

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2013

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

December 3, 2013

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2013

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 12/10 | The Northern Grapes Project Webinar Series |
| 12/11 | Pesticide Applicator Review & Certification/Recertification
NWMHRC |
| 12/12 | Pesticide Applicator Review & Certification/Recertification
Ellsworth |
| 12/10-13 | Great Lakes Expo
Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids, MI |
| 12/17 | FMO and Referendum Meeting
NWMHRC |
| 12/18 | FMO and Referendum Meeting
Joyfield Township Hall, Benzonia, MI |
| 12/18 | FMO and Referendum Meeting
Peninsula Township Hall, Traverse City, MI |
| 12/18 | FMO and Referendum Meeting
Milton Township Hall
Kewadin, MI |

2014

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1/14-15 | NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show
Grand Traverse Resort |
| 1/20 | Small Farm Conference Registration Deadline |
| 2/1 | Small Farm Conference
Grand Traverse Resort |

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 2/5-6 | SW Michigan Horticulture Days
Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center
Near Benton Harbor |
| 2/18-19 | IPM Academy |
| 2/24-26 | Michigan Grape & Wine Conference |
| 2/27-3/1 | 25th Moses Organic Farming Conference
LaCrosse, WI
www.mosesorganic.org |

FALL MICE AND VOLE CONTROL IS CRITICAL TO REDUCE POTENTIAL DAMAGE IN ORCHARDS

Now is the time when mice and voles are moving into fruit orchards.

Posted on **November 27, 2013**, **MSUE News**, by **Bob Tritten**, Michigan State University Extension



With the onset of colder temperatures over the last few weeks and field crop harvest nearing completion in neighboring fields, Michigan State University Extension warns now is the time of year when mice and voles start to move into orchards. Additionally, this fall some blocks of apples were not totally harvested, leaving more food sources under trees to attract mice and voles.

In grower visits I have made in the last two weeks (as of Nov. 27, 2013), I can see abnormally high population of tunnels or runways of mice and vole activity. I have not observed any trunk feeding or damage.

Photo: Vole. Photo credit: Jason Ahrns, Flickr.com

A mouse and a vole are both rodents that look very similar, but a vole is a little fatter looking. A mouse is from the family muridae and a vole is from the family cricetidae. Voles dig tunnels

under the ground and mice don't. Despite their differences, growers can control mice and voles as the same rodent.

The population of these rodents ebbs and flows over time, but generally the population peaks every five years or so. However, these population peaks are hard to predict and monitor. I saw increased mice populations last year in many orchards and some growers had feeding damage to trees last winter. Mice can do a significant amount of damage in high density apples in a short period of time, especially along the edges of blocks near harvested corn and soybean fields, along drainage ditches and near woodlots.

Control of mice requires multiple approaches. A close mowing of grass in row middles late in the fall will help predators reduce the population as well as good weed control programs that reduce cover and nesting areas. Rodenticides are another approach in control programs as they provide the quickest and most practical means of bringing large populations of mice and voles under control. Bait should be applied when dry and fair weather is predicted for at least three days.

Careful monitoring of mice and voles is required all winter long as populations can build in mid- to late winter. Apple trunks will also become more attractive to feeding as other food sources are reduced later in the winter.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](http://www.msue.msu.edu). 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).

STRAWBERRY MULCHING TIME HAS ARRIVED

We are right on track at putting strawberries to bed for the season.

Posted on **November 27, 2013, MSUE News**, by **Bob Tritten**, Michigan State University Extension

With the cold weather during the last week (as of Nov. 27, 2013), now is the time for straw mulch to be applied to strawberries. Strawberry mulch is typically spread after plants have been exposed to several nights with temperatures in the lower 20s. Most years this occurs in mid- to late November for strawberry growers in the Lower Peninsula. In mild falls and early winters, like last year, colder temperatures don't arrive until well into December, even after Christmas some years.

The question of when to apply straw mulch to strawberries is one that growers frequently ask at this time of year. My response is to let your plants tell you when it's time. After several hard frosts, growers will see the leaves turn red; this is not the time for mulch application. The next step in the hardening process you will see the leaves begin to collapse into the crown or fall over, and finally the leaves will flatten completely to the ground. This last step of leaf flattening is the right timing for mulch application.

Plants mulched too early in the fall do not harden off well or get ready for winter properly. Research has shown that delaying mulch application till just before the ground freezes will result in the highest yields the following season. Most years, however, it is hard to predict when soils will freeze.

Straw mulch primarily serves to protect the plant from cold injury during the coldest parts of winter and reduces the freeze and thaw cycles that are typical in most Michigan winters. The mulch also helps reduce fruit diseases at harvest time by reducing splashing of soil particles that carry diseases onto the berries.

On a practical side, I know growers want to get the mulching finished up before the weather turns cold and nasty, or before fields become too wet.

Remember to make that one last application of herbicide to help with weed control in the spring and early summer. Refer to the [Michigan State University Extension](#) article "[Fall weed control on asparagus, rhubarbs and strawberries](#)" for more details on fall herbicide selection.

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).

MICHIGAN'S TREE FRUIT INDUSTRIES PROPOSE ESTABLISHING A NEW TREE FRUIT COMMISSION

A new assessment program has been proposed to provide funds for infrastructure that supports educational and research efforts within Michigan's tree fruit industry.

Posted on **November 27, 2013**, **MSUE News**, by **Nikki Rothwell**, Michigan State University Extension

Two public hearings were held on the proposed Michigan Tree Fruit Commission on Nov. 25-26, 2013. The first meeting was held in Comstock Park, Mich., and the second finished up yesterday, Nov. 26, in Traverse City, Mich., at the [Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center](#). The Michigan Tree Fruit Commission is a proposed new method of assessing tree fruits a small amount of money to support Michigan's research and extension services. Dollars generated from fresh and processed cherries, apples, plums and peaches will be pooled to provide resources to Michigan's fruit research stations, [Michigan State University Extension](#) field agents and campus specialists involved with tree fruit research and education. The intention of the Commission is to acquire matching funds from Michigan legislature to increase the overall pool of dollars to support these ongoing efforts.

The Michigan tree fruit industry has created this Commission in response to a decline in resources. In the past 10 years, Michigan's fruit research stations have experienced a 50

percent loss of operating budgets. The Michigan Tree Fruit Commission is an innovative way to support ongoing research and Extension efforts to address inadequate funding that threatens to further regress research station infrastructure.

Michigan is unlike any other fruit growing state, hence growers have relied on information produced by personnel in key MSU fruit positions. A similar but larger assessment program has been established in Washington, and as a result, the Washington apple, cherry and pear programs will become increasingly more competitive in the coming years. The Michigan Tree Fruit Commission will help insure that Michigan growers will also be globally competitive into the future.

The Michigan Tree Fruit Commission is separate from other established assessments for apples, cherries, peaches and plums. These new dollars would not replace the commodity-assessed funds that are used to support current production and promotion research. The Michigan Tree Fruit Commission would assess growers on a sliding scale up to the following recommended maximum rates:

- Apples: up to \$0.04/CWT – \$0.0004 per pound
- Cherries: up to \$2.50/TON – \$0.00125 per pound
- Peaches: up to \$2.00/TON – \$0.001 per pound
- Plums: up to \$4.5/TON – \$0.00225 per pound

If the Michigan Tree Fruit Commission is voted in, farms will pay according to yields of the tree fruit crops mentioned above. A board comprised of growers representing all fruit-growing regions of the state will allocate funds based on prioritization of state, regional and local needs that are geared toward supporting infrastructure of fruit research stations, applied research programs and educational programs.

Industry leaders believe that Michigan tree fruit growers will reap the benefits of this assessment program because funds will be used to directly support research station infrastructure that will contribute to the research and extension efforts relevant to them. The Commission Board will ensure that funds are committed to the highest priorities each season. Funds will improve fruit research station infrastructure as well as their ability to conduct progressive and innovative research and education that is desperately needed at a time when technology is advancing at a remarkable pace.

The information from the two public hearings will be compiled and given to the Director of the [Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development](#) (MDARD). Director Clover-Adams will review the comments and decide if the Commission will be brought to a vote in early 2014. Interested parties unable to attend the hearings have until 5 p.m. on Dec. 18 to submit written testimony to Bradley Deacon, MDARD Hearings Officer, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909. Comments may also be submitted to merrilld@michigan.gov or faxed to 517-335-1423.

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).

MARKETING ORDER AND REFERENDUM MEETINGS TO BE HELD

Attached you will find the meeting schedule for this year's cherry Marketing Order and Referendum. These meetings will include discussion on the FMO, changes over the years, the promotion activities under the order, the positives and negatives of the order and the upcoming referendum which will be held in March 2014. We hope to see you there!

Attention Northern Michigan Applicators

MSU Pesticide Safety Education Program

Core Manual/RUP Reviews

December 11, 2013 - MSU NW Hort. Center, Traverse City, MI

December 12, 2013 - Banks Twp. Hall, Ellsworth, MI

Prepare for the MDARD Core Pesticide Applicators Certification exam with these review sessions. The 4-hour review covers the 12 chapters of the National Pesticide Applicators Certification Core Manual. **Four** Recertification/RUP credits in either Private or Commercial Core are also available for those certified and seeking renewal by seminar.

On-Site Registration and check in: 7:45 am - 8:10 am

Review Program: 8:15 am - 12:15 pm - **MDARD Exams:** 1:00pm-4:00pm

Fee for Manual Review: \$30.00

To register for Traverse City: <http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=TCRUPReview13>

To register for Ellsworth: <http://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=ANTRUPReview13>

On-site registration and payment will be possible

More info. on registration page, or contact: stonejo2@msu.edu or 517-353-5134

Michigan State University
Pesticide Safety Education Program
B18 Food Safety and Toxicology
East Lansing, MI 48824

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THE 2014 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT ACADEMY!

Looking to brush up on your pest management skills? Register now to ensure your spot at this pioneering workshop designed to serve specialty crop, field crop, and landscape professionals.

Michigan State University Extension is pleased to announce that the 3rd annual Integrated Pest Management Academy will be held **February 18-19** at the Okemos Conference Center in Okemos Michigan (located just outside of East Lansing). The *2014 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Academy* is a two day workshop packed full of information to help you improve your integrated pest management practices on farm and take advantage of all the great resources Michigan State University has to offer. The presenters at this program include a number of MSU's best and brightest research and extension faculty, offering a rare opportunity to hear from experts working in a variety of disciplines and cropping systems at a single event. The first day of the program will cover fundamental topics including: IPM strategies for disease and insect control; promoting and protecting pollinators; alternative weed control strategies; pesticide basics; the impacts of weather on pesticides; invasive pests; and IPM resources from MSU. On the second day of the workshop participants opt into two, half-day sessions focused on the topic of their choice. This year, the day two sessions include the following options:

Morning Sessions

- ***Soil health: What is it, Why is it Important, and How Can it be Managed?***
Soil is one of the most important, but often the ignored components of successful plant production. Understanding the importance of soil management and how soil interacts with nutrients, water and pesticides will be explored during this session. Attendees are encouraged to bring soil test results to get a personal recommendation for their site and crops. This a cross commodity session, everyone's welcome.
- ***Landscape Design and IPM: Getting it Right from the Start***
Many landscape plant problems are rooted in poor design or poor plant selection. This session will feature a discussion on landscape design, placement and selection of ornament plants and their implications when dealing with pest management in landscapes. This session may be of interest to landscape professionals or backyard enthusiasts.
- ***Stewardship of Pesticides in Michigan Field Crops***
Farmers use many tools to manage weeds, insects and diseases in their cropping system. Still, chemical controls are often favored for their ability to provide efficient and effective crop protection. This session will offer an overview of the many pesticide options available to field crop producers, discuss their modes of action and highlight management strategies that can be used to limit the development of pesticide resistance as well as practices that can be used to manage pest populations that already exhibit resistance.
- ***Hops: Getting Started***
The morning hop session will cover an introduction to hops, soils and site selection,

understanding soil and tissue testing, variety selection, trellising, irrigation and establishment costs.

Afternoon sessions

- ***Hop Management***

The afternoon hop session will cover planting and training hops, fertilizer and nutrient requirements, common insect mite and disease problems, scouting for insects and diseases, weed management, and harvesting and processing hops.

- ***Ecologically-Based Fruit Pest Management***

Growing fruit can be an input intensive, challenging endeavor. Session participants will learn about ecologically sound preventative pest actions, pest management approaches, and horticultural practices that can help lessen the challenge of growing fruit.

- ***Managing Pests in Diverse Vegetable Rotations***

Michigan growers produce a wide diversity of vegetables at many different scales, which are challenged by a sometimes overwhelming diversity of insect, disease and weed pests. This session aims to introduce conventional and organic growers to an integrated set of control tactics—including cultural, chemical, mechanical and biological approaches—that can be used to manage pests in an economically and environmentally sound way.

- ***Solving the Puzzle: IPM Planning and Implementation for Real-world Field Crops Systems***

Integrated pest management makes sense on paper, but how do you fit this broad philosophy into a real-world cropping system? In this session we will discuss how to develop a farm IPM plan that encourages pest management decisions that focus on maintaining efficiency and maximizing profitability. In addition, a panel of farmers will share with participants how they have successfully incorporated IPM principles into their farm plans.

- ***Emerging Pest Problems of Michigan Landscapes***

New or invasive pests can cause significant economic and ecological damage. This session will review current and potential pest problems to Michigan landscapes such as oak wilt, hemlock woolly adelgid, thousand canker disease, Asian longhorn beetle and more.

Registration

The cost of this event is \$225. Please note that snacks, lunch, and parking are included. Participants also receive a notebook with program material and a complimentary IPM-related MSU bulletin. Michigan pesticide recertification credits will be available, the exact number will be based on session selection but participants can expect at least 6 credits (private or commercial core available). For more information on the program, a full agenda or registration, visit <http://bit.ly/ipm-academy14> . For more information or to register by phone contact Betsy Braid at braidbet@msu.edu or 517-884-7081.

This program was developed with support from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture — National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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.

WEBSITES 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>

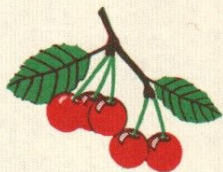
Information on cherries is available at the new cherry website:

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

Fruit CAT Alert Reports has moved to MSU News <http://news.msue.msu.edu>

Tart Cherry Raw Product Reports – 2013

<http://www.cherryboard.org/Week82013.pdf>



CHERRY INDUSTRY ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD



NOV 25 REC'D

Join Us to Talk About the Marketing Order and the Referendum

The Executive Committee invites you to join them at one of the following meetings to discuss the marketing order, changes to it over the years, the promotion activities under the order, the positives and negatives of the order and the upcoming referendum which is to be held in March 2014.

These meetings will be open discussions and listening sessions at which growers and handlers are invited to hear about the order and to share their thoughts about it.

The meetings will be held at the following locations and times. We encourage you to attend the one that is most convenient for you.

Tuesday, Dec. 17	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station 6686 S. Center Highway Traverse City, MI
Wednesday, Dec. 18	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Joyfield Township Hall Hwy. 31 Benzonia, MI 49616
Wednesday, Dec. 18	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Peninsula Township Hall 13235 Center Rd. Traverse City, MI
Wednesday, Dec. 18	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Milton Township Hall Kewadin, MI

We look forward to meeting with you about this very important subject.

Respectfully,

Ray Rowley
Chairman

Jim Nugent
Vice-chair

Rich DeRuiter
Secretary

Jim Seaquist
Treasurer

Randy Willmeng
At-large

15TH ANNUAL NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Small Farm Conference

Small Farms Are Real Farms

Register early and save!

Over 25 workshops

Youth track with hands-on demonstrations

Local foods lunch

Trade show with small farm vendors and suppliers

New location!

FEBRUARY 1, 2014

*Grand Traverse
Resort*

with
keynote
John Ikerd,
author of
*Small Farms Are
Real Farms*



WWW.SMALLFARMCONFERENCE.COM