



# Northern Michigan FRUITNET 2001

## *Weekly Update*

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### WEATHER

NW Michigan has received some limited rainfall during the past four weeks, helping to alleviate the worst summer drought in over 25 years. Evaporation rates have also dropped significantly during this time. During the past four weeks evaporation has averaged 1.1" per week, or 0.16" per day. This compares to an average evaporation rate during the mid-June to mid August period of 1.8" per week, or 0.26" per day.

### Growing Degree Day Accumulations as of Sept 10, 2001 at the NWMHRS

Year	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
GDD42	3434	3231	3523	3566	2841
GDD50	2292	2039	2341	2362	1799

### PESTS and DISEASES

By Jim Nugent and Gary Thornton

Many young bearing tart cherries are exhibiting **gummosis** on the trunk and lower scaffold area, primarily on the south side of the trees. This is occurring on trees that may or may not have received ethephon. So, while ethephon damage was severe in some blocks this year due to the combination of heat and drought stress, the current gummosis symptoms are unrelated to ethephon. The cause of the gummosis is not confirmed but is likely related to drought and heat induces stress.

Recent wet weather has increased the occurrence of **Botrytis bunch rot** in grapes.

Apple growers can relax now in most situations. **Apple maggot** trap catches were down this week, at 0.5 per trap from 2.3 per trap last week, in an abandoned orchard. **Codling moth** trap catches were zeros in the last two weeks at the NWMHRS, although there have been reports of catches above threshold on some farms. For both of these pests trap catches can vary and growers are advised to monitor their own situations closely. **European corn borer** can be a sporadic pest in apples as well. Corn borer excavate rather large tunnels in apple fruit, feeding in the flesh. This differs from codling moth

damage, which makes a smaller tunnel extending to the seed cavity. Typically this pest is a problem when weeds such as pigweed and lambsquarters grow up into the canopy. Weeds should be mowed to reduce the risk of problems from this pest. European corn borer does occur even where corn is not

grown adjacent to orchards.

Plums are very susceptible to **brown rot** as they ripen. Protective fungicides remain important, until fruit is harvested. Plums are also susceptible to **apple maggot**.

[ACTUAL AND PREDICTED DEGREE-DAY  
ACCUMULATIONS SINCE March 1, 2001 \(\\*\)](#)

**Please send any comments or suggestions regarding this site to:**

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