

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2017

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

FruitNet Report – March 17, 2017 □

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| 3/21 | Viticulture Educator Candidate Seminars
NWMHRC |
| 3/22 | Benzie Manistee Hort Society Bus Tour –
RSVP required |
| 3/24 | NW Michigan Think Tank - “Exploring
Climate Variability and its Impacts on Tree
Fruit and Winegrape Production”
NWMHRC, RSVP required |
| 4/18 | IPM Kickoff
NWMHRC |

What’s New?

- **Has your farm been hit by weather-related crop losses recently?**
 - **Save the Date! - Benzie Manistee Hort Society Bus Tour – March 22, 2017 – UPDATED AGENDA**
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Has your farm been hit by weather-related crop losses recently?

Join us for a thought-provoking discussion on how NW Michigan's changing climate will impact fruit producers.

Several states including Michigan experienced a record-breaking warm-up late last month. Traverse City had its warmest February on record with some days that reached into the upper 60s setting daily high temperature records. Additionally, these unusual conditions presented us with winter thunderstorms. By the end of the month, the NWMHRC had accumulated 29.3 GDD base 42 degrees Fahrenheit – the highest accumulation since the end of February 2000's 34.2 GDD base 42. To put this into perspective, the 27-year average GDD base 42 accumulation for the NWMHRC at the end of February is 6.7. Fortunately, unseasonably warm temperatures cooled down as we moved into March and although the area is more on par with our 27-year average, we are still ahead as of today 16 March with 47.9 GDD base 42. Even though we welcomed cooler temperatures, consecutive days of windstorms swept through the state in early March with gusts reaching over 50 mph at the NWMHRC on 8 March.

That being said, this winter's weather alone is not scientific grounds for confirming or disproving northwest Michigan's variable climate. However, we can look back at the last ten years where we have had more frequent damaging springtime frost events and in-season weather-related issues that have challenged NW MI producers. We are offering an educational session that explores some of these issues on March 24th.

The NW Michigan Think Tank is pleased to present, "Exploring Climate Variability and its Impacts on Tree Fruit and Winegrape Production," at the Northwest Michigan Horticulture Research Center. The program will address topics relevant to both tree fruit and viticulture producers including practical information on how growers should plan to adapt their pest and disease management programs as well as strategies to minimize hail damage and horticultural considerations related to drastic temperature fluctuations. In addition to direct impacts on crops, changes in climate will have noticeable impacts on local fauna (ex. pollinators) and how we protect and/or manage these species. Attendees will also gain insight on how variable climate issues are predicted to impact other important fruit producing regions.

We invite all tree fruit and grape growers to join us to learn about the latest research on climate change and fruit production. We welcome the opportunity for growers to share their thoughts on considerations for future research on mitigating impacts of climate variability on Michigan fruit production. **Registration is required and costs \$30/person which includes lunch catered by Ethnic Garden Catering. Please call the NWMHRC at 231-946-1510 to RSVP for the meeting by Monday March 20th 5PM. 6 Pesticide Recertification Credits will be available to attendees.**

Save the Date! - Benzie Manistee Hort Society Bus Tour – March 22, 2017

The NWMHRC is helping host two really great programs in March.

On **March 22**, the Benzie Manistee Horticultural Society is hosting a bus tour to the Grand Rapids area to discuss opportunities for fresh market fruit in Michigan. We will be visiting high density sweet cherry orchards, and Drs. Greg Lang and Todd Einhorn will be on hand to talk about pruning and training strategies for managing these orchard systems. Todd is our new horticulture faculty member who has worked extensively on sweet cherries in Oregon. We are so pleased he is part of the MSU team.

We will also talk to some growers in the Grand Rapids area that have been growing high density sweet cherries for the fresh market. During lunch, we will also explore the challenges of growing cherries on these systems as well as an economic forecast. Lastly, we will discuss the labor issues associated with managing fresh market cherries.

This tour will also take us to a stop to look at multiple-leader apples. This modern way of growing apples has been on the radar of many growers, and we will visit with Bill Nyblad and Phil Schwallier about the challenges and opportunities for growing these unique orchard systems.

UPDATED AGENDA

Exploring Opportunities for Growing Fresh Market Fruit in Michigan
Benzie Manistee Horticultural Society and Michigan State University Extension
Bus Tour and Educational Workshop
March 22, 2017

7:00am	Load bus at Blaine Christian Church <i>7018 Putney Road, Arcadia, MI 49613</i>
7:30am	Bus pick up at Ellen's Corners' gas station <i>6052 W M-115, Mesick, MI 49668</i>
10:45-11:00	High-Density Sweet Cherries on V-Trellis <i>Riveridge Orchards, Grant MI</i> <i>Justin Finkler, Riveridge Produce Marketing</i>
11:00-11:40	Strategies for Pruning, Training, Irrigating, and Fertigating High Density Sweet Cherries <i>RiverRidge Orchards, Grant MI</i> <i>Dr. Greg Lang, Dept. of Horticulture, MSU</i> <i>Dr. Todd Einhorn, Dept. of Horticulture, MSU</i>
11:40-11:50	Travel to Dietrich Orchards

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| 11:50-12:30 | High-Density Sweet Cherries on a Vertical System
<i>Adam, Curtis, and Phil Dietrich, Leo Dietrich and Sons</i> |
| 12:30-12:45 | Travel to Cronk's Oakridge Restaurant |
| 12:45-1:30 | Lunch @ Cronk's Oakridge Restaurant
<i>9103 Mason Drive (M-37), Newaygo, MI 49337</i> |
| 1:30-2:00 | Economic Outlook to Move to Fresh Market Apples and Sweet Cherries on Old Mission Peninsula
<i>Isaiah Wunsch, Wunsch Farms, Old Mission Peninsula</i> |
| 2:00-2:30 | Helping to Address the Labor Issue for Fresh Market Fruit
<i>Mark Doherty, Crop Protection Services, NW Michigan</i> |
| 2:30-3:00 | Economic Successes and Challenges to Produce and Market Fresh Apples and Sweet Cherries
<i>Justin Finkler, Riveridge Produce Marketing</i> |
| 3:00-3:15 | Travel to Nyblad Orchards |
| 3:15-4:00 | Experiences with Multi-leader Apples
<i>Bill Nyblad, Nyblad Orchards</i>
<i>Phil Schwallier, Michigan State University Extension</i>
<i>9103 Mason Drive (M-37), Newaygo, MI 49337</i> |
| ~4:00 | Travel back north |

The Hort Society will hire a bus to travel to the multiple stops, and we encourage growers to sign up early to ensure a seat on the bus. **Please call the NWMHRC to reserve a seat on the bus: 231-946-1510, or email Jenn at goodr100@msu.edu.**

The cost for the day, which includes lunch, is \$40. Checks can be made payable to the Benzie Manistee Horticultural Society. Growers can send their checks to the NWMHRC, 6686 S. Center Highway, Traverse City, MI 49684 or bring money to the bus tour.

This trip is a great opportunity to see excellent examples of high density apples and cherries. We will also have great speakers and researchers on board to discuss the opportunities to grow fruit on these modern systems. We hope you will join us on March 22nd!

Save the Date: March 24, 2017
“Exploring Climate Variability and its Impacts on Tree Fruit and Winegrape Production”
Hosted by the NW Michigan Think Tank

The NW Michigan Think Tank is pleased to present, "Exploring Climate Variability and its Impacts on Tree Fruit and Winegrape Production," at the Northwest Michigan Horticulture Research Center.

In recent years, northwest MI growers have endured weather-related challenges, and this program is designed to explore the implications of variable climate on fruit grown in this region. The program will feature Dr. Julie Winkler's climate related research that focuses on the future of growing tart cherries in five countries around the world. This project has yielded some insightful information on growing tart cherries here in Michigan with current predictions related to climate. Presenters will also speak on pollination research in cherry orchards, and the importance of good pollinating weather to achieve quality yields. Additionally, this program will include recent work on the impacts of changing weather and climate on diseases in vineyards and cherry orchards.

This program will include information for both wine grape and cherry growers. This information is unique and much of it has not yet been shared with Michigan growers. **Cost is \$30/person and will include lunch. Please call the NWMHRC at 231-946-1510 to RSVP for the meeting . If there is no answer at the station, please leave a message with Bill Klein as Jenn will be out of the office during the next few weeks.**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Northwest Michigan Think Tank 2017: Exploring Climatic Variability and its Impacts on Tree Fruit and Winegrape Production

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

March 24, 2017

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| 9:00-9:30 | Importance of pollinators in orchard systems
<i>Emily May, Xerces Society</i> |
| 9:30-10:00 | Pollinating Tart Cherries in Michigan
<i>Dr. Julianna Wilson, Dept. of Entomology, MSU</i> |
| 10:00-10:30 | Hail canons: Should we use this tool more with the recent hail storms in NW Michigan?
<i>Chris Kropf, Crop Production Services, Grand Rapids area</i> |
| 10:30-10:45 | BREAK |
| 10:45-11:05 | Practical implications of fungicide use in orchards during bloom
<i>Jackie Albert, Dept. of Entomology, MSU</i> |

- 11:05-11:20 Researching climatic change impacts on tart cherry production across five countries: Review of the Climate Change and International Market Systems (CLIMARK) project
Dr. Julie Winkler, Dept. of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences, MSU
- 11:20-12:00 The impact of climate change on the characteristics of the frost-free season over the contiguous United States
Dr. Julie Winkler, Dept. of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences, MSU
- 12:00-12:45 LUNCH
- 12:45-1:30 Integration of mid-century tart cherry yield projections with current trends in weather variables impacting tart cherry yields
Dr. Jeff Andresen, Dept. of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences, MSU
- 1:30-2:15 Climatic impacts on growing winegrapes in northwest Michigan
Dr. Paolo Sabbatini, Dept. of Horticulture, MSU
- 2:15-2:45 Influence of changes in climate on cherry diseases
Dr. George Sundin, Dept. of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences, MSU
- 2:45-3:00 BREAK
- 3:00-3:30 Past and projected future climatic trends and potential impacts on cherry leaf spot in Michigan
Dr. Jeff Andresen, Dept. of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences, MSU
- 3:30-4:00 Environmental drivers of grape diseases and what to expect under climate change
Dr. Annemiek Schilder, Dept. of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences, MSU
- 4:00-4:30 Does the public care about how climate change might affect agriculture?
Dr. Julie Winkler, Dept. of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences, MSU
- 4:30 Adjourn
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2017 Tree Fruit IPM Kick-off

April 18, 2017, 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Please join Michigan State University Extension at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center on Tuesday, April 18 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM for the annual Tree Fruit IPM Kickoff! This year, we are pleased to host Ontario Ministry of Agriculture's Application Technology Specialist, Jason Deveau, using ZOOM teleconferencing. Deveau will discuss spray strategy techniques including application rates, calibration, coverage, and canopy management – the foundations of optimizing spray economy and effectiveness. Following last year's challenging fire blight scenario, MSU's Dr. George Sundin will join us to present considerations for fire blight management this season. Dr. Sundin will also discuss the implications of new data on SDHI efficacy for cherry leaf spot management. Eric McCumber will provide a summary of the key Worker Protection Standard changes for 2017 and preparations for future changes. We will cover the annual pesticide label changes and updates and have a brief discussion on the future of borer pest management. This event is free of charge, and pesticide recertification credits and certified crop advisor credits will be available. We are looking forward to kicking off the 2017 season with you!

4:45	Welcome and Refreshments
5:00 – 5:15	Pesticide Label Changes and Updates <i>Emily Pochubay, MSU Extension</i>
5:15 – 6:00	Fire Blight and Leaf Spot Considerations for 2017 <i>Dr. George Sundin, Dept. of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences, MSU</i>
6:00 – 6:45	Crop-Adapted Spraying <i>Jason Deveau, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) via ZOOM Teleconference</i>
6:45 – 7:00	Break
7:00 – 7:45	Worker Protection Standard Update <i>Eric McCumber, MDARD</i>
7:45 – 8:00	Borer Management Challenges in Stone Fruit <i>Dr. Nikki Rothwell, MSU Extension and AgBioResearch</i>
8:00	<i>Fill out pesticide recertification and certified crop advisor sheets.</i>

MSU Extension Educator – Viticulture Presentations

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Thomas Todaro
1:15 p.m.

Gerard Logan
2:00 p.m.

Jason Stout
2:45 p.m.

20 Minute Presentation:

Topic:

Please choose one of the following challenges that wine grape growers and winemakers face in Northwest Lower Michigan and share what strategies and initiatives you would lead to meet these needs. How would you engage local stakeholders to contribute to the success of the initiative and how would you determine success of the project?

1. Pre-harvest disease pressure like Botrytis/sour rot
2. Issues impacting year-to-year production variability
3. Sustainable practices in cold-climate viticulture

10 Minute – question and answer period to follow each presentation

Seminars presented at:

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

6686 S. Center Highway
Traverse City, MI 49684

To attend via Zoom: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/5190105626>

Link to Public Presentation Form <https://goo.gl/forms/q5TrKQq2uFu0mTqc2>

Public and interested parties are welcome to attend

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Chestnut Orchard Establishment Workshop

Join us to learn about commercial chestnut production in Michigan this April!

Erin Lizotte, MSU Extension

The Michigan chestnut industry has been growing steadily over the last decade, with a lot of interest in production from new growers. To address this interest, Michigan State University Extension will be holding a one-day workshop to introduce attendees to the opportunities and challenges of commercial chestnut production. The workshop will include: an introduction to the history of the industry in Michigan; an economic analysis of production; orchard establishment and design; pest management; and harvesting, marketing, and storage.

The Chestnut Orchard Establishment Workshop will be held on April 20th from 10:00 am-4:00 pm at the Clarksville Horticultural Experiment Station, in Clarksville Michigan. The cost of the event is \$50 and includes lunch and support materials. To register, visit <https://events.anr.msu.edu/chestnutworkshop2017/>

Those attending are encouraged to visit www.chestnuts.msu.edu before the event for a primer on chestnut production. The '[Production considerations](#)' section may be particularly helpful.

4-H Tractor Safety Registration Now Open!

Teens can improve their chances of employment by completing a tractor safety training. MSU Extension will host a **4-H Tractor Safety Program** for 14 and 15 year old youth on **Wednesdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26 from 6-8:30 pm** at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station. The written and driving **test** will be held on **Saturday, April 29 from 8:30am – 2:30pm**. Participants must attend all five sessions to become certified. The cost is **\$80 per student** and some scholarships are available if finances are an issue. Youth must be 14 years of age by June 1, 2017. Space is limited. The registration deadline is March 24. Registration is online only in a two-step process. First, register and pay at events.anr.msu.edu/TractorSafety, and second, become a 4-H member and create a profile online at www.4honline.com. For more information, contact **Rosali Collier** Leelanau County 4-H Program Coordinator at collierr@anr.msu.edu or 231-256-9888.

Measuring spotted wing Drosophila impacts – your help needed!

This survey will help researchers identify impacts of spotted wing Drosophila (SWD) on fruit growers and look for new management tactics and programs, improved insecticide efficacy and SWD training.

Posted by [Rufus Isaacs](#), and Larry Gut, Michigan State University Extension, Department of Entomology, MSUE News

Michigan State University researchers are part of a [recently funded project](#), “Sustainable Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) Management for United States Fruit Crops,” and the team is surveying fruit growers with two goals:

1. Measure the impact of SWD throughout the United States.
2. Guide our project activities over the next four years.

This five-year project, coordinated by [North Carolina State University](#), is developing national research and extension projects to minimize the impacts of SWD. They include new management tactics and programs, improved insecticide efficacy for SWD and information and training on SWD for growers, extension agents and others. In order to achieve this and ensure the research and extension efforts match the needs of growers, the project is collecting information on the impacts of SWD on fruit growers, current management practices and preferences, and your requirements for better management of SWD. Participation is voluntary and the survey does not collect personally identifying information. The data will only be analyzed and reported in aggregate form.

We would like to get feedback from as many growers as possible! So, please complete the survey here: [Sustainable SWD Management Grower Survey](#)

Contact me at isaacsr@cns.msu.edu for additional information.

Funding for this project is provided by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops Research Initiative under Agreement No. 2015-51181-24252.

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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:

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