

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2017 Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

FruitNet Report – February 7, 2017

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2/17 **Worker Protection Standard Outreach
Session**
NWMHRC, 1-4 PM (Online registration
required)

What's New?

- **Help MSU Modernize Enviroweather**
- **Michigan spring peach meeting scheduled for March 2, 2017**
- **Grape Survey Request**

Help MSU Modernize Enviroweather

Beth Bishop

Enviroweather is working on modernizing it's website programming structure and appearance. As we make these changes, we want to ensure that our changes meet the most pressing needs of our users.

We are hoping you can help us by taking our short surveys that are applicable to you. There are three surveys available:

1. General Weather tools (not crop specific). Everyone can take this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GeneralTools>
2. Tree Fruit tools for tree fruit producers: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TreeFruit>
3. Small Fruit tools for berry crops producers: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SmallFruit>

Finally, stay tuned for announcements on an Enviroweather mobile-friendly site that is also in the works. Please contact Beth Bishop (bishopb@msu.edu) with any questions or comments regarding Enviroweather modernization and these surveys.

Grape Survey Request

Dear Grape Grower,

The polar vortex events of 2014 and 2015 reminded us that plantings of the most popular grape varieties are risky since they are the most vulnerable to cold damage. Thanks to a variety of winter protection methods such as soil hilling, many of these cold tender varieties have recovered and have been grown successfully. However, there has been a high cost to produce a yield of optimum quantity at a competitive price from these varieties grown in our climatically-challenged region. The good news is that there are **alternate methods to soil hilling** with less negative impact on the grapevine and the environment.

The 16 questions-survey is designed to gauge your interest in this novel method. **Completing the survey will take less than 10 minutes.**

Please click the link below (or copy and paste it into your browser). Please respond to this survey before **February 10**.

<https://aytm.com/rd227ef>

Your feedback is greatly appreciated on this important issue that keeps threatening the growth and sustainability of the grape and wine industry in Michigan. Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

Imed Dami and Paolo Sabbatini

Are you ready for changes in the Worker Protection Standards?

Training programs help growers comply with changes to the Worker Protection Standards.

Posted on **January 12, 2017** by [Jill O'Donnell](#), Michigan State University Extension, MSUE News

Beginning Jan. 2, 2017, the Federal Worker Protection Standards (WPS) revisions took effect. These changes are designed to provide stronger protections for the nation's two million agricultural workers and their families. Growers will be responsible for taking additional steps when applying pesticides, providing worker and applicator training, new record-keeping requirements, respirator testing and numerous other items. These changes impact all growers' operations, large and small.

The Worker Protection Standards protect agricultural workers and pesticide handlers by reducing the risks of injury or illness resulting from contact with pesticides on farms, nurseries and greenhouses. Worker Protection Standards requirements are intended to inform workers and handlers about pesticide safety, provide protections from potential exposure to pesticides, and mitigate exposures that do occur.

[Michigan State University Extension](#) still has several [Worker Protection Standard Outreach Sessions](#) available to help growers understand changes to the standard and what must be done to be in compliance. All registered participants will receive outreach, training and compliance tools. Please join us at one of the following locations:

- [Jan. 24 in Benton Harbor](#), Michigan, from 1-4 p.m.
- [Jan. 31 in New Era](#), Michigan, from 1-4 p.m.
- [Feb. 17 in Traverse City](#), Michigan, from 1-4 p.m.

Four core recertification credits will be offered.

The cost of the program is \$25 and advanced registration is required. To register for one of these sessions, go to [Worker Protection Standard Outreach Sessions](#).

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](http://www.msue.msu.edu). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu/newsletters>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

Michigan spring peach meeting scheduled for March 2, 2017

The best way to learn about all aspects of peaches and peach growing is at the Michigan Spring Peach Update in southwest Michigan on March 2nd, 2017.

Posted by [Bill Shane](#), Michigan State University Extension, MSUE News



High quality peaches are always in demand and appreciated by consumers. The [2017 Michigan Spring Peach Update](#) is the best annual meeting in Michigan to learn about this crop. This one-day meeting will take place at the [Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center, 1791 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022](#), which is 2.5 miles east of I-94 exit 30 to Hillandale Road. Registration and socializing begins at 8 a.m. with the program starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting will focus on peaches varieties, insect and disease management, marketing strategies, rootstocks, tree training, H2A labor options and processing peaches. Topics will include information on chemicals for delaying bloom, oriental fruit moth, stink bug and spotted wing Drosophila.

Guest speakers include Chris Eckert of Eckert Farms in Illinois; Tom Beekman of USDA in Byron, Georgia; Katie Vargas of Michigan Farm Bureau; Mark Schilling of Hawkeye Farms; and [Michigan State University Extension](#) and research specialists Courtney Hollander, Greg Lang, Julianna Wilson and Bill Shane. Attendees will be eligible for credits toward their recertification of their Michigan pesticide applicators license.

Deadline for early registration is Monday, Feb. 20, 2017. Registration is \$30 per person or \$25 for current Michigan Peach Sponsor members, with lunch provided by Cravings Catering, coffee breaks and handouts included. Registrations mailed after Feb. 20 or at the door are \$5 more per person.

To pay in advance by check or money order, please [fill out the registration form](#) and mail with payment by Feb. 20. After this time, you may register at the door with check, money order or cash. Credit cards will not be accepted.

For additional meeting information, contact the conference coordinator Bill Shane at 269-944-1477 ext. 205 (office), 269-208-1652 (cell) or email shane@msu.edu

Numerous accommodations are available close by at I-94 exits 23, 27, 28 and 29.

This meeting is sponsored by the [Michigan Peach Sponsors](#), [Crop Production Services](#), [MSU Extension](#) and the Michigan Society for Horticultural Science.

FAQ regarding new Worker Protection Standards changes

Frequently asked questions regarding the new Worker Protection Standards requirements for medical evaluations and fit testing for respirator use.

Posted on **January 17, 2017** by [Heidi Lindberg](#), Michigan State University Extension, MSUE News

Under the new Worker Protection Standards, pesticide applicators and handlers will be required to have and document their medical evaluations and fit testing in order to use pesticides that require respirators. The following are frequently asked questions regarding these new changes.

What are the changes to Worker Protection Standards with respect to respirators?

Prior to the changes to the Worker Protection Standards, the employer must provide a respirator and ensure it fits. Under the new Worker Protection Standards requirements that went into effect in 2017, the employer must “provide the handler with a medical evaluation, fit testing and respirator training in compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA’s) Respiratory Protection Standard.” Now, employers

must keep records of the completion of fit test, training and medical evaluation for two years.

What sort of [medical evaluation](#) is required for pesticide handlers and applicators according to the new Worker Protection Standards?

The employer must pay for/provide a medical evaluation for employees who will need to be using pesticides requiring a respirator. The medical evaluation needs to occur prior to using the respirator for the first time and if any “significant” changes occur. Employers must identify a licensed health care professional (PLHCP) to do the medical evaluation to ensure the employee is able to perform duties requiring a respirator.

For more information, watch “[Medical Evaluations for Workers Who Use Respirators](#)” by OSHA.

Are pesticide applicators and handlers required to wear respirators?

Yes, pesticide applicators and handlers are required to wear respirators if the pesticide label calls for them to do so. Therefore, applicators and handlers need to have medical evaluation and respirator fit testing prior to use.

Which pesticides require respirators?

Growers should look at the labels of the pesticides they may use during this growing season. The label of the pesticides will state if they require a respirator or not. The requirements will not only vary with the pesticide class and label requirements, but with the application methods (drench, spray etc.).

What is a respirator quantitative/qualitative fit test?

A respirator fit test is a test that ensures the respirator is properly working and protecting the worker when mixing, loading or applying some pesticides. It makes sure the respirator forms a complete seal with the person’s face. The fit test needs to be performed with the same make, model, style and size of the respirator that will be used during work duties. The fit test will also involve a positive and negative pressure check to check the seal of the mask to the user.

What types of respirator fit testing are there?

There are two types of respirator fit tests: qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative fit tests use four OSHA-approved methods using isoamyl acetate, saccharin, bitrex or an irritant smoke to test the fit of respirators. They do not measure the actual amount of leakage into the respirator, but are only based on if the wearer detects a leak. For example, if you are tested using isoamyl acetate, which smells like bananas, and you detect that smell, you know your respirator is not fitting properly.

Quantitative fit tests measures the actual amount of leakage from the respirator and does not rely on your senses of taste or smell as with the qualitative fit testing. It uses a machine for testing. Occupational clinics can perform this type of fit testing.

Either of these fit tests are acceptable for the new Worker Protection Standards. Qualitative fit tests are most commonly used for partial face respirators.

What records are required for fit testing?

Employers must keep the following records of the fit testing for two years:

- Name of handler tested
- Type of fit test performed
- Make, model, size of respirator tested
- Date of fit test
- Results of the fit test (pass or fail for qualitative tests or fit factor, and strip chart recording or other record of the test results for a quantitative fit test)

Annual respirator training recordkeeping:

- Name and signature of handler trained
- Date of training
- Trainer's name
- Training topics

For more information on fit testing, watch "[Respiratory Fit Testing](#)" by OSHA.

To learn more about the types of respirators, watch "[Respirator Types](#)" by OSHA.

To learn more about Worker Protection Standards, read "[Are you ready for changes in the Worker Protection Standards?](#)" by [Michigan State University Extension](#).

Thank you to Craig Anderson, Michigan Farm Bureau, for his review.

Agricultural Survey Responses Needed – Benzie and Antrim County Growers

Benzie County: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5KKDVQB>

Manistee County: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZNQL8FH>

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WEB SITES 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:

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

Information on apples:

<http://apples.msu.edu/>

Information on grapes:

<http://grapes.msu.edu>

Fruit CAT Alert Reports:

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