

# **Northern Michigan FruitNet 2016 Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center**

## **Weekly Update**

**FruitNet Report – January 14, 2015**

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### **2016**

<b>1/27</b>	<b>Timber and Taxes Workshop</b> Grand Traverse Conservation District
<b>2/3 – 2/4</b>	<b>Southwest Michigan Horticulture Days</b> Benton Harbor, MI
<b>2/6 – 2/10</b>	<b>2016 IFTA Annual Conference</b> Grand Rapids, MI
<b>2/25</b>	<b>Planting Bareroot Trees—A Reforestation Workshop</b> Leelanau County Government Building— Community Room
<b>3/12</b>	<b>Healthy Forests - Caring for our trees!</b> Grand Traverse Conservation District

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### **Attention NW MI Growers: IFTA Opportunity in Your Backyard (Almost)**

The International Tree Fruit Association (IFTA) is coming back to Michigan in February 2016, and there is a terrific line up of excellent presentations that will benefit your farm! This year marks the 59<sup>th</sup> IFTA annual conference, and it will be held in Grand Rapids (it is not that far away....).

**Pre-conference Workshop, Saturday, February 6**

The conference will kick off with a pre-conference intensive workshop on growing the moneymakers: Honeycrisp, Gala, and Fuji. They will start off with a review of the apple market the past few years and today's market for our three money maker varieties. What are the economics of these three varieties? How should they be grown and handled to get the greatest return for the greatest dollar input? Where is the best fruit size target? Can these varieties be grown at a lesser market? What system is best and why in terms of dollars? They will also look at new strains of these varieties and their fruit quality challenges. They will also explore the best rootstocks for each of these varieties. Training and crop load management will also be key topics. They will cover nutrition with the challenges for each variety: small fruit in Gala, bitterpit in Honeycrisp, and high vigor in Fuji. Lastly, they will talk about fruit maturity, harvest, and post harvest strategies to obtain the best profit.

### **Monday, February 8: Precision Orchard Training & Production Systems**

Over the past 50 years, the fruit industry has undergone a slow yet monumental revolution. The adoption of dwarfing rootstock and the change to higher and higher density systems has made fruit growing profitable, rewarding, and enjoyable. How did we get here and where are we going?

What is the performance of apple rootstocks and what about the new ones? What can we expect from these new and improved rootstocks? Which is best for the very high densities? Which rootstocks work best with these very high-density plantings and systems?

Hear about the characteristics of the fruit wall systems grown the Italian way with tips on training, production and fruit quality. How are these multiple leader systems for apple performing? Tart and sweet cherry systems will continue to change and be adapted for mechanization. How are new rootstocks that are now available for cherry performing?

### **Tuesday, February 9: Orchard Tours**

The Tuesday Orchard Tour will include a stop at Jake and Nick Rasch Orchards where conference attendees will see Honeycrisp on Tall Spindle System, peaches on a V-System, young and old pear plantings, and apricots. This one stop should not be missed for excellent modern intensive tree fruit training *(Emily and I saw it this summer, and it is awesome!)*.

The NC-140 Honeycrisp trial at Joe and Rob Rasch Orchards is another must see. Many of the latest Geneva stocks and others are available for inspection at this five year old planting. There will be a tour stop to view orchard machinery including platforms and harvesters.

Attendees will visit the Dietrich Orchards where significant high density sweet cherry acreage on Gisela rootstocks are one to six years old. At Nyblad Orchards an impressive

multiple leader apple orchard between the age of one and three years old is on the agenda. The last orchard will be a visit to Riveridge Grand Farm to see new one and two year old V-system plantings of Honeycrisp.

### **Wednesday, February 10: Precision Orchard Technologies**

The whole area of nutrition, irrigation and fertigation is changing with new systems, rootstocks and technology.

There is a need to adopt the whole orchard approach to mechanization to produce fruit with greatest profit. Robotics, machine performed tasks and machine assist harvest machines will boost orchardist productivity and dollar return. New technologies with iPhone and iPad apps will assist grower decision-making, record keeping, and bring knowledge to their fingertips.

Thinning, all plant summer PGRs and harvest and post-harvest PGRs will make all the difference in the final packout and sale. Hear the best knowledge on these important horticultural tasks.

## **Congratulations to the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation IFTA Scholarship Winners!**

Congratulations to the following people for winning a scholarship to attend the 2016 IFTA Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, MI!

Charlie Hathaway  
Robert White  
Jessica White  
Juliette King  
Nate Wilson  
Allen Korson  
Raul Gomez  
Isaiah Wunsch  
Mark Schiller  
Jack King  
Courtney King

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## **Looking for 2016 Leelanau Farmers Market Masters**

The Leelanau Farmers Market Association board is looking for market masters for the Suttons Bay, Leland, Lake Leelanau and Empire markets for the 2016 season. If you are

interested, please fill out the application that is attached to this email. These are paid positions, and run from mid-June through early September for Leland, Lake Leelanau and Empire and early May through late October for Suttons Bay.

If you have any questions, please contact Dana Boomer at [leelanaufarmersmarkets@gmail.com](mailto:leelanaufarmersmarkets@gmail.com) or read more about the program on their website: [eatleelanau.org](http://eatleelanau.org)

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## **Southwest Michigan Horticulture Days**

Mendel Center  
Lake Michigan College  
2755 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor, Michigan, 49022

The 2016 SW Hort Days will run from February 3 - 4, 2016 and will include a trade show and educational sessions, which will offer RUP credits. MSU Extension educators, fruit growers, and university researchers will give the educational sessions. This years program is hosted by the Michigan Grape Society, Michigan State University Extension and Lake Michigan College

On the grape side of the program, SW Michigan is very fortunate to have Christian Butzke from Purdue on the SW Hort days program on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Christian will be talking about “Fining Agents – Principles and best practices from bench to bottle.” The complete grape program can be found attached to this email.

Please contact Allen Zelmer at (269) 870-5265 if you have any questions.

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## **Michigan's Emerging Farmers – Strategies and Tools to Enhance Success Matching Funds Program Application**

Through a USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Grant the MSU Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS), Michigan Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS) and MSU Student Organic Farm will provide a limited number of \$2,000 stipends to beginning farmers in Michigan. Each \$2,000 stipend requires applicant matching savings of at least \$1,000 intended for farm-related costs. The stipends are designed to help people in their first years of farming to develop and stabilize their farming business, increasing its long-term viability.

To participate in this program:

1. Operate a farm business as defined by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for at least one and no more than ten years. A farm business is defined as 1) the engagement in food production (or related activities like composting and transplants) for livelihood and 2) a place from which annual sales of \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold.
2. Complete and submit this pre-application information no later than **March 14, 2016**.
3. Participate in at least 3 beginning farmer workshops to be offered by the MSU Student Organic Farm and/or Genesee Area Women in Agriculture Network during 2016. At least one workshop should be a business planning workshop. \*  
A list of workshops is provided at the end of this application.
4. Develop a three-year farm business plan to be reviewed with suggestions for improvement by project staff members with farm business expertise. Business plan development will be aided through participation in a business planning workshop.
5. Establish a dedicated savings account and save at least \$1,000 as a match for the \$2,000 stipend.
6. Complete these requirements and provide the following documentation to Shakara Tyler by **September 26, 2016**:
  - a. Business plan

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- b. List of workshops attended
- c. Savings account documentation

The funds provided by this grant are intended to support farmers of color and women farmers. Their applications will receive priority.

For questions and comments, please email Shakara Tyler at [tylersh1@msu.edu](mailto:tylersh1@msu.edu).

\*\*\*The application is attached to this email

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## Timber and Taxes Workshop

Wednesday, January 27, 2016 1:00 – 3:30 pm and repeated at 6:30 – 9:00 pm Grand Traverse Conservation District, 1450 Cass Road, Traverse City  
Presented by **Susan Metcalfe**, co-owner of Metcalfe Forestry LLC & Burns Timber Tax Service and designed for forest land owners and tax preparers. If you have bought or sold timber within the past 3 years, or plan to harvest timber, then this is a must see session. The workshop will cover a range of topics involving your potential taxes on the money earned by buying and selling timber, how to keep more \$\$ in your pocket & pay less in tax. There will also be discussion about Michigan's Commercial Forest and Qualified Forest Property Acts, two property tax programs that provide substantial tax benefits to landowners practicing wise forest management.  
Cost is \$15/person (by January 25) or \$20 at the door

For more information or to register, contact Kama Ross, District Forester, Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts at 231-256-9783, or [kama.ross@macd.org](mailto:kama.ross@macd.org).

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## Planting Bareroot Trees—A Reforestation Workshop

Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:00-8:30 pm  
Leelanau County Government Building— Community Room  
Conservation Districts across the country have been offering quality, affordable trees and shrubs for decades. Before you place your order with your favorite nursery or conservation district, come learn about selecting the right species for your specific goals, site selection, how to maximize planning success by proper site preparation, planning techniques and follow-up protection and care. Workshop is free of charge.

or more information or to register, contact Kama Ross, District Forester, Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts at 231-256-9783, or [kama.ross@macd.org](mailto:kama.ross@macd.org).

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## Healthy Forests - Caring for our trees!

Saturday, March 12, 2016 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Grand Traverse Conservation District, 1450 Cass Road, Traverse City \$10/person (by March 10) or \$15 at the door  
Learn about how we can best keep our trees healthy and vigorous and prevent loss from insects and diseases and other environmental stressors. Russ Kidd, Michigan State University Extension Forester Emeritus will give you practical ways to build resilient trees in the forest or in your own backyard. Also, learn about how you can become involved in the new “Sentinel Tree” Program, a volunteer program of monitoring and reporting health conditions into a statewide data base to increase our chances of effective control of non-native threats to our forests.

For more information or to register, contact Kama Ross, District Forester, Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts at 231-256-9783, or [kama.ross@macd.org](mailto:kama.ross@macd.org).

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*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:

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

