


[Home](#)
[Background
& Projects](#)
[Calendar](#)
[Directions](#)
[InfoVideos](#)
[Links](#)
[Extension
Expert Search](#)
[Publications](#)
[Staff](#)

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2010 Weekly Update NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station

[Nikki Rothwell](#)
[Erin Lizotte](#)
[Bill Klein](#)

District Horticulturist

District Fruit IPM/IFP Agent

Farm Mgr, NWMHRS

[Duke Elsner](#)

Agricultural & Regional Viticulture Agent

March 30, 2010

GROWING DEGREE DAY ACCUMULATIONS AS OF March 30 at the NWMHRS

Year	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	20 yr. Avg.
GDD42	80	45	11	90	39	35	44.7
GDD50	18	11	0	28	10	10	14.0

BUD DAMAGE REPORT

The region has experienced cold night time temperatures with particularly mild days, and many growers are likely concerned about damage to the fruit buds. Because we have observed swelling in sweet cherry buds, these trees may be more susceptible than other tree fruits or winegrapes. However, when we cut buds on 26 March from multiple varieties at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station, we did not see a lot of damage in sweets. Results are as follows: 1) Napoleon 24% damage, 2) Emperor Francis 8% damage, 3) Gold 8% damage, 4) Balaton 32% damage, and 5) Montmorency 0% damage.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

IPM Cover Cropping Think Tank

Erin Lizotte, IPM/IFP District Educator

Since our last IPM Think Tank in 2008, there has been a great deal of interest in orchard floor management and so in 2010 it seems fitting that we revisit the ever evolving science behind cover cropping and orchard floor management. For the 2010 IPM Think Tank, we are fortunate to host Dr. David Granatstein, the statewide coordinator for the Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources at the Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center in Wenatchee, Washington. Dr. Granatstein has studied the use of compost as a soil amendment, mulches, cover crops for nutrient improvement and for beneficial insect habitat, the Swiss sandwich technique, and rodent repellent plants and will address how growers can improve upon the standard of sod alleys and weed spray strips. We will also hear from Dr. George Bird, Michigan State specialists, and growers utilizing cover crops. The meeting will be held at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station on **April 7**, registration begins at 8:45 and the program will run until 4. There is a \$25 registration fee that includes lunch. Please call Jackie Baase at (231)946-1510 to register. **Deadline to register is April 5.**

Following is the program agenda.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT THINK TANK Soil Quality and Cover Cropping

8:45-9:15	Registration
9:15-10:00	Soil Structure and Biology Basics Dr. Stuart Grandy, Crop & Soil Sciences, MSU
10:00-10:30	Cover Crop Basic: What, When, and Why? Dr. Dale Mutch, Extension Specialist, SW Region
10:30-10:45	BREAK
10:45-11:15	Fourteen Roles of Cover Crops in Orchard Systems Dr. George Bird, Prof. Emeritus, Dept of Entomology, MSU
11:15-12:15	Orchard Floor Systems and Functions Dr. David Granatstein, Washington State University

- 12:15-1:15 LUNCH**
- 1:15-1:45 Research Report: Cover Crops in Orchard Systems
Dr. Rob Surrine, MSU Extension**
- 1:45-2:00 BREAK**
- 2:00-3:00 Weed Management and the Effect on Orchard Floor Systems
Dr. David Granatstein, Washington State University**
- 3:00-4:00 Open Question and Discussion Session with Dr. Granatstein and invited speakers**

Dwarf Sweet Cherry Pruning Demo

Join Dr. Greg Lang for a pruning demo from 1-3 pm on **April 13**. Dr. Lang will cover specific pruning techniques for sweet cherry grown on dwarfing rootstocks. This event is free, requires no registration, and will be held at the Bardenhagen Farm at 7990 East Horn Road, Lake Leelanau. We hope you can join us!

Winegrape IPM Kick-off

Erin Lizotte, Nikki Rothwell and Duke Elsner

A day-long program to kick off the growing season for winegrape growers and vineyard managers will be held at the *Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station* from 10-4 on **April 16** (registration begins at 9:30). We are fortunate to host Dr. John Reganold (via the web) from Washington State University where he is a professor in the Department of Crop and Soil Science. Dr. Reganold's farming systems research measures the effects of alternative and conventional farming on sustainability indicators: soil health, crop quality, financial performance, environmental quality, and energy efficiency. In addition to Dr. Reganold, we will be joined by MSU winegrape faculty and extension staff to help us all prepare for the 2010 season. A special thanks to Parallel 45 Vines and Wines for their support of this event.

There is a \$25 fee for this program and registration is required by **April 12**. Please call Jackie Baase at 231-946-1510. We hope to see you there!

IPM Tree Fruit Kickoff

There will be a Tree Fruit Kickoff held on **April 19** at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station from 7-9 pm. We will review label and management changes for the 2010 season for apple and cherry growers. This meeting is **free** and no registration is required.

GAP CLARIFICATIONS FOR CHERRY GROWERS

Traceability and Cherry Tanks: Use receiving ticket for each load. Receiving ticket should include grower name, block #, date, and time of harvest. If growers leave cherry tanks at receiving station, they should have documentation from receiving station.

Receiving Stations and Water Tests: If a grower delivers cherries to a receiving station and that is where the cherries are drenched, the grower will need to get a copy of the receiving station water test and include it in the grower manual.

Cherry Shaker Operators & Gatorade: If a worker is in an enclosed cab, they can have something other than water. If a worker is not in an enclosed cab, only water is permitted.

Irrigation From Surface Water: First test should be taken before season starts.

Sweet Cherry Boxes: Holes would have to be repaired. Ground or vegetative matter to plug holes is not acceptable.

Roll Out Shakers: First important aspect would be the pre-harvest assessment. If a grower finds piles of manure, feces, etc., the grower should document what remedial action would be taken. i.e. Pile of feces, remove the pile of feces or don't shake that particular tree so tarp is not contaminated.

Tennis Rackets: Tennis rackets would be considered a "hand implement" and should be included in cleaning/disinfecting on a scheduled basis.

Hand Washing Stations: Hand washing stations that collect grey water cannot be poured into the ground but should be collected.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE SURVEY!

A reminder to all tart cherry growers.... We hope that you can take the time to fill out the *Tart Cherry Integrated Orchard Management: Grower Feedback 2010* survey you received in the mail in the past few weeks. This information is vital to our Tart Cherry RAMP Project, and your input is valuable. Additionally, we can use the survey outcomes to further pursue grants for tart cherry research. Thanks in advance for completing and returning the survey; we greatly appreciate your support!

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Insect and disease predictive information is available at:

<http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu/home.asp>

60 Hour Forecast

<http://www.agweather.geo.msu.edu/agwx/forecasts/fcst.asp?fileid=fous46kktvc>

Information on cherries is available at the new cherry website:

<http://www.cherries.msu.edu/>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports

<http://www.ipmnews.msu.edu/fruit/>

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

[ACTUAL AND PREDICTED DEGREE-DAY
ACCUMULATIONS SINCE MARCH 1, 2010](#)

Please send any comments or suggestions regarding this site to:
Bill Klein, kleinw@msu.edu

Last Revised: 3-30-10

[Home](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact](#) | [Indicia](#) | [Logos](#)
AgBioResearch • 109 Agriculture Hall • East Lansing, MI 48824 • Ph: 517-355-0123

© 2010 Michigan State University Board of Trustees