

# Northern Michigan FruitNet 2013

## Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

### Weekly Update

April 2, 2013

#### NORTHWEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL REPORT

As expected with a more normal start to this spring, things are very quiet in the north. Orchard floors in most areas of the region are still covered with snow, and small amounts of snow has continued to fall over the past few days. Degree day accumulations are markedly different, thankfully, from 2012. This season, we have accumulated 11 GDD base 42 and no accumulations base 50; last season, we had already accumulated 281GDD base 42 and 162GDD base 50 by 1 April. This year is also behind our 22-year average, where accumulations were an average of 61GDD base 42 and 22GDD base 50. So far this season, we have accumulated 1274 chilling hours here at the NWMHRC.

Growers are busy pruning and preparing for the season. The continued cold weather is adding to the optimism for a great 2013

#### HIGH DENSITY PRUNING DEMONSTRATION: April 4, 2013

An informal but rigorous high density sweet cherry pruning demonstration will take place in northwest Michigan **THIS THURSDAY**, April 4th. Dr. Greg Lang will be coming up from campus to show us the best strategies for pruning various systems of high density sweets. The day will be a long one, but we will be able to see many different ages of trees and training systems at each of the farms. We will be caravanning from one site to another, so growers can join in at the various stops on the tour; we will try to keep on schedule as best as we are able with this tour. We will have sandwiches available for lunch here at the research station stop, and we ask that growers please call the station if you plan to eat lunch with us: 231-946-1510.

7:30am            Meet at NW Station to travel to Williams Orchards

8:00-9:30       Williams Orchards  
*9360 S. Novak Rd., Maple City, 49664*

9:30              Travel to Bardenhagen Berries

10:00-11:00    Bardenhagen Berries  
*7990 E. Horn Rd, Lake Leelanau, 49653*

11:00            Travel to Jim Bardenhagen Farm

11:10-12:10    Jim Bardenhagen Farm  
*7881 E. Pertner Rd, Suttons Bay, 49682*

12:10            Travel to Northwest Michigan Hort. Research Station  
*6686 S. Center Highway, Traverse City, MI 49684*

12:30-1:00     LUNCH

1:00-1:45       Prune high density sweet cherries: UFO, KGB, Slender Axe, Tall Spindle Axe

1:45-2:30       Prune high density tart cherries: Gisela 3, 5, 6, Maheleb, and own root—bush and central leader

2:30-3:15 Travel to King Orchards

3:15-4:00 King Orchards  
4620 N M-88 Central Lake, 49622

### **NW MICHIGAN SPRING WINE GRAPE KICK-OFF**

When: **Friday, April 12**

Where: Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Time: 9:30 AM – ?? PM

Cost: \$30 for P45 members, \$40 for non-members payable at the door

#### Morning Program

Soil biology featuring Joe Scrimger of BioSystems and R.J. Rant of Morgan's Composting

LUNCH Catered on-site

#### Afternoon Program

Guided tasting of sparkling wines with Claudia Tyagi, Somellier

Weather permitting, we will also slip in some pruning in the research vineyards before and after the event – be prepared!

More information on the 2013 Wine Grape Kick-Off will be posted soon on the Parallel 45 Vines & Wines web site, <http://www.p45michigan.com/>. So that we can plan for lunch, please RSVP by calling 231-946-1510 no later than **April 10th**.

### **ANNUAL TREE FRUIT IPM KICK-OFF 'SAVE THE DATE'**

This year's annual Tree Fruit Kickoff will be held **Monday, April 22, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**, at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Center in Traverse City. As in previous years, we will review label and management changes for the 2013 season that affect apple and cherry growers. This meeting is *free* and no registration is required. Pesticide Recertification Credits and Certified Crop Advisor Credits will be offered. For more information, call 231-946-1510.

#### **Agenda**

6:00-6:30 p.m. Update on 2013 fungicide labels for cherries and apples

6:30-7:00 Using Kasumin to control the streptomycin-resistant fireblight pathogen

7:00-7:45 Update on insect control and efficacy in cherry and apple

7:45-8:00 How to set up and use Twitter to get the most up-to-date pest management information from the NWMHRC

### **SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA NATIONAL SURVEY FOR CANEBERRY GROWERS WILL GUIDE OPTIONS FOR CONTROL**

**Raspberry and blackberry growers are encouraged to share their experiences with spotted wing *Drosophila* in this national survey that will review insecticide needs and where labeling can be expanded.**

Posted on **April 1, 2013, MSUE News**, by **Diane Brown**, Michigan State University Extension

Spotted wing *Drosophila* (SWD) is becoming a serious insect pest in commercial production of caneberries. A multi-state effort is underway with state small fruit Extension specialists and the U.S.

[Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) to review short-term and long-term needs for insecticides to control SWD and determine where labeling can be expanded.

[Michigan State University Extension](#) is asking for information about raspberry and blackberry growers' experiences with SWD to help support requests to EPA for expanded insecticide labeling to control SWD. This information will also be valuable to provide background information for grants supporting research to guide management recommendations.

All information collected will be summarized and the summary information will be shared with participants. Individual growers will not be identified in the summary and their identity will remain confidential.

You can complete this [SWD survey for caneberry growers](#) online. So far, 137 surveys have been completed. Our goal is to have at least 200. If you have not yet completed the survey, please take a few minutes to add your information; your contribution is important.

For questions, contact MSU Extension's [Diane Brown](#) at 1-269-944-4126.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

## **BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUGS: RESOURCES FOR IDENTIFYING THEM AND THEIR HOSTS**

**An identification guide for brown marmorated stink bugs is now available online, as well as an extensive list of host plants.**

Posted on **April 1, 2013, MSUE News**, by **Diane Brown**, Michigan State University Extension

[Brown marmorated stink bugs](#) are an exotic pest of fruits, vegetables, soybeans, field corn and many ornamental plants.



They were first discovered in Michigan in 2010 and, as of April 1, 2013, have been confirmed in nine counties by Howard Russell, entomologist at [Michigan State University Diagnostic Services](#). So far, its presence in Michigan has been primarily as a nuisance pest in homes rather than as an agricultural pest.

According to [Michigan State University Extension](#), an excellent resource for identifying stinkbugs of economic importance, including brown marmorated stink bugs, was published as a field guide by [Virginia Tech](#) several years ago. The 40-page guide, titled "[Field Guide to Stink Bugs of Agricultural Importance in the Upper Southern Region and Mid-Atlantic States](#)" is now available for download. The guide has good photos and descriptions of egg nymph and adult stages for economically important species, less common species and beneficial species, along with photos of feeding damage on several economic crops.

I have been asked which plants are reported hosts for brown marmorated stink bugs, and it has been difficult to find this information. What I find most often is a list of a dozen or so common economic crops and a vague reference to about 300 hosts. I finally came across a more complete list (still not 300) in a presentation called "[The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug \(BMSB\) in Oregon](#)," by Helmuth Rogg of the [Oregon Department of Agriculture](#).

A list of some 128 reported hosts for brown marmorated stink bugs, including a number of weeds as well as economic and ornamental plants, can be found at the website [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/brown\\_marmorated\\_stink\\_bugs\\_resources\\_for\\_identifying\\_the\\_m\\_and\\_their\\_hosts](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/brown_marmorated_stink_bugs_resources_for_identifying_the_m_and_their_hosts). Tree of Heaven, *Ailanthus altissimus*, has been reported as a host, although it is missing from this list.

*Photo credit: David R. Lance, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org*

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

## THE NEW I-9 IS HERE

**The new Form I-9 is now available. Farmers should begin using the new form immediately for all new hires.**

Posted on **March 28, 2013, MSUE News**, by **Stan Moore**, Michigan State University Extension

The I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification form is required to be filled out for every newly hired employee on the farm (applies to all individuals hired after Nov. 6, 1986, with some limitations). The Form I-9 is used for verifying the identity and employment authorization of individuals hired for employment in the United States. According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services "All U.S. employers must ensure proper completion of Form I-9 for each individual they hire for employment in the United States" and this applies to citizens and noncitizens that are employed.

The new Form I-9 is nine pages in its entirety, but the actual form is two pages (three if the list of acceptable documents is included) with additional pages of expanded instructions.

New changes in the I-9 include:

- Expanded instructions to help ensure accurate completion.
- Two pages of input, including the employee completed section on a separate page from the Employer completed section.
- New fields for email address, phone number and foreign passport in Section 1.

The Form I-9 is [available for download](#) at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Also available on the [USCIS site](#) are helpful trainings for employers and a new [Handbook for Employers \(M-274\)](#) that all employers should download and read. The Handbook for Employers contains instructions on the Form I-9, an extensive question and answer section and examples of acceptable documents for the Form I-9.

The new Form I-9 should be used immediately on all new hires, however USCIS is allowing a 60-day implementation period for those who need to change processes and software. **The new form must be used starting May 7, 2013.**

Employers do not need to complete a new Form I-9 for current employees that already have a properly completed Form I-9 on file, unless a new Form I-9 is filled out for re-verification or rehire.

A Spanish version of the Form I-9 is also available on the USCIS site. Employers may use the Spanish

version as a “translation guide” for Spanish-speaking employees, but must fill out and keep the English version for their records.

In future weeks, look for organizations to provide analysis of the new Form I-9. One such analysis was recently provided by Craig Anderson, Editor of the Agriculture Labor and Safety Services Newsletter for Michigan Farm Bureau. Farmers can find out more about the [ALSS](#) newsletter online.

At recent agriculture labor programs held across the state by [Michigan State University Extension](#), agriculture employers learned how to comply with Form I-9 requirements, other labor law requirements for employers, and resources available for agriculture employers. If you were not able to attend the programs, please plan on attending similar programs to be held in February and March of 2014.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

## **AGRICULTURE HR NOW AVAILABLE ON NEW MSU FIRM TEAM WEBSITE**

**The Farm Information Resource Management (FIRM) team at Michigan State University has launched its new webpage including a Labor and Human Resource Management section.**

Posted on **March 28, 2013, MSUE News**, by **Stan Moore**, Michigan State University Extension

As part of a concerted effort to provide Michigan farmers with tools, educational information, and announcements of upcoming events related to farm business management, the [Michigan State University \(MSU\) Extension](#) Farm Information Resource Management (FIRM) team has recently unveiled a [new website](#).

One of the many resources on the new website is a page dedicated to labor and human resource management. The website was also highlighted at the recent 2013 Annual West Michigan Ag Labor meeting in Allendale, Mich. on March 6, 2013.

On the labor and human resource management page, growers will discover helpful MSU publications, fact sheets and links to forms and reports that are necessary for farm labor management. A special section on youth labor rules is also included, as well as a section on migrant services. Farmers looking to improve their employee management skills can also listen to several podcast by Stan Moore and Phil Durst, MSU Extension educators. These podcasts are part of a larger series of podcast that producers can find through iTunes by searching for [Dairy Moosings podcast](#).

Finally, farmers will find helpful links to other university resources through the Labor and Human Resource Management topic area.

Coming soon to the site will be an employee handbook template. Dairy specific human resource management materials can be found on the [MSU Extension Dairy Team](#) website.

For more information on agricultural human resource educational materials please contact [Stan Moore](#), MSU Extension educator.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

## INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT RESOURCES AT MSU

**As the 2013 season approaches, get up-to-date on the latest resources and tools to help you make in-season pest management decisions.**

Posted on **April 1, 2013, MSUE News**, by **Erin Lizotte**, Michigan State University Extension

There are many valuable [integrated pest management](#) (IPM) resources and tools available to producers through [Michigan State University](#). As production systems become more heavily reliant on real-time information and address evolving issues such as invasive pests, pesticide resistance and challenging environmental conditions, [Michigan State University Extension](#) is here to assist producers in maintaining an IPM program that supports economic and environmental sustainability.

### Real-time information

When it comes to keeping up with the latest developments that affect agriculture, MSU Extension is an excellent resource. [MSU Extension News for Agriculture](#) offers the expertise of MSU scientists and educators through online articles addressing pest management and provides scouting reports for many cropping systems. You can [sign up to receive customized digests](#) via email that address topics or cropping systems of interest to you. To access these resources, visit [msue.msu.edu](http://msue.msu.edu) and click the Agriculture tab at the top of the page.

Keeping up with the latest weather developments is a critical component of every IPM program. The [Enviro-weather](#) program at MSU is a sustainable, weather-based information system that helps users make pest, production and natural resource management decisions in Michigan. Enviro-weather's website offers general weather information such as rainfall, temperature, degree day accumulations, wind direction and wind speed. Additionally, the Enviro-weather website houses dozens of pest and disease models to help growers more accurately gauge pest pressure, development and optimal treatment timings throughout the season.

Lastly, Enviro-weather offers [irrigation scheduling tools](#) and [evapotranspiration data](#). The tools and models on the website use data collected by 70 weather stations located around Michigan. Growers can select the weather station closest to their farm to localize the information, increasing its relevance for individuals around the state.

### Online resources

MSU offers a number of additional online resources including the [IPM website](#), which is devoted to the dissemination of information regarding sustainable pest management practices. Found at [ipm.msu.edu](http://ipm.msu.edu), this page is your link to dozens of crop-specific IPM resources including pest identification and up-to-date invasive pest information.

The [MSU Extension website](#) can connect you to a number of resources including MSU Extension's [Find an Expert](#), which can quickly connect you with an MSU Extension expert who covers your location. Additionally, the [eXtension Ask An Expert](#) service allows you to send a question to Extension experts from universities around the country. These resources can be found at the bottom of the [MSU Extension homepage](#) under "Consult the Experts," or on the left-hand side on every category and article page.

Lastly, learn about using [native plants](#) to attract beneficial insects and pollinators as well as gain other ecosystem services to improve production at [MSU's Native Plants and Ecosystem Services](#) website. This website can be accessed at [nativeplants.msu.edu](http://nativeplants.msu.edu).

### Publications

MSU has produced a number of print resources related to IPM, including pocket-sized flip guides for identifying pest and beneficial insects, crop management guides, weed identification resources and much more. You can access these publications and more online at the [MSU Extension Bookstore](#); type

IPM in the search box for a complete list of IPM-related materials. Some of these materials are available for free when you download and print them yourselves.

### **Diagnostics and nutrient testing**

Need help diagnosing a problem? MSU offers help in identifying pests through [MSU Diagnostic Services](#). The diagnostics laboratory specializes in diagnosing plant problems caused by nematodes, insects, mites, ticks, fungi, bacteria and viruses. To access more information, visit [pestid.msu.edu](http://pestid.msu.edu).

Finally, the cornerstone of responsible and sustainable management and nutrient management starts with soil and tissue nutrient testing. The [MSU Soil and Plant Nutrient Laboratory](#) offers a variety of analytical services on samples of soil, greenhouse growth media, composts, plant tissue or water and can be accessed via the web at [www.psm.msu.edu/SPNL/](http://www.psm.msu.edu/SPNL/).

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

### **Greetings Team MAEAP!**

We hope this email finds you well as the spring slowly creeps in. Here at the Grand Traverse Conservation District, we are busy revamping our MAEAP lingo and marketing materials. We are asking any of our interested MAEAP growers to submit a short (1-3 sentences) "Grower Testimonial" to be included in promotional materials and on our website, <http://natureiscalling.org/restore/farmlands/maeap/>. Please include your name, business name, commodity grown, county, and year originally verified. We would also like to hear your thoughts about MAEAP. Please follow the link below to a brief, anonymous 10 question survey about how we can better serve you!

The survey will close **Tuesday, April 9 at 11:59pm.**  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/H2GLZSL>.

Thank you!

Jessica & Garrett  
MAEAP Technicians  
Grand Traverse Soil Conservation District

### **2013 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS**

Growers can return any amount of unused or outdated pesticides or mercury to these collections. Disposal is supported by MAEAP and pesticide and fertilizer registration fees.

Upcoming collections:

**Antrim:** May 1 at the Bellaire County Building. Call 231-533-8363 for more information  
**Benzie:** June 8 at the Frankfort Industrial Park. Call 231-882-0554 for more information  
**Grand Traverse:** May 16 at GT Co DPW Garage. Appointments start April 15: [recyclesmart.info](http://recyclesmart.info) or 231-941-5555  
**Leelanau:** May 18 at Maple City Road Commission Garage. Call 231-256-8444 for more information

## **WEBSITES OF INTEREST**

Insect and disease predictive information is available at:

<http://enviroweather.msu.edu/homeMap.php>

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/>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports have moved to MSU News

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