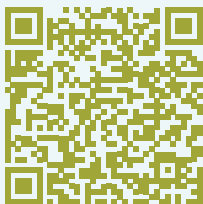
After the storm...



- Document and report any damage
 - » Contact crop insurance to file a claim promptly
 - » Photos or video of affected trees, trellises, facilities, equipment
 - Examine trees for tissue damage that signals the risk of fire blight trauma infection
 - » Treat bearing apple or pear orchards exhibiting damage with streptomycin within 24 hours if the product preharvest interval (PHI) has not been met
 - » Treat non-bearing orchards exhibiting damage with streptomycin within 24 hours
- » **NOTE:** Streptomycin is not effective when used preventatively before a storm
 - » **NOTE:** Trauma infections can still occur in cool weather
- Examine and brace damaged, weakened or loose trellis, posts and wires
 - Examine culverts and ditches for damage or blockage
 - Consider preharvest fungicide if not already applied, e.g. Pristine or Merivon
 - » Application after the storm ensures residue will be present but this approach risks not having access to the field due to storm damage.

Resources

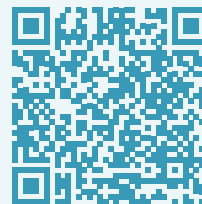
ClimateData:
Hurricanes and
Climate Change in
Atlantic Canada



**Perennia Tree
Fruit Blog:**
In-Season
Updates



**NSFA: Hurricane
& Tropical Storm
Preparedness For
Nova Scotia Farms**



**We Talk,
We Grow**

