

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2013

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

April 9, 2013

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

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. Two Pesticide Recertification Credits and two Certified Crop Advisor Credits have been awarded. 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

PLANT BUDS SIGNAL THE BEGINNING OF SPRING

In woody plants, the buds signal the end of eco-dormancy and the start of spring growth.

Posted on **April 2, 2013, MSUE News**, by **Mark Longstroth**, Michigan State University Extension

Everyone in Michigan is anxiously awaiting spring and warmer temperatures to arrive. Few of us are as patient as the woody plants around us. They have been patiently waiting since mid-January for warm weather. Last fall, as the days got shorter and temperatures fell, perennial plants got ready for winter. Sugars were stored as starch in the shoots and roots. Proteins in the leaves were broken and reassembled as storage proteins in the shoots and roots. (See the [Michigan State University Extension](#) article "[Fall color show and winter dormancy in woody plants](#).") These materials were stored for the explosive growth we often see in spring as trees and shrubs leaf out rapidly under warm conditions.

The plants waited out the frigid weather of winter in a dormant state called endo-dormancy. To prevent growth during warm periods in the winter, the plants track temperatures above freezing. (See the MSU Extension article "[Winter dormancy and chilling in woody plants](#).") Many of our plants completed their chilling requirements in January. By the end of January and in early February, buds would swell and open in a couple of weeks. Now cutting rapidly, they start to grow and flowers develop. (See the MSU Extension article "[Forcing cuttings to determine the end of dormancy in fruits and other plants](#).")



**Blueberry bud burst normally occurs in early April.
Because of the cold March, blueberry growth is just starting.
Photo credit: Mark Longstroth, MSU Extension**

The plants are now in what is called eco-dormancy, when the environmental conditions prevent growth. This might be because it is too dry or too hot. Right now plants are not growing because it is too cold. Plants depend on the temperature of the environment to perform the chemical reactions necessary for growth and development. For many cold climate plants, the temperature below which development does not occur is 42 degrees Fahrenheit. This lower temperature threshold is often called the base temperature. Getting up into the 40s for a few hours and then dropping down into the lower 20s at night will not cause a lot of growth, but when we climb into the 50s or 60s or the temperature doesn't drop much below freezing, the buds will really start to move.

For biological systems where development is temperature dependent, we track growing degree days (GDD). Growing degree days track the amount of heat above the base temperature. (See the MSU Extension articles "[Looking at growing degree days: Just how far behind normal are we?](#)" and "[The role of temperature in scouting and management of insect pests](#).") This allows us to track heat and development from day-to-day, over a week, a month, or an entire growing season. Often the growing degree day accumulation is used to track a growing season, if it is ahead or behind average.

Growing degree days can also be used to compare one growing season to another. During the hot March of 2012, many parts of Michigan were a month or more ahead of normal. (See the [Enviro-weather growing degree day map](#) for March 23, 2012, and look at the last map on the page.) In 2012, fruit growers were concerned that below freezing temperatures in April would cause severe damage to the fruit crop, and they eventually did. This year, most people are concerned that we are behind and it is not even the end of March. Actually, we are only a few days or a week behind. (See the [Enviro-weather growing degree day map](#) for March 23, 2013, and again the last map shows if the season is early of late and by how much.)

As the buds start to grow, they need to change their chemical machinery from withstanding extreme cold to sustaining rapid growth. They quickly use up the sugars and other nutrients they have and send a signal to the adjacent tissue to wake up and send nutrients to the new growth. Right now the growing buds are still waiting in the northern part of Michigan and are just getting started in southern Michigan. As soon as the growth of the buds becomes more noticeable, we will start to worry about the impact of spring freezes on fruit trees and other flowering trees and shrubs. (See the MSU Extension article "[Freeze damage depends on tree fruit stage of development](#).")

Most of Michigan's fruit growers are quite happy that March was cooler than normal and that Michigan's fruit crops are only beginning to start growth. They are happy that in 2013 they are a week or two behind normal and not a month ahead of normal as they were in 2012. (See the MSU Extension article "[With a backwards spring, Mother Nature pitches a change-up after a fastball](#).") This cool spring promises a more normal season in 2013 and hopefully a bountiful fruit crop.

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).

WINE SENSORY WORKSHOP

When: April 20-21, 2013

Location: University Club of Michigan State University, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing, MI.
The University Club is just south of the main campus.

Instructor and sommelier: Ruth Ryberg.

Go here to register: <http://store.chateauchantal.com/store/product/3226/MSU-Wine-Sensory-Workshop/>

Fee: \$150, for both days

Registration is limited to 30 people.

See attached [flyer for full agenda](#), instructor bio, and how to register online through the Michigan Wine Foundation.

This program is a joint effort sponsored by VESTA, the MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology, and the Michigan Wine Foundation.

OIL AND GAS NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE

New March issue of the Michigan State University Extension oil and gas newsletter is now available online.

Posted on **April 2, 2013**, **MSUE News**, by **Curtis Talley Jr.**, Michigan State University Extension

Information in this issue

1. How do you remove an invalid or expired lease from the register of deeds records?
2. Oil and gas lease effect on the purchase of development rights.
3. New MSU Extension fact sheet: Compulsory Pooling and the Landowner That Has Not Signed an Oil and Gas Lease.

This issue answers one of the most commonly asked questions, “How do I remove an invalid or expired lease from the register of deed’s record?” This situation occurs when a mineral owner has signed an oil and gas lease in the past that has expired, but it is still on record at the Register of Records office. Attorney Henry L. Knier Jr. of Smith Martin Powers & Knier, P.C. answers this question and lays out the procedure to follow.

Kendra Wills, [Michigan State University Extension](#) educator and former staff person for the [Kent County Purchase of Development Rights Program](#), discusses one of the options available to preserve an agricultural property through the purchase of development rights. She encourages property owners who would like to preserve their farmland through this type of program to contact the local PDR program manager before signing an oil and gas lease.

When a mineral owner is evaluating an oil and gas lease, the topic of forced pooling is frequently mentioned by the company’s land man. MSU Extension receives more questions regarding compulsory pooling than any of the other terms related to the oil and gas lease. A new fact sheet titled “[Compulsory Pooling and the Landowner that has not Signed an Oil and Gas Lease](#)” discusses this subject in depth and includes an example oil well and the calculations that would be utilized to determine the un-leased mineral owner’s compensation if the compulsory pooling option is chosen instead of signing the standard oil and gas lease.

Prior oil and gas newsletters and additional information, including information for landowners in negotiating the oil and gas lease, a schedule of upcoming educational meetings, hydraulic fracturing, horizontal drilling, rights of way guidelines, and other related information is available on the [Oil and Gas program page](#). This information can be downloaded to share with others interested in these topics. With some effort, this information can assist a landowner in the development of an oil and gas lease agreement that is a positive win – win agreement between the landowner and oil development company.

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).

GUIDE TO MICHIGAN’S ORGANIC AND ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE GROWERS AND FARMS

Michigan Organic Food & Farming Association (MOFFA) is in the process of preparing its *Guide to Michigan’s Organic and Ecologically Sustainable Growers and Farms* — and it’s not too late to make sure that your farm is included.

They plan to publish the guide as a hard copy edition as well as online at MOFFA’s website, www.moffa.net. The 2013 edition will focus solely on growers. In future editions they will add other resources — farmers’ markets, restaurants, retail outlets, distributors, suppliers, etc. While organic certification is not a steadfast requirement, they intend that all farms listed follow organic and sustainable growing practices.

To be included in the guide, you will need to submit a Grower Information Form. This form is available:

- as a [.pdf file](#) which you may download and print
- as an [interactive form](#) which can be filled out directly on the website
- by calling 248-262-6826 to request a form be mailed to you (please leave a message with your name and address and mention the Grower Information Form)

Please invite others to join the guide — complete information is available at <http://www.moffa.dynamicpages.com/GrowerGuideLetter.html>

The MOFFA Workgroup

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MAEAP SURVEY DEADLINE EXTENDED

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the MAEAP survey and emailed testimonials. The **survey** will close **Wednesday, April 10 at 11:59pm**--the deadline has been extended to accommodate the rainy forecast...*nudge, nudge*. Please take a few moments to give us your feedback. Garrett and I appreciate your insight on how the MAEAP program can better serve your operation. 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 in an email to irasch@gtcd.org.

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!

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/H2GLZSL>

Thank you!

Jessica & Garrett
MAEAP Technicians
Grand Traverse Conservation District

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>