

Yesterday was a beautiful sunny day.

The Maple sap started running really well.

Then it stopped.

The first photo proves that it was running.

The second photo shows why it is not running today.

Five inches of snow and 24 degrees.

Sap runs best when nights are below 30 degrees and days are above 40.

Sunny and 50ish is best.

The sap is actually pumped up the trees by cellular contraction at cold temperature followed by expansion at higher temperature.

I tapped 30 trees yesterday and 3 out of 4 were running.

Many of my buckets captured a gallon or more of sap.

Then it snowed.

It takes 40 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup.

My guess is that the buckets collected ten gallons total.

Now, that sap is mixed with snow.

Not really a problem.

The forecast is for 12 degrees tonight.

Early tomorrow I will collect from buckets.

Each bucket will have a mixture of ice and fluid.

The ice will be pure water.

I will scoop the ice out and discard it.

The remaining fluid will be concentrated sap.

The cold temperature will have reduced the amount of water that we must evaporate to make syrup.

You have seen this same separation when a can of pop freezes.

What does not freeze is concentrated maple sap.

The temperatures from Tuesday on should be perfect for the sap run.

I will let you know how that all turns out.

I tap a slightly upward $\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter hole.

Then I drive in a split, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch outside diameter section of PVC pipe.

You can see the sap dripping.

I drive in a 16-penny spike to hang my pail.

At the end of the season, I pull the pipe and the spike.

Both are completely reusable, and nothing is left in the tree.

Do you notice the beautiful fungi?

Delightful pastels of green and yellow and grey (bluish).

Tom February 28, 2023



