Northern Michigan FruitNet 2015 Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

January 27, 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1/29-30	Effective Management of Farm Employees Hilton Hotel, Grand Rapids Airport
2/3-4/7	Agripreneur Class Series Northwest Michigan Works! 1209 S. Garfield Avenue, Traverse City
2/10	Northern Grapes Project Webinar
2/12	West Michigan Agriculture Employers Meeting Hart
2/18-20	MSU Tree Fruit IPM School The Eberhard Center, Grand Rapids
3/4	Winery Development Pre-Conference MSU – Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
3/4-6	Michigan Grape & Wine Conference MSU – Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
3/14	Midwest Nut Producers Council Annual Meeting Clarksville Experiment Station
4/10-11	Great Lakes Hop and Barley Conference Grand Rapids
4/18	Healthy Forests - Caring for Our Trees Grand Traverse Conservation District

PROGRAM OFFERED ON *EFFECTIVE* MANAGEMENT OF FARM EMPLOYEES

Employees on the farm either drive the operation forward or they hold it back. The difference is often in the way that farm owners and managers work with their employees. Michigan State University Extension Dairy Team has put together a meeting on *Effective Management of Farm Employees* to help farm owners and managers develop their skills and perspective for better management of employees.

That meeting will be offered **January 29 & 30** at the Hilton Hotel, Grand Rapids Airport. This interactive meeting with specialists from industry and MSU is designed to provide farm owners and managers a solid basis for building their business with employees.

The meetings begin at 5:30 pm with dinner on day 1 in order to provide an early opportunity for developing a peer network of like-minded people and to begin to share the issues you face and better understand how others handle them. Session 1, "Attracting Good Applicants in Today's Job Environment" is after dinner.

On day 2, there are three sessions starting with "Building Teamwork on the Farm" and then "Capitalizing on Your Employee's Desire to Learn". After lunch the program finishes with a session on "Achieving High Quality Performance".

Complete information and on-line registration is available at http://events.anr.msu.edu/ManagingEmployees/

The cost to attend is \$160 for the first participant from a farm and \$140 for each additional participant from the same farm. Space is limited and early registration is encouraged.

Speakers for this dynamic program include:

- Lori Culler, CEO of AgHires, an online job board and recruiting firm. She has over 13
 years of talent management experience providing management consulting services in
 the ag industry.
- Phil Durst and Stan Moore, MSU Extension Sr. Educators who have led a project that involved 174 farm employee interviews from which recommendations have been developed to improve employee management.
- Felix Soriano, CEO of APN Consulting, a dairy consulting business where they believe
 that the large herd manager's success depends on getting things done through others,
 and therefore, works to help producers become excellent communicators and leaders of
 well-trained, talented, and skilled employees.
- Corey Risch, MSU Assistant Professor whose experience includes working as a Farm Business Consultant for Clemson University, where she provided financial and management consulting services to farmers and agribusinesses in South Carolina.
- Matt Wood, Regional Sales Manager with Vita Plus Corporation. Wood has worked as a
 full time Dairy Specialist for Vita Plus in the thumb area for 10 years, consulting with dairy
 clients on their farm management and nutrition for that time period.

For more information or questions, contact Phil Durst at 989-387-5346 or durstp@msu.edu or Stan Moore at 231-533-8818 or moorest@msu.edu.

Developing your skills in employee management is the key to taking your farm business to the next level of performance.

AGRIPRENEUR CLASS SERIES TO START FEBRUARY 3

This upcoming 10-week class is co-sponsored and taught by the SBDC and MSU Product Center. This course begins in less than two weeks and is ideal for the start-up agripreneur who needs help getting their idea off the ground or taking their young start-up operation to the next level. See the attached flyer for additional information.

FARM BILL WEBSITE BUILDING MOMENTUM

One of the projects that Michigan State University Extension educators have been working on has been in response to the Agricultural Act of 2014 – commonly called the 2014 Farm Bill – that was signed in early 2014. It is quite different from what farmers and landowners were accustomed to in former farm bills, so our educators and campus specialists from the Farm Information Resource Management (FIRM) Team are working together to provide farmers with information to navigate Farm Bill programs.

Although there may be similarities to past farm bills, it is very important that farmers begin to learn as much as they can before deciding on what program is best suited for their current situation. Farmers can find answers by checking out the Farm Bill page full of resources, important dates, email newsletters and <a href="Email: upcoming educational events hosted throughout Michigan. Each farm location and each farmer's individual needs vary, therefore, choosing which programs are a good fit will depend on farm-specific variables.

Please feel free to <u>explore MSU Extension's Farm Bill page</u>, and share it with those in your network who would be interested.

2015 MICHIGAN FRUIT MANAGEMENT GUIDES NOW AVAILABLE

Growers interested in purchasing the 2015 *Michigan Fruit Management Guide*, can find them at their county MSU Extension office or NW Michigan Horticultural Research Center for \$25 or a downloadable pdf is available for \$20 by visiting the MSU Bookstore at http://shop.msu.edu/product_p/bulletin-e0154.htm.

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR THE 2015 TREE FRUIT IPM SCHOOL

Regular registration is \$225 per person and begins Jan. 15. Online registration (http://events.anr.msu.edu/TreeFruitIPMSchool) closes Feb. 13, after which only onsite registration at \$275 per person is available. Registration by mail is only possible through Feb. 2. To register by mail, download, print and fill out a registration form and send it with a check made payable to Michigan State University to:

Jackie Baase NW MI Horticultural Research Center 6686 S. Center Hwy Traverse City, MI 49684 Registration includes breakfast, lunch and breaks on Wednesday and Thursday, breakfast and breaks on Friday, and a binder with all course materials. Dinner and lodging are on your own. Attendees will have the option of obtaining Certified Crop Advisor Credits and/or Pesticide Applicator Recertification Credits (RUP) for attending this program.

For more information, please download the Tree Fruit School brochure or visit http://events.anr.msu.edu/TreeFruitIPMSchool. Contact the 2015 Tree Fruit IPM School coordinators: Julianna Wilson at jkwilson@msu.edu or 517-432-4766, or Emily Pochubay at pochubay@msu.edu or 231-946-1510 with any additional questions.

CONSIDERING A NEW WINERY OR HARD CIDER BUSINESS? ATTEND THE MARCH WINERY DEVELOPMENT PRE-CONFERENCE

Prospective winery licensees can learn to start a Michigan winery at the one-day winery development conference on March 4, 2015 at Michigan State University.

Posted on **December 31, 2014, MSUE News,** by <u>Joanne Davidhizar</u>, Michigan State University, MSU Product Center



With winery numbers now over 100, the state's winery industry continues to grow, as do hard cider operations, which are licensed as wineries in Michigan. To assist potential entrepreneurs in understanding the elements of a successful winery business launch, a one-day winery development pre-conference will be held March 4 in association with the 2015 Michigan Grape & Wine Conference. The session will be held 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center; Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

Pre-conference sponsors, Michigan Grape & Wine Industry Council, Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, and Michigan State University Extension, will provide basic information about starting a winery in Michigan. Topics include wine grape suitability, industry trends, business planning, marketing, licensing requirements, local zoning considerations, owner experiences and resources.

Nearly 90 percent of participants in a 2013 winery development conference lead by these partners felt that the session helped with their decision to start a winery. These attendees took action toward starting 12 wineries, and investing upward of \$4.6 million. All indicated that the conference met their educational needs.

For more information or to the register for the session, go to: www.michiganwines.com/conference. The pre-conference registration fee is \$80 per person

before February 13, 2015 or \$100 per person after the early registration date. Participants are invited to attend the full conference March 4-5, 2015 to further their learning and networking opportunities.

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

UPCOMING NORTHERN GRAPES PROJECT PRESENTATION ON TRAINING SYSTEMS

Vertical shoot positioning and top wire cordon training systems for hybrid grape vines will be discussed during the Northern Grapes Project webinar on Feb. 10, 2015.

Posted on **January 26, 2015, MSUE News**, by **Brad Baughman**, Michigan State University Extension



Top wire cordon training system.

Interested hybrid grape vine growers will benefit from tuning into an upcoming free webinar, "Comparing and Contrasting Vertical Shoot Positioning and Top Wire Cordon Training Systems," hosted by the Northern Grapes Project, on Feb. 10, 2015. This webinar is intended for both new and established grape growers.

Speakers will be Bob Utter of Flying Otter Vineyard and Winery in Adrian, Michigan; John Thull of the <u>University of Minnesota</u>; and <u>Tim Martinson</u> of <u>Cornell University</u>. The advantages and disadvantages of the two most commonly used training systems will be discussed as well as how to convert vines from one system to the other. There will also be discussion of training system trials done at Cornell University with two super-hardy hybrids, Marquette and Frontenac.



Vertical shoot positioning training system.

All <u>Northern Grapes Project</u> webinars are offered twice, 12 p.m. and 7 p.m. EST. Attendees are encouraged to bring questions or comments on their experience with the two training systems with hybrid grapes.

Webinars are a way for people to do live presentations of information remotely to anyone with a high-speed Internet connection, an email address and working speakers. Attendees need only register online. All who registered will be sent a URL in advance of the event; the URL can be pasted into any web browser. Slides will be shown on-screen with speakers coming through the audio, and a chat box in the corner will allow anyone watching to post questions during the presentation or afterwards.

Two additional webinars are scheduled for this year's <u>Northern Grapes Project</u> webinar series. "Tannin Addition and Retention in Red Hybrid Wines" by <u>Anna Katharine Mansfield</u> of Cornell University will take place March 10, and "Branding Studies for Cold Climate Wines" by <u>Bill Gartner</u> of the <u>University of Minnesota</u> will be April 15. To join the Northern Grapes Project mailing list to stay updated on future webinars, send an email on their <u>Contact Us page</u>.

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2015 WEST MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE EMPLOYER MEETING

Date: February 12, 2015 **Time:** 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: 308 South State Street, Hart, MI 49420

Contact: Ben Werling, werlingb@msu.edu, 231-873-2129

This workshop aims to help West Michigan's agricultural employers meet farm labor regulations and provide education about alternative sources of farm workers. Presenters will address different ways growers can locate labor, including H2A, the newly improved Agricultural Recruitment System and labor contractors. Speakers will also provide updates on compliance with employer regulations, including an update from the Department of Homeland Security, how to ready housing for H2A, small employer health plans under the Affordable Health Care Act

and on-farm issues to address to ensure compliance with DOL regulations. Michigan Works and Telamon will also discuss resources they can provide for local employers.

The cost of the workshop is \$15 and includes all conference materials, morning refreshments and lunch. Please use the <u>attached form</u> to register, or contact Kathryn Walicki at 231-873-2129.

ATTENTION BEGINNING FARMERS!

The MSU Extension 2015 Beginning Farmer Webinar Series is available for you to gain knowledge needed to plan your start-up farming operation, or add a new enterprise to an existing farm. A series of twenty, 2-hour evening webinars covering a wide variety of farm-related topics is available, including:

"Getting started with...."

- ...Cover Crops in Organic Vegetable Crop Rotations, Feb. 2
- ...Integrated Pest Management, Feb. 4
- ... Manure Storage, Handling and Mortality Management on Small Farms, Feb. 11
- ...Beekeeping for Pollination and Honey, Feb 13
- ...Value-Added Agriculture, Feb. 18
- ...Farm Food Safety, Feb 23
- ... Sheep and Goat Management, March 2
- ... USDA Organic Certification, March 9
- ... Hop Production, March 11
- ... Season Extension, March 16
- ... Marketing, March 18
- ...Small Fruit Production, March 23
- ...Beef Cow-Calf Production, March 25
- ...Direct Marketing, March 30
- ... Managing Soil, Irrigation and Fertilization Interactions, April 1
- ... Cover Crops in Field Crop Rotations, April 6
- ...Poultry Production, April 20
- ...Small Farm Equipment, April 27
- ...Beef Feedlot Management, April 29

A fee of \$10 per webinar is required, or you can register for the entire series for \$100. Webinar recordings will be provided to all registered participants. Participate from the comfort and convenience of your own home or office. Registration, a brochure containing details on each individual program, and on-line or mailed payment options can be found at http://events.anr.msu.edu/beginningfarmerwebinars/.

Each program begins at 7pm eastern time and will last about 2 hours. A high-speed internet connection is required. You will receive webinar connection information after you register.

Contact the Alger County MSU Extension office at 906-387-2530 or isleibj@anr.msu.edu for more information.

Jim Isleib Upper Peninsula Crop Production Educator MSU Extension – Alger County E9526 Prospect Street, Suite 1 Munising, MI 49862

Phone: 906-387-2530 Email: isleibj@anr.msu.edu

Fax: 906-387-2710

NEW HOP IPM WEBINAR NOW AVAILABLE

The Online Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Academy has added a new webinar: Hop IPM. Learn about IPM in hops, including pesticide considerations and beneficial insects.

Posted on **January 19, 2015**, **MSUE News**, by <u>Erin Lizotte</u>, Michigan State University Extension



Hop cones at burr stage. Photo credit: Erin Lizotte, MSU Extension

<u>Michigan State University Extension</u> is continuing to expand the <u>Online Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Academy</u>, which now includes a <u>Hop IPM webinar</u>.

The <u>Online IPM Academy</u> is a series of online prerecorded webinars available for free and with no registration. Commercial and private core pesticide recertification credits are available for Michigan applicators. Michigan residents can earn up to five pesticide recertification credits. A computer with Internet connectivity, a web browser and speakers are required.

Go to http://bit.ly/ipmwebinars to access the webinars or email Carol Blake at cblake@msu.edu to receive more information.

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HOP HARVEST AND PROCESSING SAFETY WEBINAR NOW AVAILABLE ON DEMAND

Hop growers looking to learn more about the risk and prevention of respiratory disease associated with hop harvest and processing are encouraged to view this recorded webinar.

Posted on **January 13, 2015, MSUE News,** by **Erin Lizotte**, and Rob Sirrine, Michigan State University Extension

If you couldn't join us for the live, one-hour webinar on "Your Lungs, Your Life: Respiratory disease in hop growing and processing" with Carolyn Whitaker and Dave Bonauto from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries Safety & Health Assessment & Research for Prevention (SHARP) Program, then you can still view the webinar recording online.

In this webinar you will learn how to keep your lungs healthy while growing and processing hops, including what to watch for, when to see a doctor, hop jobs associated with respiratory disease, and what you can do to protect yourself and employees.

Since the webinar is prerecorded, any questions should be directed to the speakers that provided their contact information during the webinar. Email <u>Michigan State University Extension</u>'s Erin Lizotte at <u>taylo548@msu.edu</u> with any additional questions.

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2015 GREAT LAKES HOP AND BARLEY CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

Save the date: April 10-11, 2015 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Posted on **January 21, 2015, MSUE News**, by <u>Rob Sirrine</u>, Erin Lizotte and Ashley McFarland, Michigan State University Extension

Michigan State University Extension is pleased to announce the dates for the 2015 Great Lakes Hop and Barley Conference. The two-day conference will be held Friday and Saturday, April 10 -11 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The conference will feature separate basic and advanced sessions for hop growers as well as a barley session and malting tour and is designed for both growers and brewers. Several prominent speakers from around the country will be on hand to discuss: market outlook, horticultural practices, pest and disease control, harvest and post-harvest practices, nutrient management, and more.

There will also be a brewer/grower networking session that focuses on hop quality. The session will provide growers with a better idea of quality requirements and help align the supply of Michigan grown hops with brewer needs.

The conference is sponsored in part by the <u>Michigan Brewer's Guild</u>, <u>ISLAND</u>, <u>Greenstone Farm Credit Services</u>, <u>MSU PROJECT GREEEN</u>, among others.

Please continue to visit <u>Michigan State University Extension</u>, <u>Michigan State University Extension Hops Webpage</u>, and the <u>Michigan State University Hops News Facebook</u> page for up to date information.

Finally, please sign up for the new MSU Hop listserv for a lively interactive discussion of all things hop related. To subscribe:

- 1. Send an email to: listserv@list.msu.edu
- 2. Leave the "subject" line blank
- 3. In the body of the email type: SUBSCRIBE Hops
- 4. You will receive a confirmation email directing you to click on a link (this is to avoid spammers). Click on the link.

To send an email to the list once you have joined, just send it to: hops@list.msu.edu

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WELCOME TO THE ONLINE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT ACADEMY!

Online Integrated Pest Management Academy Webinars

The following prerecorded webinars are available for viewing at any time. Simply click on the webinar titles of your choice. A number of new webinars will be added over the coming months, so check back periodically for new content. Pesticide recertification credits for Michigan applicators are available for completing these webinars.

Directions for claiming pesticide recertification credits (as of 12-18-14)

Viewers may earn one Michigan pesticide recertification credit for every two webinars viewed for up to five credits total. In order to earn the credits, users must view the webinars in their entirety. Each webinar includes a survey before and after the webinar that must be completed. Once you have viewed all of the webinars for which you would like to request credits, **you must fill out the following form:** Pesticide Recertification Requests. Be prepared to provide the following information:

- Name, phone number and email
- Applicator number
- Credit preference (Private or commercial CORE)
- The date AND time of webinar completion

You may only claim credits once annually and once per webinar (repeat viewing for credits is not allowed nor are multiple requests for credits). You must click through the surveys to view the webinar, but participation in answering is voluntary. Questions? Call or email Carol Blake at 231-779-9480 or cblake@msu.edu.

Click on the titles below to view the described webinar:

NEW: Hop IPM

Learn about hop pests in Michigan including how to scout and manage against them. This webinar also discusses potential beneficial insects and how to support them.

NEW: What's wrong with my vegetable plants?

Learn what can cause pest and disease issues in vegetable production and resources to help you properly identify and treat the cause.

NEW: Chestnut IPM

Learn about integrated pest management in chestnuts, pesticide considerations and potential invasive pests of orchards in Michigan.

Introduction to Integrated Pest Management

Learn about the history of pest management, the evolution of integrated pest management (IPM) and the tenants that define implementation in the field.

Integrated Pest Management Resources

Learn about the integrated pest management resources Michigan State University and Extension have to offer agricultural producers.

Entomology 101

In this compact primer on insects learn the vocabulary to help you properly identify insects and better understand the role of insects in the world.

Plant Pathology 101

This introductory webinar covers the basics of plant pathogens and introduces viewers to the some popular control methods.

Soil Science 101

This webinar highlights the importance of soil characteristics and their potential impacts on agricultural producers. Due to some technical difficulties, you must follow this link, http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Soil_Science_101, after viewing the webinar to complete a post-webinar survey. Remember you must at least click through the survey to request pesticide recertification credits. Thank you for your cooperation.

Plant Science 101

Learn the basics of plant anatomy and physiology—particularly handy for those who struggle with weed identification. Due to some technical difficulties, you must follow this link, http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Plant_Science_101, after viewing the webinar to complete a

post-webinar survey. Remember you must at least click through the survey to request pesticide recertification credits. Thank you for your cooperation.

Pesticides 101

SARE

An introduction to mode of action, pesticide resistance and factors that impact whether pesticides are effective.

Insect Scouting in Fruit Crops

This primer offers a fruit-specific module on how insect scouting occurs in the real world based.

This program is supported in part by North Central Region - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE), and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under Agreement No. 2013-41534-21068. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

NEW RESOURCE AVAILABLE FOR ESTIMATING THE COST OF PRODUCING HOPS IN MICHIGAN

Growers interested in producing hops have a new reference available to help them better understand the costs and returns on hop production in Michigan.

Posted on **December 24, 2014, MSUE News,** by Rob Sirrine, Michigan State University Extension

Hot off the presses, <u>Michigan State University Extension</u> has just released <u>Bulletin E3236</u>, Estimated Costs of Producing Hops in Michigan.

The Bulletin provides an overview of the revival of hop production in Michigan, including:

- 1) Costs to prepare and establish an acre of land for hop production,
- 2) Annual hop yard operating costs, and
- 3) Annual return per acre of hop-producing land.

While hop cost of production bulletins exist in other areas of the country such as the Pacific Northwest, this bulletin should better reflect the costs and returns associated with a five -acre hopyard in the Great Lakes Region. Potential hop growers (and their lenders) can use the information to calculate whether they could produce hops at a profit.

The first section provides a detailed budget for hopyard preparation and establishment on both a per acre and 5-acre scale. Examples of specific establishment costs include: land preparation, plants, poles, labor, anchors, hardware, irrigation, and project management. The bulletin also outlines the estimated annual operating costs and returns per acre in a typical Michigan hop

yard. Growers are encouraged to study and adjust the cost assumptions carefully as they may influence the final net returns per acre and may vary greatly between operations.

The bulletin can be downloaded for free from the <u>Michigan State University Hops Webpage</u>, under the resources tab on the left hand side of the page.

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UPDATED REGISTERED PESTICIDE LIST FOR MICHIGAN CHESTNUT PRODUCERS

New pesticide quick reference available for Michigan chestnut growers through Michigan State University Extension.

Posted on **December 23, 2014, MSUE News,** by <u>Erin Lizotte</u>, Michigan State University Extension

In an effort to assist chestnut growers in making pesticide decisions, a new quick reference has been created and is currently available at chestnuts.msu.edu or download it directly: Pesticides Registered for Edible Chestnuts, 2015. The packet includes registered insecticides, fungicides and herbicides as well as a guide to seasonal pest occurrence in Michigan.

To protect yourself, others, and the environment, always read the label before applying any pesticide. Although efforts have been made to check the accuracy of information presented, it is the responsibility of the person using this information to verify that it is correct by reading the corresponding pesticide label in its entirety before using the product. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by Michigan State University Extension or bias against those not mentioned. Information presented here does not supersede the label directions.

This material is based upon work supported by the <u>National Institute of Food and Agriculture</u>, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under Agreement No. 2013-41534-21068. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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MIDWEST NUT PRODUCERS COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

This meeting is a great opportunity for new growers to learn about getting started in the chestnut industry and current growers to learn about optimizing productivity.

Posted on **January 12, 2015, MSUE News,** by **Dennis Fulbright**, Michigan State University Extension, Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Science, and Erin Lizotte, MSU Extension



The annual meeting of the Midwest Nut Producers Council will be held from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 14, 2015, at the Clarksville Research Station in Clarksville, Michigan, 9302 Portland Road, Clarksville, MI 48815. This meeting is free to members who remit their \$50 in dues at the door (one per family or farm). The meeting will cover the priorities of the chestnut industry, including a chestnut blight update and a discussion of how yields were affected by the winter of 2013-14. If you choose to become a member at this meeting, your membership will also entitle you to attend the rooted cuttings workshop in June for only a nominal lunch fee.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling Erin Lizotte, <u>Michigan State University Extension</u>, at 231-944-6504 to make arrangements. Requests will be met when possible.

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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/centers/nwmihort/nwmihort northern michigan fruit net

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/

Information on apples http://apples.msu.edu/

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