Northern Michigan FruitNet 2016
Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

FruitNet Report – March 29, 2016

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4/7
Benzie-Manistee Horticultural Society Equipment Demonstration and Annual Meeting

4/8
2016 Northwest Michigan Winegrape Meeting Series
Spring Kick-Off
NWMHRC

4/13
Seasonal Worker Housing for Michigan Agriculture
NWMHRC

4/14
IPM Kickoff – 5PM – 8PM
Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

What’s New?

• Growing Degree Day Accumulations
• Growth Stages
• Potential Freezing Weather

GROWING DEGREE DAY ACCUMULATIONS AS OF April 4, 2016 AT THE NWMHRC

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### Potential Freezing Weather

All of the Fruit Educators across the state have been fielding questions about the potential freezing weather coming our way tonight. Amy Irish-Brown had a good conversation with Dr. Jeff Andresen, MSU Ag Climatologist and here is a summary:

On the Ridge, most apples are in still in the silver tip stage with a little green showing, but not enough to call it green tip yet. Up north, we are just starting to see silver tip in some apple varieties. The Critical Minimum Table indicates apples at silver tip can handle 15°F before there is fruit bud kill.

A bigger concern for growers up north is sweet cherries. Many orchards are at bud swell, and we have even seen side green in some varieties, such as Golds. Forecasted low temperatures may dip into the single digits. At sweet cherry bud swell, the critical minimum temperature is 17 °F to kill 10% of the fruit buds or if
temperatures get down to 5°F, we could see up to 90% kill. Currently predicted overnight temperatures ranges from 9-15°F in our region. Most tart cherry buds are not swelling at this time, and damage is less of a concern than in sweet cherries.

Many growers are considering whether to run wind fans tonight--here are a few things to consider before running the fans:

- There is a giant mass of cold air aloft and as long as the winds stay up overnight, running fans will be not be of use as there will not be the necessary calm conditions to set up an inversion.
- There is some indication that winds could die down late at night or early morning. If that happens, it does take some time (a few hours) for an inversion to build.
- Please watch the situation closely – if there is no inversion, fans will not help. In fact, they could hurt as you will be moving cold air around which could create a “wind chill” like factor and cause tissue damage that otherwise would not happen.
- Also, the cold air aloft is VERY cold, so if you do run fans, watch your temperature around them closely – if you were to tap in to that cold air aloft, you could bring that down to the surface and cause a great deal of cold injury.

Benzie-Manistee Horticultural Society Equipment Demonstration and Annual Meeting

The deadline to register is April 1st. Please contact Jennifer Goodrich at 231-946-1510 or goodr100@msu.edu to register.

The Benzie-Manistee Horticultural Society and Michigan State University Extension invite you to an educational session on modern equipment for the 21st century orchards where we will feature platform and hedger education and equipment demonstrations. The day will begin on April 7th at 9:15 AM at the Blaine Christian Church (7018 Putney Road, Arcadia, MI 49613) with a morning of presentations by Farm Bureau on transportation laws updates. Phil Schwallier, MSU Extension, will present his research results on farm mechanization using equipment such as hedgers and platforms, and a grower panel will share their experiences of mechanization on the farm. Lunch will be provided at the church, and an afternoon of on-farm platform and hedger demonstrations will follow. At this time, we have over 10 pieces of equipment that will be demonstrated in high-density apple orchard systems. Participants will have the
chance to meet with equipment dealers and fabricators at a Social Hour that will be held before dinner.

Registration cost is $30 per person, which includes lunch and refreshments; a portion of proceeds will be provided to the Boy Scouts of America for their assistance setting up the meeting and dining area for this event. Dinner at The Fusion restaurant (Frankfurt, MI) costs an additional $20 per person.

Blaine Christian Church
7018 Putney Road, Arcadia, MI 49613
April 7th, 2016

**Educational Session**

9:15  Welcome and Refreshments  
Adam Putney, President, Benzie Manistee Horticultural Society

9:25 – 9:45  Moving Ahead for Progress: Transportation Laws Update  
Craig Anderson, Farm Bureau

9:45 – 10:15  Mechanization: You Ready for Platforms, Hedging and More?  
Phil Schwallier, MSU Extension

10:15 – 10:30  Break

10:30 – 11:30  Grower Panel: Mechanization on the Farm  
Greg Williams, Williams Orchards: Homemade Platform  
Francis Otto, Cherry Bay Orchards: Brownie Quad Platform  
Lenny Ligon, Ligon Orchards – Hedger

11:30 – 12:15  Lunch at Blaine Christian Church

**Field Equipment Demonstration**

12:30 – 1:45  Louis Gelder and Sons Company, Inc.: Blosi Platform and Hedger Demo  
Location: Bill Lentz Farm (See Map)

1:45 – 3:00  Gillison’s Variety Fabrication Inc. Double Hedger; and Phil Brown Welding Platform Demo  
Location: Putney Farm (See Map)

3:00 – 4:45  Precise Ag Platform; and Bartlett Orsi Cross Platform and FAMA Hedger Demo
Location: Evans Brothers (See Map)

5:15 – 6:00  
**Meet with the Vendors Social Hour**  
Location: The Fusion, 300 Main St, Frankfort, MI 49635  
Website: www.the-fusion.com

6:00 – 7:00  
**Dinner at The Fusion** *(Please register in advance)*

7:00 – 7:30  
**Benzie-Manistee Horticultural Society Annual Meeting**

Thank you to the Michigan State Horticultural Society for supporting this event. Many thanks also to the vendors and growers for their equipment demonstrations and participation in the panel discussion.

**Maps from Blaine Christian Church to Grower Sites:**
The deadline to register is April 1st. Please contact Jennifer Goodrich at 231-946-1510 or goodr100@msu.edu to register.

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**2016 Tree Fruit IPM Kick-off**

*April 14, 2016*

*5:00 – 8:00 PM*

**Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center**

Please join Michigan State University Extension at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center on Thursday, April 14 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM for the annual Tree Fruit IPM Kickoff! We are pleased to host MSU Climatologist, Dr. Jeff Andresen who will provide us with a look into this season’s weather predictions and an update on weather trends into the future. MSU Extension Educator Amy Irish-Brown from The Ridge will be presenting an outlook on apple pest and diseases for 2016. We will discuss strategies for combating cherry leaf spot and spotted wing drosophila as well as provide the annual pesticide label changes and updates. This event is free of charge, and pesticide recertification credits and certified crop advisor credits will be available.

**4:45**  
**Welcome and refreshments**

**5:00 – 5:45**  
2016 Growing Season Outlook and Results from the Climark Project Involving Climate Trends and Cherry Production  
*Jeff Andresen, MSU Climatologist*

**5:45 – 6:15**  
Amy’s Crystal Ball: 2016 Apple Pest Outlook  
*Amy Irish-Brown, MSU Extension*
6:15 – 6:30  Break

6:30 – 7:00  Minimizing Cherry Leaf Spot Infections in 2016
Dr. Nikki Rothwell, MSU Extension and AgBioResearch

7:00 – 7:30  Optimizing Economical and MRL-Friendly SWD Management
Emily Pochubay, MSU Extension

7:30 – 8:00  Pesticide Label Changes and Updates
Emily Pochubay, MSU Extension

2016 NORTHWEST MICHIGAN WINEGRAPE MEETING SERIES

Spring Kick-Off

Friday, April 8, 2016

9:00 am – 5:00 p.m.

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center,
6686 S. Center Hwy., Traverse City

$10 for Parallel 45 members
$15 for non-members

Pre-registration is required—To register, visit http://www.p45michigan.com/

Program:

9:00 -- 9:15  Welcome and Parallel 45 update
  Brian Hosmer, P45 President

9:15 -- 12:00  Vineyard sprayer technology and calibration
  John Stone, Pesticide Safety Education Program, MSU

12:00 – 1:00  Lunch provided on-site

1:00 – 3:00  Grape disease biology and management
  Annemiek Schilder, MSU

3:00 – 5:00  Comparative tasting of Michigan wines made from
First Friday Meetings

May 6, 3-5 pm
2 Lads Winery
Sprayer rate controllers, drift management, visualizing deposition patterns—Mark Ledebuhr, Application Insight

June 3, 3-5 pm
L. Mawby Vineyards
Disease scouting, weather influences and fungicide selection—Annemiek Schilder, MSU

July 1, 3-5 pm
Hawthorn Vineyards
Natural enemies, new insecticide options, perimeter spray programs - Rufus Isaacs, MSU

August 5, 3-5 pm
Shady Lane Cellars
Compost tea trials and applications

NW Michigan Horticultural Research Center Open House

August 25 (date tentative), 1-5 pm
Variety trial observations & mechanical weed management
FARMERS & RANCHERS, HOW DOES HEALTH INSURANCE AFFECT YOU?

The University of Vermont is INTERVIEWING 120 FARMERS & RANCHERS, AND WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

What are your experiences and concerns with health care for farm and ranch families? Two brief confidential interviews will earn you $200 Compensation! This survey is done to help influence rural health policy. These surveys are needed for a 4-year USDA-funded grant to understand farm and ranch families’ unique health insurance needs.

Here is what to expect:

An initial phone interview and follow-up interview will be scheduled at your convenience. Initial conversation will take place in Spring 2016.

Interviews:

We will talk about your farm, your experiences with healthcare, and how health insurance influences your quality of life and farm business. All information will be kept confidential.

Why your participation matters:

The information you share will help influence policy at USDA Health and Human Services.

What you will receive:

Participants will be compensated $200 for their time (approx. 4 hours total)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Katlyn Morris, Project Coordinator

Email: Katlyn.Morris@uvm.edu,

www.hirednag.net

Phone: (802) 656-0257

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Seasonal Worker Housing for Michigan Agriculture

Hosted by: League of Women Voters Leelanau County
Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 7:00 PM
Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Speakers include:

Connee Canfield, farmer, migrant housing developer and site manager for SunRISE migrant worker apartments in Hartford, MI

Majed Ghussaini, manager for the Migrant Labor Housing Inspection and Licensing Division, MI Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

Meeting is open to the public and is part of the Farm Labor Task Force Forum that the League of Women Voters Leelanau County puts on.

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:
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