Northern Michigan FruitNet 2014
Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update
December 19, 2014

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/22  Affordable Care Act Workshop
       NWMHRC

2015

1/13-14  NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show
         Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI

1/23    Small Farm Pre-Conference
         Hagerty Center, Traverse City

1/24    Small Farm Conference
         Grand Traverse Resort
         http://smallfarmconference.com/about/

1/28    Timber and Taxes Workshop
         Grand Traverse Conservation District, Traverse City

2/18-20  MSU Tree Fruit School
         The Eberhard Center, Grand Rapids

3/4     Winery Development Pre-Conference
         MSU – Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center

3/4-6    Michigan Grape & Wine Conference
         MSU – Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center

4/18    Healthy Forests – Caring for Our Trees
         Grand Traverse Conservation District

2015 NORTHWEST MICHIGAN
ORCHARD & VINEYARD SHOW
Grand Traverse Resort
January 13-14

Costs:  Registration Fee: $30/person for both days
        Fruit Industry Luncheon, Jan. 13: Gillison’s Variety Fabrication will be
sponsoring this year’s Industry Luncheon in appreciation of our area growers with free luncheon ticket(s). Tickets are limited and will be available on a first come, first serve basis at the time of registration.

CMI Luncheon, January 14: Free to cherry growers; pre-register with CMI

Sponsors:  
Grand Traverse Fruit Growers’ Council  
Cherry Marketing Institute  
Michigan State Horticultural Society  
Parallel 45 Vines & Wines Inc.  
Michigan State University Extension  
Michigan State University AgBioResearch  
Gillison’s Variety Fabrication, Inc.

Supporters & Contributors: See insert page

Educational sessions coordinated by:

Dr. Nikki Rothwell  
*NW Michigan Horticultural Research Center Coordinator & Extension Specialist*

Emily Pochubay  
*Tree Fruit Integrated Pest Management Educator, MSUE*

Dr. Duke Elsner  
*Small Fruit Educator, MSUE*

Tuesday, January 13

8:00  
Registration Desk Opens

8:00 – 10:30  
*Coffee and Rolls*

Moderator:  
Nikki Rothwell

9:00 – 9:10  
*Welcome and Overview*  
*Paul Hubbell, President, Grand Traverse Fruit Growers’ Council*

9:10 – 9:25  
*Forestry Assistance Program: Intensive Woodlot Management for Farm Diversification*  
*Kama Ross, Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts*

9:25 – 9:45  
*Bird Damage in Tree Fruits*  
*Dr. Catherine Lindell, Michigan State University*

9:45 – 10:00  
*IFTA 2014 Study Tour – Italy*  
*Adele Wunsch, Wunsch Farms*

10:00 – 10:40  
*High-density Tart Cherry Systems Research: Utah Approach*  
*Dr. Brent Black, Utah State University*

10:40 – 11:00  
*Vendor Break and Poster Session*
11:00 – 11:25  An Update on 2014 MRL Efforts  
Dr. Mark Whalon, Dept of Entomology, Michigan State University

11:25 – 12:00  Tools and Techniques for Optimizing Orchard Irrigation  
Dr. Brent Black, Utah State University

12:00 – 1:30  Fruit Industry Luncheon  
Emcee: Dr. Duke Elsner, MSUE

1:30 – 2:00  Vendor Break and Poster Session  
Moderator: Dr. Nikki Rothwell

2:00 – 2:55  Cultivating the Soil Food Web: Enhancing Plant Productivity Through Microherding  
Molly Haviland, Soil Life Consulting, Colorado

2:55 – 3:15  Maximum Residue Limits and Michigan Apples  
Tony Vanwoerkom, Trevor Nichols Research Station, Michigan State University

3:15 – 3:35  Investigating San Jose scale in NW MI Sweet Cherries  
Emily Pochubay, Michigan State University Extension

3:35 – 4:05  Hop Production in Michigan: Stages of Production, Costs/Benefits, and Pest and Disease Management  
Dr. Rob Sirrine, Michigan State University Extension

4:05 – 4:25  Cold Hardiness of Cherries  
Dr. Jim Flore, Dept. of Horticulture, Michigan State University

4:25 – 4:45  Mist Cooling to Delay Bloom  
Dr. Jim Flore, Dept. of Horticulture, Michigan State University

4:45 – 5:00  Fill Out Pesticide Recertification Credits (credits)  
Certified Crop Advisor Credits (credits)

5:15  WINE TASTING AND HORS D’OUERVE SOCIAL HOUR

Tuesday, January 13

Concurrent Grape & Wine Session  
Room - Michigan A and B (off the main lobby)

Moderator: Dr. Duke Elsner

9:00 – 9:10  Welcome and Overview  
Brian Hosmer  
President, Parallel 45 Vines and Wines, Inc.

9:10 – 9:35  NAP Buy-up and Other Farm Bill Topics
Kathy Kozlowski, USDA FSA, Traverse City

9:35 – 10:30  
**Cultivating the Soil Food Web: Enhancing Productivity Through Microherding**  
Molly Haviland, Soil Life Consulting, Colorado

10:30 – 11:00  
**VENDOR BREAK**

11:00 – 11:30  
**Bird Management in Vineyards**  
Dr. Catherine Lindell, MSU

11:30 – 12:00  
**Grape Mealybug and Virus Issues in Michigan**  
Dr. Rufus Isaacs, Dept. of Entomology, MSU

12:00 – 1:30  
**FRUIT INDUSTRY LUNCHEON**  
Emcee: Dr. Duke Elsner, MSUE

1:30 – 2:00  
**VENDOR BREAK**

2:00 – 2:30  
**Parallel 45 Vines & Wines Inc. Annual Business Meeting**

3:00 – 3:35  
**Own Rooted Vinifera Project**  
Dr. Tom Zabadal, Dept. of Horticulture, MSU

3:35 – 4:10  
**Rootstocks and Vine Performance**  
Dr. Ron Perry, Dept. of Horticulture, MSU

4:10 – 4:30  
**Compost Teas in the Vineyard - Year One Results**  
Dr. Annemiek Schilder, Dept. of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, MSU

4:30 – 5:00  
**Soil Biology and Vineyard Health Discussion**  
Molly Haviland, Soil Life Consulting, Colorado  
Craig Cunningham, Vine Care, Traverse City  
HTG Supply, Traverse City  
Dr. Annemiek Schilder, Dept. of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences, MSU

5:00  
**Fill Out Pesticide Recertification Credits**

5:15  
**WINE TASTING AND HORS D’OUERVE SOCIAL HOUR**

**Wednesday, January 14**

8:00  
**Coffee and Rolls**

8:00  
**NW Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation Board Meeting**

**Moderator:** Phil Korson
9:00 – 10:00 CMI Session

10:00 – 10:45 Vendor Break and Poster Session

10:45 – 12:00 CMI Session (cont.)

12:00 – 1:30 Cherry Marketing Institute Luncheon

1:30 – 2:00 Vendor Break and Poster Session

Moderator: Emily Pochubay

2:00 – 2:20 What’s Next in Apple Training Systems?
Phil Schwallier, Michigan State University Extension

2:20 – 2:45 Spotted Wing Drosophila Monitoring and Efficacy
Dr. Julianna Wilson, Dept. of Entomology, Michigan State University

2:45 – 3:05 Getting the Right Crop Load Using the Apple Precision Methods
Phil Schwallier, Michigan State University Extension

3:05 – 3:30 BMSB State-wide Monitoring Network, and A New Search Engine for Tree Fruit Pests and Diseases
Dr. Julianna Wilson, Dept. of Entomology, Michigan State University

3:45 – 4:10 Tart cherry crop insurance vs. NAP analysis
Dr. Roy Black, Dept. of Ag Economics, Michigan State University
Mollie Woods, Product Center Food Ag-Bio, Michigan State University

4:10 – 4:30 Digital Recordkeeping: Options for Every Size Grower
Phil Tocco, Michigan State University

4:30 – 5:00 Firewise on the Farm: The Benefits and Cautions Associated with Using Fire on and Around Orchards and Vineyards
Julie Crick and Elaine Bush, Michigan State University Extension Firewise

5:00 Fill Out Pesticide Recertification Credits (credit)
Certified Crop Advisor Credits (credit)

Wednesday, January 14

Concurrent Saskatoon Session Room - Peninsula A

Moderator: Dr. Duke Elsner, MSU Extension

9:00 – 9:20 Introduction to Fruit Grading and Its Uses
Dr. Duke Elsner, MSU Extension

9:20 – 10:00 Farm Service Agency- What We Can Do For You
Kathy Kozlowski, USDA FSA, Traverse City
10:00 – 10:30 Vendor Break

10:30 – 11:00 Important Insects and Diseases Attacking Saskatoon Roots  
Dr. Duke Elsner, MSU Extension

11:00 – 11:30 Mechanical Harvesting Tests in 2014  
Jim Dixon, Grower, Williamsburg

11:30 – 12:00 Saskatoon Berry Institute of North America report  
SBIONA Board Members and Staff

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch On Your Own

1:00 – 5:00 How to Grow Wealth as a Saskatoon Farmer  
Jeremy Conaway, RECON Intelligence Services

1:10 – 1:40 Business Practices to Grow Wealth as a Saskatoon Grower

1:40 – 2:10 Financial Practices to Grow Wealth as a Saskatoon Grower

2:10 – 2:40 Tax Practices to Grow Wealth as a Saskatoon Grower

2:40 – 3:10 BREAK

3:10 – 3:40 Insurance Practices to Protect Wealth as a Saskatoon Grower

3:40 – 4:10 Legal Practices to Protect Wealth as a Saskatoon Grower

4:10 – 4:40 Group Discussion on Opportunities and Challenges of Cooperation

4:40 – 5:00 Wrap Up and Closing Comments

2015 TREE FRUIT IPM SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS NOW

The 2015 Tree Fruit IPM School will take place in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on Feb. 18-20, 2015. Register before Jan. 14 to receive an early bird discounted rate!

Posted on December 16, 2014, MSUE News, by Julianna Wilson, Michigan State University Extension, Department of Entomology, and Emily Pochubay, MSU Extension
Join Michigan State University Extension staff and researchers at the 2015 Tree Fruit IPM School, designed for growers, farm managers and field scouts involved in the decision-making process of pest management in tree fruit. The focus for this two and a half day program will be on how to develop and implement season-long horticultural and integrated pest management (IPM) strategies – from establishment, dormancy, bloom through harvest and post-harvest, to supporting a healthy and productive orchard over the course of its lifetime.

Tree Fruit IPM School participants will learn about the latest pruning and training systems for high-density apples and cherries, blossom and fruit thinning using precision orchard management techniques, how to use pheromone puffer dispensers for codling moth mating disruption, cover cropping for biofumigation and soil biology diversification, and more!

There will be an invasive species workshop in which participants will receive training on the identification of spotted wing Drosophila and brown marmorated stink bug, two significant new insects that are becoming pests in Michigan orchards. This year’s Tree Fruit IPM School’s special guest is Janna Beckerman from Purdue University, who will present on managing the development of disease resistance to fungicides and using surfactants to improve apple scab efficacy.

Early bird registration is $175 per person and ends Jan. 14, 2015. Regular registration is $225 per person and begins Jan. 15. Online registration closes Feb. 13, after which only onsite registration at $275 per person is available. Registration by mail is only possible through Feb. 2.

Registration includes breakfast, lunch and breaks on Wednesday and Thursday, breakfast and breaks on Friday, and a binder with all course materials. Dinner and lodging are on your own. Attendees will have the option of obtaining Certified Crop Advisor Credits and/or Pesticide Applicator Recertification Credits (RUP) for attending this program.

To register by mail, download, print and fill out a registration form and send it with a check made payable to Michigan State University to:

Jackie Baase
NW MI Horticultural Research Center
6686 S. Center Hwy
Traverse City, MI 49684

For more information, please contact the 2015 Tree Fruit IPM School coordinators: Julianna Wilson at jkwilson@msu.edu or 517-432-4766, or Emily Pochubay at pochubay@msu.edu or 231-946-1510.
Affordable Care Act Workshop - Traverse City

Presenters

Dr. Adam J. Kantrovich, MSU Extension farm management educator

Introduction

The employer mandate provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) begins Jan. 1, 2015. This workshop will cover the Affordable Care Act and how the mandate affects farms, small businesses and individuals. The Affordable Care Act is a far-reaching piece of legislation that covers every business, industry and individual. While there are many layers to the Affordable Care Act, this program will provide a broad overview of the basics within the three hour presentation. This presentation will help participants determine whether they need to comply with the ACA.

Agenda

Welcome & Introductions
General Rules of the ACA
Rules of Employer Shared Responsibility (ESR) Mandate
Rules for Counting Employees under ESR
Rules for Small Business Health Care Tax Credit
Rules for Health Insurance Market Place (Exchange) and Shop for Employers
Rules of Individual Shared Responsibility Mandate
Employer Requirements for 2013 to 2015
Closing Thoughts

Registration Fee

$10.00 per person. This covers handouts and materials.

Dates and Locations

This workshop will be held from 9 a.m. - noon on Monday, Dec. 22, 2014, at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center located at 6686 S. Center Highway, Traverse City, MI 49684.

For more information and to register online, go to http://events.anr.msu.edu/ACATraverse/

IF APPLYING SOME FERTILIZER IS GOOD, THEN MORE IS BETTER, RIGHT? WRONG!

How much fertilizer should I apply? Some take the approach that if a little of something is good – more is better. This is rarely a good approach, particularly with fertilizer applications.
There are 17 elements necessary for plant growth (see table). Three come primarily from air and water (C, H and O) entering through leaves or roots. The rest are obtained from the soil, entering the plant through roots. Maximum yield is directly related to the most limiting element in the system. Soil-obtained nutrients are separated into macro and micro nutrients depending on how much is needed. This is not to say macros are more important. All 17 are necessary. The most important at a particular time is the one most limiting. When levels of that one become adequate then another takes its place.

The 17 elements essential for plant growth and their absorbed form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taken up as gas or water</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carbon (C)</td>
<td>CO₂</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxygen (O)</td>
<td>CO₂</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrogen (H)</td>
<td>H₂O</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taken up from the soil solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macronutrients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrogen (N)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phosphorus (P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potassium (K)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfur (S)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium (Ca)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium (Mg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micronutrients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron (Fe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorine (Cl)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manganese (Mn)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boron (B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinc (Zn)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper (Cu)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel (Ni)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molybdenum (Mo)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

When it comes to applying nutrients, growers can’t assume they know what and how much is needed. If growers apply nutrients in willy-nilly fashion, they are potentially headed for some serious issues. Too much can lead to toxicity, excessive growth that reduces fruiting potential, or shortages of other nutrients. How responsive plants are to certain nutrients to some extent can be species dependent. What that means is that nutrient levels helpful to one plant may be harmful to another.
Along with phosphorous (P) and potassium (K), nitrogen (N) is considered a primary macronutrient. Most plants are responsive to N in such a way that as N increases so does plant mass until the response curve plateaus and then declines as higher levels become toxic. (This type of response curve is true for any of the soil-obtained nutrients.) However, increasing plant mass is not always a good thing. When excess N is applied to tomatoes and most vine crops, their response is to grow more foliage (increase plant mass), but not produce more fruit (the economic unit). So excess N, although producing a larger plant, can delay and reduce fruit yield.

Boron (B) is an essential micronutrient often limiting in sandy soils due to its high solubility and mobility through soil. Adequate B levels for most crops are in the 2 to 4 pounds actual B per acre range. Many sandy soils through leaching move toward one pound per acre if no additional B is applied. So when 4 pounds per acre is added, it brings the level to five which is still in the safe range. However, if 4 pounds is added to a soil having adequate B levels, it can raise it to potentially toxic levels.

Some nutrients can also be antagonists for other elements. They essentially compete with each other for uptake by the plant. If excess calcium (Ca) is added to the system, it can potentially influence the uptake of K, Magnesium (Mg), iron (Fe), B and other nutrients. If too much Mg is added, it can affect the uptake of Ca and K. There are many other interactions that need to be considered when nutrients are added. Therefore, when designing a nutrient management program, careful consideration based on a soil test is recommended.

Do not assume crops need certain nutrients and certainly don’t have the mindset that adding more is better. Yearly soil testing followed by tissue analysis if deficiency or toxicity is suspected is the way to go, at least until you have established a good history for your site. For example, I take yearly soil samples for the standard test, but have the B test conducted every four years or so. Since I have enough history with the soil, I know it will be around 2 pounds per acre on my sandy soil, so I feel safe in routinely adding 2 pounds per acre B every year, but I periodically check B levels to be sure they stay in line.

Soil samples can be taken any time of the year as long as the soil is not frozen. Late fall and early spring are the most popular times. For tips on soil sampling and submission, go to Michigan State University’s Soil and Plant Nutrient Laboratory website.

If you have further questions concerning nutrient application or other commercial vegetable production issues, contact your local Michigan State University Extension office or Ron Goldy at goldy@anr.msu.edu.

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**MDARD ANNOUNCES VALUE ADDED/REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS GRANT**

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) announced a competitive grant program aimed at helping promote and enhance Michigan’s $100 billion food and agriculture industry. The Value Added/Regional Food Systems Grant Program will accept proposals until 3 p.m. (EST) on January 12, 2015.
MDARD will accept proposals intended to establish, retain, expand, attract and/or develop value added agricultural processing and/or develop regional food systems by enhancing or facilitating aggregation and distribution of Michigan grown agricultural products.

Those interested in applying for the grant program should visit www.michigan.gov/mdardgrants to view the application and program overview.

Any additional communications concerning this Request for Proposal should be sent to mda-grants@michigan.gov. Proposals must be received at the email above no later than 3 p.m. (EST) on Monday, January 12, 2015. Proposals received after 3 p.m. will not be considered.

NEED A FEW MORE PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION CREDITS BEFORE YEAR’S END? IPM WEBINARS NOW AVAILABLE!

MSU Extension is offering Integrated Pest Management Academy Online, a series of online prerecorded webinars. Commercial and private core pesticide recertification credits are available for Michigan applicators. No registration or fees required.

Posted on November 17, 2014, MSUE News, by Erin Lizotte, Michigan State University Extension

Looking to learn more about integrated pest management (IPM)? Check out this series of on-demand webinars created to help Michigan growers identify pest management resources and understand IPM basics. Registration is not required and webinars are available for free, simply visit the IPM Academy Online webpage at your convenience and view one or all of the prerecorded webinars.

Michigan residents can earn up to four pesticide recertification credits. You may only claim credits once annually and once per webinar (repeat viewing for credits is not allowed). A computer with Internet connectivity, a web browser and speakers are required. Go to http://bit.ly/ipmwebinars to access the webinars or email Carol Blake at cblake@msu.edu to receive more information.

The following webinars are currently available for viewing.

**Introduction to Integrated Pest Management:** Learn about the history of pest management, the evolution of IPM and the tenets that define implementation in the field.

**Integrated Pest Management Resources:** Learn about IPM resources available from Michigan State University and MSU Extension.

**Entomology 101:** In this compact session on insects, learn the vocabulary to help you properly identify insects and better understand the role of insects in the world.

**Plant Pathology 101:** This introductory webinar covers the basics of plant pathogens and introduces viewers to some popular control methods.
Soil Science 101: This webinar highlights the importance of soil characteristics and their potential impacts on agricultural producers.

Plant Science 101: Learn the basics of plant anatomy and physiology—particularly handy for those who struggle with weed identification.

Pesticides 101: An introduction to mode of action, pesticide resistance and factors that impact efficacy.

Insect Scouting in Fruit Crops: This primer offers a fruit-specific module on how insect scouting occurs in the real world.

A number of new webinars will be added over the coming months, so check back periodically for new content in 2015!

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Erin Lizotte with Michigan State University Extension at taylo548@msu.edu to make arrangements. Requests will be fulfilled when possible.

This program is supported in part by North Central Region - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE) and this material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under Agreement No. 2013-41534-21068. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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FARM BILL TITLE  I  EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS

Educational sessions help farmers navigate new Farm Bill programs.

Posted on December 4, 2014, MSUE News, by Adam Kantrovich, Michigan State University Extension

The Agricultural Act of 2014 – commonly called 2014 Farm Bill – that was signed in early 2014 is quite different from what farmers and landowners were accustomed to in former farm bills. Although there may be similarities to past farm bills, it is very important that farmers begin to learn as much as they can before deciding on what program is best suited for their current situation.
Each farm location and each farmer’s individual needs are very different, therefore choosing which programs are a good fit will depend on farm specific variables and individual needs. With this in mind, Michigan State University Extension has developed numerous resources to assist farmers and landowners to begin this process.

The Michigan State University Extension Farm Information Resource Management (FIRM) team in collaboration with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) with numerous sponsors that include the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, The Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, the Michigan Wheat Program, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, and Farm Bureau Crop Insurance has engaged in a statewide effort to provide Farm Bill Title I Educational Programming.

The program is a multifaceted event discussing the provisions of the 2014 Farm Bill Title I programs. Presentations will describe Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) choices and discuss yield and base updating. The profit and risk management implications of alternative choices will be explored under a range of assumptions including historical yields relative to county yields and alternative price scenarios. The decision support tools used in the analysis are available as Excel files from MSU Extension and web-based tools that can be accessed from the FarmDoc and FSA/USDA websites.

At the conclusion of the program, time is offered for participants to engage with Michigan State University Extension FIRM team members and FSA representatives in a question and answer session to help better understand the information.

To view where programs are taking place and to register for an event, interested participants may go to the following link http://events.anr.msu.edu/FarmBill1415/

It is encouraged to occasionally revisit the link to see if any additional locations and dates have been added. The Michigan State University Extension FIRM team has also developed a Farm Bill Program page that contains links to additional material, information and resources. Check back often to view any new or revised information and material as further details become known. Individuals may also sign-up to receive newsletters that will contain information about articles, updates, and additional information about the Farm Bill and other farm related policies.

For further information, please contact me at akantrov@msu.edu or view the MSU Extension Farm Information Resource Management webpage.

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WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

Insect and disease predictive information is available at:
http://enviroweather.msu.edu/homeMap.php

This issue and past issues of the weekly FruitNet report are posted on our website
http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/nwmihort/faxnet.htm

60 Hour Forecast
http://www.agweather.geo.msu.edu/agwx/forecasts/fcst.asp?fileid=fous46ktvc

Information on cherries is available at the new cherry website:
http://www.cherries.msu.edu/
Information on apples:
http://apples.msu.edu/

Fruit CAT Alert Reports has moved to MSU News
http://news.msue.msu.edu