

**NW Michigan Regional Fruit Grower Newsletter
March 2008**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 3/11 FMO Meeting**
NWMHRS
- 3/12 FMO Meeting**
Antrim Co.
- 3/12 FMO Meeting**
Grand Traverse Co.
- 3/13 Farm Safety & Ag Labor Workshop**
NWMHRS
- 3/17 Wine Grape Scouting Day**
NWMHRS
- 3/18 IPM Think Tank**
NWMHRS
- 4/1 Water Use Reports Due**
- 4/8-5/3 Youth Tractor Safety Course**
NWMHRS
- 4/9 Tree Fruit IPM Kickoff**
NWMHRS
- 4/11 Annual Wine Grape Spring Kick-off**
NWMHRS
- 4/18 Organic Vegetable Farming and Gardening Program**
NWMHRS
- 5/2 Grape IPM Updates Begin**
- 5/13 Tree Fruit IPM Updates Begin**
Antrim Co., 11-1 p.m.
- 5/13 Tree Fruit IPM Updates Begin**
Benzie Co., 3-5 p.m.
- 5/14 Tree Fruit IPM Updates Begin**
Leelanau Co., 1-3 p.m.
- 5/14 Tree Fruit IPM Updates Begin**
Grand Traverse Co., 4-6 p.m.
- 6/5 Deadline for Drought Disaster Loans**

FEDERAL MARKETING ORDER DISCUSSIONS

Dr. Nikki Rothwell, District Horticulturist

All northwest Michigan tart cherry growers and processors are invited to attend round-table discussions on the Federal Marketing Order (FMO) and the upcoming referendum.

As there has been some unease regarding the current FMO, the intention of these meetings is to bring together growers, processors, and CIAB board members to have meaningful and honest discussions about the issues that surround this important referendum. The meetings will be facilitated by the local horticulture societies/fruit councils to help put tough matters on the table. We invite everyone to attend these sessions and bring their ideas, thoughts, questions, and most importantly their concerns about the FMO, the CIAB, and the approaching referendum. These discussions are an opportunity to help guide the future of the tart cherry industry!

The meetings will be held in three counties in the region:

- **Leelanau County:** Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station, **March 11 @7pm**
- **Antrim County:** Milton Township Hall, **March 12 @9am**
- **Grand Traverse County:** Cottage Café, **March 12 @1pm**

WINEGRAPE SCOUT TRAINING WORKSHOP

Dr. Nikki Rothwell, District Horticulturist

A **one-time only** *Wine grape Scout Training Day* will be held at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station on **March 17, 2008**. This day is intended to introduce or solidify the concepts of IPM in wine grape systems. We invite all vineyard managers, homeowners, and agri-business representatives to attend this workshop. Please call the NWMHRS at 231-946-1510 to register. There will be a \$15 registration charge that will include lunch.

- 9:00-9:30 **Introduction to Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**
Dr. Nikki Rothwell, District Horticulturist
- 9:30-10:00 **Environmental and Biological Monitoring**
Dr. Duke Elsner, Regional Wine & Grape Agent-Grand Traverse
- 10:00-10:30 **Bug Basics**
Dr. Duke Elsner, Regional Wine & Grape Agent -Grand Traverse
- 10:30-10:45 **BREAK**
- 10:45-11:30 **Grape Insect Monitoring and Management**
Paul Jenkins, Small Fruit Education Coordinator
- 11:30-11:50 **Natural Enemies in the Vineyard**
Paul Jenkins, Small Fruit Education Coordinator
- 11:50-12:30 **LUNCH**
- 12:30-1:00 **Introduction to Grape Plant Diseases**
Erin Lizotte, District IFP/IPM Educator
- 1:00-1:45 **Grape Disease Monitoring and Management**
Erin Lizotte, District IFP/IPM Educator
- 1:45-2:15 **Weed Management in Vineyard Systems**
Dr. Nikki Rothwell, District Horticulturist

2:15-2:45 **Pesticide Safety**
Dr. Nikki Rothwell, District Horticulturist

2:45-3:00 **Questions and Wrap-Up**

2008 IPM THINK TANK

Dr. Nikki Rothwell, District Horticulturist

This year's Think Tank will showcase the use of cover crops in different cropping systems. As this concept is new on some levels, many growers have been experimenting with these crops and the benefits they provide to trees/vines/crops. We are hosting Rebecca Sweet, who received her M.S. from Oregon State University where she researched cover crops in vineyard systems. We are excited to hear about her research and how these ideas can be applied to other cropping systems. We also will have our two new researchers from MSU on hand: Dr. Stuart Grandy and Dr. Matthew Greishop will review basic soil biology and will provide an overview of successes using cover crops. We will wrap up the day with five growers that have had experiences with using cover crops—all come from a different perspective and they will have much knowledge to share!

We invite all vineyard managers, tree fruit growers, vegetable growers, consultants, and agri-business reps to attend. The meeting will be held on **March 18** at the NWMHRS from **9- 4:15 p.m.** There will be a \$20 registration fee, and this cost will include a catered lunch. Please call the NWMHRS at 231-946-1510 to register.

9:00-9:30 **The Basics of Soil Biology**
Dr. Stuart Grandy, Dept. of Crop and Soil Science, MSU

9:30-10:00 **An Overview of Cover Crops in Orchard Systems**
Dr. Matthew Grieshop, Dept. of Entomology, MSU

10:00-10:15 **BREAK**

10:15-10:45 **Minerals and Biology Associated with Cover Crops**
Joe Scrimger, Crop Consultant, Bio-Systems

10:45-11:30 **The Impacts of Cover Crops and Reduced Fertilizer/Herbicide Input on Cherry Yields**, *Dr. Robert Serrine, Leelanau County CED, MSU*

11:30-12:00 **A Reminder of Cherry Nutritional Needs**
Dr. Eric Hansen, Dept. of Horticulture, MSU

12:00-1:00 **LUNCH**

1:00-1:30 **Results of Using the Swiss Sandwich Technique in Apple Systems**
Dr. Mira Danilovich, District Educator, MSU

1:30-2:15 **Cover Crop Selection and Soil Enhancement**
Dr. George Bird, Dept. of Entomology, MSU

2:15-2:30 **BREAK**

2:30-3:10 **Cover Crop Success in Oregon Vineyards and other Cropping Systems**, *Rebecca Sweet, Oregon State University*

3:10-4:10 **Cover Crop Experiences from Local Growers**
Gene Garthe, Tree Fruit Grower, Northport
Gary Bardenhagen, Tree Fruit Grower, East Leland
Joe Scrimger, Crop Consultant, Bio-Systems
Jane Leatherman-Walker, Eco-Learning Center, Bingham
Nichole Birdsall, Winemaker, Leelanau Cellars

4:10-4:15 **Questions/Wrap-Up**

TREE FRUIT KICKOFF ANNOUNCEMENT

Erin Lizotte, IFP/IPM Educator

It's that time of the year again. Time for the Tree Fruit IPM Kickoff! The 4th annual meeting will be held at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station on **Wednesday, April 9th** from **7-9 pm**. Topics will include updated spray recommendations and label changes for tree fruit crops. It's free, and no registration is necessary. Pesticide recertification credits will be available, so be sure to mark your calendar! See you on April 9th.

FOURTH ANNUAL SPRING WINEGRAPE WORKSHOP

Dr. Nikki Rothwell, District Horticulturist

The fourth annual spring meeting on wine grape management will be held at the NWMHRS on Friday, **April 11** from **9:00-4:15**. We are pleased to be bringing in Dr. Andrew Reynolds from Brock University, Ontario. He will be speaking on pruning and training systems and another topic of great interest in the northwest wine grape industry - 'farming for flavor'. Please call the NWMHRS to register at 231-946-1510. The workshop has a \$15 registration fee, which will cover lunch.

9:00-10:00 **Brainstorming Session for Birds in Vineyards**
Pete Butchko, USDA Wildlife Services

10:00-10:30 **Insect IPM for NW Michigan vineyards**
Dr. Rufus Isaacs, Dept. of Entomology, MSU

10:30-10:45 **BREAK**

10:45-11:30 **Pruning and Training Systems for Success in the Vineyard**
Dr. Andrew Reynolds, Brock University, Ontario

11:30-12:00 **Fungicide Update for 2008**
Dr. Annemiek Schilder, Dept. of Pathology, MSU

12:00-1:00 **LUNCH**

1:00-1:40 **Fungal Inoculum - How Can we Manage it?**
Dr. Annemiek Schilder, Dept. of Pathology, MSU

1:40-2:00 **Strategies for Weed Control in a New Vineyard Plantings**
Dr. Tom Zabadal, Dept. of Horticulture and SWMREC

2:00-2:45 **Farming for Flavor: Managing the Canopy for Good Tasting Wines**
Dr. Andrew Reynolds, Brock University, Ontario

2:45-3:00 **BREAK**

3:00-3:30 **Observations of Pinot Noir Clones at Bel Lago Vineyards**
Dr. Charlie Edson, Bel Lago Vineyards, Lake Leelanau

3:30-4:30 **Educational Wine Tasting: Investigating the Flavors of Pinot Noir**
Dr. Charlie Edson, Bel Lago Vineyards, Lake Leelanau
Lee Lutes, Black Star Farms, Suttons Bay
Adam Satchwell, Shady Lane Vineyards, Suttons Bay
Dr. Andrew Reynolds, Brock University, Ontario

ORGANIC VEGETABLE FARMING & GARDENING PROGRAM

Rob Serrine, CED, Leelanau County

MSU Extension will host an organic vegetable farming and gardening event on **Friday, April 18** at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station. This session will be of use to organic producers, backyard vegetable growers, those considering organic certification, and anyone else interested in growing vegetables. The program will cover soil management, how organic soils work, cover crops for vegetable production, composting, organic pest management, emerging crops for organic production, the pros and cons of organic certification, the use of hoop houses for season extension. There will also be an experienced farmer panel representing four farms across Michigan to explain their operations and answer first-hand any questions participants may have. A catered lunch will be provided. The cost to attend is \$25 per person. [Click here](#) for program details.

PLEASE RSVP BY MONDAY April 10th.

Contact the Leelanau MSU Extension office for more information at 231-256-9888.

GUTHION REMINDERS FOR 2008

Dr. John Wise, Trevor Nichols Research Center, MSU

Guthion (8) (azinphos-methyl) is no longer labeled for use on peaches, nectarines, plums, caneberries, and cranberries. Guthion is still registered for use in apples, pears, cherries, and blueberries, with some use restrictions. The maximum yearly amount of Guthion 50 WP to be applied has been reduced to 6 lbs on apples, 6 lbs on pears, 2.5 lbs on blueberries, and 3 lbs on cherries. The Pre-Harvest Interval (PHI) for apple and pear use is 14 days, with a 21-day PHI if the last application is greater than 2 lbs of Guthion 50 WP per acre. Additionally, growers must observe a 60 foot buffer from permanent bodies of water and occupied dwellings (which do not include farm buildings and barns), and Pick-Your-Own apple growers must observe a pre-harvest interval of 44 days when applying between 2.02 lbs per acre and 3 lbs per acre of formulated product, 39 days when applying 1.2 lbs per acre and 2 lbs per acre of formulated product and 33 days when applying 1.2 lbs per acre or less.

NATIVE POLLINATOR PROGRAM

Rob Serrine, CED, Leelanau County

The MDA is hoping to enroll 2500 acres in a program to benefit native pollinators. The program is a part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program titled State Acres for wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) or CP 38. The program will pay farmers to plant native grasses, wildflowers, and hedges to increase the diversity and abundance of native pollinators. Farmers, who must enter into a 10 or 15 year contract, will be provided a one-time payment of \$100/acre and an annual maintenance payment of \$84/acre for extent of the contract period. This cost-share program will reimburse farmers up to 90% of the total costs incurred. For more information contact Stephen Shine at MDA (517-373-9798) or your local USDA Service Center (231-941-0951).

IPM GRAPE AND TREE FRUIT MEETING SCHEDULE

Erin Lizotte, IFP/IPM Educator

The IPM grape and tree fruit meetings are once again about to begin. The format will be similar to those in past years. Meetings will focus on emerging pest and disease issues as well as relevant events in the industry. As always, pesticide recertification credits will be available. Please see the information below

for details on your local meeting. We hope to see you there!

Preliminary Dates for Tree Fruit IPM Updates

Leelanau County

Location: Jim and Jan Bardenhagen Farm, Pertner Road, Suttons Bay

Dates: May 14, May 21, May 28, June 4, June 11, June 18, June 25

Time: 1-3pm

Grand Traverse County

Location: Josh Wunsch Farm, Old Mission Peninsula, Phelps Road, Traverse City

Dates: May 14, May 21, May 28, June 4, June 11, June 18, June 25

Time: 4-6pm

Benzie County

Location: Putney Farms, 4290 Joyfield Road, Frankfurt

Dates: May 13, May 27, June 10, June 24

Time: 3-5pm

Antrim County

Location: Jack White Farm, M-31, just south of Elk Rapids on the right, Elk Rapids

Dates: May 13, May 27, June 10, June 24

Time: 11-1pm

Preliminary Dates for IPM Grape Updates

Location: TBA

Dates: May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1