

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2015

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

FruitNet Report 08/11/15

Calendar of Events

2015

- 8/11** **Grand Traverse County IPM Updates**
Wunsch Farm
- 8/27** **2015 Open House**
Northwest Michigan Horticulture Research Center
- 8/27** **Grand Traverse County Hazardous Waste Removal – Appointment Required**

GROWING DEGREE DAY ACCUMULATIONS AS OF Aug. 10, 2015 AT THE NWMHRC

Year	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	25 Yr. Avg.
GDD42	2424	2275	2417	3032	2500	2861	2481.4
GDD50	1556	1451	1597	2041	1659	1879	1606.2

Growth Stages at NWMHRC (Aug. 10, 2015, 3 p.m.)

- Apple:** Red Delicious – 49 mm fruit
Gala – 46 mm fruit
Yellow Delicious – 44 mm fruit
- Pear:** Bartlett: 46 mm fruit
- Sweet Cherry:** Hedelfingen – Harvested
Napoleon – Harvested
Gold – Harvested
- Tart Cherry:** Harvested
- Balaton:** Harvested
- Apricot:** Harvested
- Grapes:** Riesling – Berry touch

Northwest Michigan Fruit Regional Report – August 11, 2015

Growers are assessing damage from last week's storm, and the orchards and vineyards in the narrow pathway of the storm appear to be hardest hit.

Emily Pochubay and Nikki Rothwell

Weather Report

After last week's storm, the weather has returned to a typical August for northwest Michigan. Daytime temperatures over the weekend were up in the high 70s and low 80s. We had some cloudy days, but those seem to have cleared off, and there is a touch of fall in the air with recent cooler temperatures predicted to be in the 70s through tomorrow. On Thursday, the forecast is predicting hot temperatures to move back into the region for the remainder of the week and into the weekend. Conditions remain dry across the region despite the 1.5" of rain from last week's storm. The cloudy days on the weekend brought just a sprinkle of rain, which did not result in any substantial amount of rainfall. We have accumulated 2481 GDD base 42 and 1606 GDD base 50. We remain spot on with our 25-year GDD accumulations.

Crop Report

We are still gathering information on the damage from last week's severe storm. The storm seemed to travel in a band from west to east over the middle area of northwest Michigan; areas to the north and south of this band were not impacted as severely as orchards in the center of the storm. Orchards were affected here at the NWMHRC, and we have severe hail damage to our apples. We also lost ~15 trees at the NWMHRC. The storm's path impacted orchards and vineyards from the Bingham area to south of Suttons Bay in Leelanau County. Growers in this area estimate that they lost 30% of their leaves on the western half of their trees.

This storm system impacted the mid- to northern region of Old Mission Peninsula. Orchards and wine grapes on Old Mission also suffered hail damage. The hardest hit area is just south of Elk Rapids in Antrim/Grand Traverse counties. In this area, we have severe hail damage to all apples and some high-density trellis came down. We are still assessing the overall damage to the region, but we do know that the orchards and vineyards that were in the storm's direct path were devastated while fruit outside this belt fared much better.

Tart cherry harvest is wrapping up, and growers in the north have a few more days to finish. The high winds of the storm beat up some tart cherries, but in most orchards where high winds occurred, growers were able to get the fruit off the trees before quality declined. Apples are sizing, and growers are assessing the hail damage to their orchards. We have some blocks where the hail caused some bruising, and these fruit have the potential to go to the juice market. Other orchards sustained pretty deep puncture wounds in the fruit as a result of the hail; there will be some growers that will not harvest the crop because the damage to fruit is so severe.

Pest Report

Many growers are putting on post harvest applications for cherry leaf spot, especially in orchards that had high levels of cherry leaf spot infection this season. Most of the northwest experienced very long wetting periods in May and June that were challenging for keeping tissue protected, and as a result, leaf spot took a foothold early in the season. Virus also impacted many trees this season. The combined

effect of disease and virus infection throughout the region contributed to substantial early defoliation, and we encourage growers to try to keep the leaves that are remaining on trees into October. Growers should consider a fall foliar fertilizer to trees later in the season as leaves are beginning to senesce. An article on fall foliar applications is forthcoming.

Spotted wing drosophila (SWD) numbers are continuing to rise throughout the northwest and although many growers have completed harvest, there are some orchards that have yet to be harvested in the far north. Because SWD numbers are high throughout the region, growers who are still planning to harvest cherries will need to keep fruit protected with tight intervals (7 days) and full covers. Some growers have used the 3-day pre-harvest pyrethroid insecticides, Pounce or Danitol, when a material has been needed within 3 days of harvest. In SWD efficacy trials, we have found that Imidan is the most effective chemistry available for use against SWD. The data from our trials at the NWMHRC indicate that this pest is extremely difficult to control and materials that are 'excellent' for SWD are limited.

Cherry fruit fly (CFF) activity increased at the research station this week. Many growers have made or are planning a post-harvest insecticide targeting CFF and SWD to knock back their populations for next season. **Apple maggot** (AM) adults have been active for three weeks at the NWMHRC, and we found a total of 19 AM in our traps this week. **Codling moth** (CM) also increased this week with an average of 4 CM per trap. **Obliquebanded leafroller** flight has slowed down and larvae should be larger and more visible at this time. American plum borer (3 moths per trap), lesser peachtree borer (6 moths per trap), and greater peachtree borers (0.3 moths per trap) activity has also declined this week. We have been monitoring for **brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB)** along orchard edges and in residential areas this season, but have not yet detected this insect. BMSB was detected in southern Michigan, Berrien and Kent County last week. We encourage growers and consultants to bring any suspected BMSB specimens to the NWMHRC for identification.

Grapes

Duke Elsner

We are still trying to assess the severity and extent of storm damage to vineyards in the Grand Traverse region. I would greatly appreciate individual reports on your observations, including dollar loss estimates for damaged fruit and trellis structures. Individual information will not be released, we are just trying to get a handle on the scope of the losses.

Botrytis mold may infect storm-injured berries. See Annemiek Schilder's recommendations at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/protect_hail_damaged_clusters_from_botrytis_infection

Rufus Isaacs is concerned that either our native small fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) or the spotted wing drosophila may establish large populations in the injured fruit. Treatment options for these can be found in the Fruit Management Guide.

Final IPM Update Meeting in Grand Traverse on August 11th

Emily Pochubay, Nikki Rothwell, and Duke Elsner, NWMHRC

Please join us for this season's final IPM Update meeting on Tuesday, August 11th from 3- 5 PM. This meeting will be held at Wunsch Farms Phelps Rd packing shed on Old Mission. Coming off of two hard winters, the 2015 spring was also unforgiving following freezing temperatures around May 20th that were damaging to many of the area's tree fruit orchards and vineyards. Late spring and into early

summer wet spells posed major challenges with keeping tissues protected from diseases, and finally, a severe storm system that brought high winds and hail passed through on Sunday (8/2) impacting a west-east band of orchards and vineyards across the northwest. At this final meeting, we would like to recap the 2015 season to discuss what worked well or not so well and next steps for finishing the season. Although we typically focus on tree fruits, we encourage grape growers to attend this meeting, and Drs. Annemiek Schilder and Duke Elsner will be joining us to discuss grape disease management and other grape topics. Thank you all for your continued support of the NWMHRC, MSU Extension, and Michigan's fruit industries!

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

The Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center's (NWMHRC) annual open house is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 2015. This year's event will include an equipment show, wine tasting and dinner, and the Leelanau Horticulture Society's annual meeting. In addition, Greenstone Farm Credit Crop Insurance will be holding a discussion reviewing current fruit policies, as well as introducing the new Whole Farm Revenue Protection policy. This new policy is aimed toward specialty crop, and diverse growers. Discussion will include a short powerpoint outlining the basics, followed by a short Q and A.

The grounds to the exhibit area will open at 1:00 p.m., and equipment vendors will be on site. Free educational wagon tours of the NWMHRC featuring MSU specialists will take place from 3:00-4:45. The tour will include winegrape and tree fruit specialists that will speak on a variety of topics: disease management, vine health, insectary plant plots, cover crops, high density Montmorency plantings and the recent over-the-row harvest that was held at the NWMHRC. Growers are encouraged to meet with equipment vendors during the social hour from 4:45 – 6:00. Dinner and the Leelanau Horticultural Society's annual meeting will follow at 6:00.

As in past years, the equipment show, social hour, and dinner is sponsored by the Leelanau Horticultural Society and Parallel 45 with the educational portion sponsored by AgBioResearch, MSU Extension, and the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation. To reserve or purchase a dinner ticket, please call (231) 946-1510 or email Jenn at goodr100@msu.edu by August 20, 2013. The dinner will be catered by *Ethnic Garden Catering* and will feature locally produced food; cost for dinner tickets is \$10 per person.

For more information, contact the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Center at 231-946-1510. We hope to see many of you at this fun and educational event!

Grand Traverse County Household Hazardous Waste Collection - August 27th 1:00pm-6:45 pm and APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED

The Next Household Hazardous Waste & Pesticide Collection is scheduled for August 27, 2015. An appointment is required and can be made on their website (www.Recyclesmart.info.com) A link for making appointments will be posted on their website beginning August 12. Or you can make an appointment by calling the RecycleSmart Hotline starting on August 12th at 941.5555.
Event location & directions provided when appointment is made.

RecycleSmart requires an appointment for the Household Hazardous Waste & Pesticide collections for planning purposes with the contracted vendor, spacing of arrival times of participants, staffing and equipment needs, etc.

MSU Extension programs and material are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or veteran status. Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities.

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/>

Information on grapes:

<http://grapes.msu.edu>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports has moved to MSU News

<http://news.msue.msu.edu>