

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2016

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center

Weekly Update

FruitNet Report – January 14, 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2016

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1/12 – 1/13 | 2016 Orchard and Vineyard Show
Grand Traverse Resort and Spa |
| 1/15 | IFTA Scholarships due |
| 1/27 | Timber and Taxes Workshop
Grand Traverse Conservation District |
| 2/6 – 2/10 | 2016 IFTA Annual Conference |
| 2/25 | Planting Bareroot Trees—A Reforestation Workshop
Leelanau County Government Building—
Community Room |
| 3/12 | Healthy Forests - Caring for our trees!
Grand Traverse Conservation District |

Attention NW MI Growers: IFTA Opportunity in Your Backyard (Almost)

The International Tree Fruit Association (IFTA) is coming back to Michigan in February 2016, and there is a terrific line up of excellent presentations that will benefit your farm! This year marks the 59th IFTA annual conference, and it will be held in Grand Rapids (it is not that far away....).

Pre-conference Workshop, Saturday, February 6

The conference will kick off with a pre-conference intensive workshop on growing the moneymakers: Honeycrisp, Gala, and Fuji. They will start off with a review of the apple market the past few years and today's market for our three money maker varieties. What are the economics of these three varieties? How should they be grown and handled to get the greatest return for the greatest dollar input? Where is the best fruit size target? Can these varieties be grown at a lesser market? What system is best and why in terms of dollars? They will also look at new strains of these varieties and their fruit quality challenges. They will also explore the best rootstocks for each of these varieties. Training and crop load management will also be key topics. They will cover nutrition with the challenges for each variety: small fruit in Gala, bitterpit in Honeycrisp, and high vigor in Fuji. Lastly, they will talk about fruit maturity, harvest, and post harvest strategies to obtain the best profit.

Monday, February 8: Precision Orchard Training & Production Systems

Over the past 50 years, the fruit industry has undergone a slow yet monumental revolution. The adoption of dwarfing rootstock and the change to higher and higher density systems has made fruit growing profitable, rewarding, and enjoyable. How did we get here and where are we going?

What is the performance of apple rootstocks and what about the new ones? What can we expect from these new and improved rootstocks? Which is best for the very high densities? Which rootstocks work best with these very high-density plantings and systems?

Hear about the characteristics of the fruit wall systems grown the Italian way with tips on training, production and fruit quality. How are these multiple leader systems for apple performing? Tart and sweet cherry systems will continue to change and be adapted for mechanization. How are new rootstocks that are now available for cherry performing?

Tuesday, February 9: Orchard Tours

The Tuesday Orchard Tour will include a stop at Jake and Nick Rasch Orchards where conference attendees will see Honeycrisp on Tall Spindle System, peaches on a V-System, young and old pear plantings, and apricots. This one stop should not be missed for excellent modern intensive tree fruit training (*Emily and I saw it this summer, and it is awesome!*).

The NC-140 Honeycrisp trial at Joe and Rob Rasch Orchards is another must see. Many of the latest Geneva stocks and others are available for inspection at this five year old planting. There will be a tour stop to view orchard machinery

including platforms and harvesters.

Attendees will visit the Dietrich Orchards where significant high density sweet cherry acreage on Gisela rootstocks are one to six years old. At Nyblad Orchards an impressive multiple leader apple orchard between the age of one and three years old is on the agenda. The last orchard will be a visit to Riveridge Grand Farm to see new one and two year old V-system plantings of Honeycrisp.

Wednesday, February 10: Precision Orchard Technologies

The whole area of nutrition, irrigation and fertigation is changing with new systems, rootstocks and technology.

There is a need to adopt the whole orchard approach to mechanization to produce fruit with greatest profit. Robotics, machine performed tasks and machine assist harvest machines will boost orchardist productivity and dollar return. New technologies with iPhone and iPad apps will assist grower decision-making, record keeping, and bring knowledge to their fingertips.

Thinning, all plant summer PGRs and harvest and post-harvest PGRs will make all the difference in the final packout and sale. Hear the best knowledge on these important horticultural tasks.

**Scholarships are available through the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation. Please see accompanying article to apply.

IFTA Scholarship for 2016 Winter Meeting in Grand Rapids

The Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation (NWMHRF) Board is offering scholarships for area growers to attend the upcoming 59th annual International Fruit Tree Association (IFTA) conference held in Grand Rapids, MI. Because this conference is in Michigan, the Board will sponsor up to 10 growers at \$500 per applicant. The post-conference tour is being held in northwest Michigan, where we will meet with our region's innovative growers and highlight the area's agriculture. By attending the IFTA annual conference, scholarship recipients will gain valuable knowledge, see new and innovative orchards, learn the latest in tree fruit research, and connect with other fruit tree growers from around the world. The dates for the Intensive Workshop and Conference are February 6-12th.

To apply for this scholarship, interested growers should write a letter of request stating why they would like to attend this meeting. Letters should

be addressed and emailed to Adele Wunsch (wunschad@gmail.com), President of the NWMHRF Board and cc'ed to Jenn Goodrich at the NWMHRC (goodr100@msu.edu). Although all interested growers are encouraged to apply, priority will be given to first-time applicants of the NWMHRF IFTA scholar- ship opportunity as well as to newer growers in the region.

Request letters should be sent to the email addresses above by January 18, 2016 by 5 PM. The NWMHRF Executive Board will review request letters and make a final decision and award recipients will be contacted that same day.

Timber and Taxes Workshop

Wednesday, January 27, 2016 1:00 – 3:30 pm and repeated at 6:30 – 9:00 pm Grand Traverse Conservation District, 1450 Cass Road, Traverse City
Presented by **Susan Metcalfe**, co-owner of Metcalfe Forestry LLC & Burns Timber Tax Service and designed for forest land owners and tax preparers. If you have bought or sold timber within the past 3 years, or plan to harvest timber, then this is a must see session. The workshop will cover a range of topics involving your potential taxes on the money earned by buying and selling timber, how to keep more \$\$ in your pocket & pay less in tax. There will also be discussion about Michigan's Commercial Forest and Qualified Forest Property Acts, two property tax programs that provide substantial tax benefits to landowners practicing wise forest management.
Cost is \$15/person (by January 25) or \$20 at the door
For more information or to register, contact Kama Ross, District Forester, Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts at 231-256-9783, or kama.ross@macd.org.

Planting Bareroot Trees—A Reforestation Workshop

Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:00-8:30 pm
Leelanau County Government Building— Community Room
Conservation Districts across the country have been offering quality, affordable trees and shrubs for decades. Before you place your order with

your favorite nursery or conservation district, come learn about selecting the right species for your specific goals, site selection, how to maximize planning success by proper site preparation, planning techniques and follow-up protection and care. Workshop is free of charge.

For more information or to register, contact Kama Ross, District Forester, Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts at 231-256-9783, or kama.ross@macd.org.

Healthy Forests - Caring for our trees!

Saturday, March 12, 2016 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Grand Traverse Conservation District, 1450 Cass Road, Traverse City \$10/person (by March 10) or \$15 at the door

Learn about how we can best keep our trees healthy and vigorous and prevent loss from insects and diseases and other environmental stressors. Russ Kidd, Michigan State University Extension Forester Emeritus will give you practical ways to build resilient trees in the forest or in your own backyard. Also, learn about how you can become involved in the new “Sentinel Tree” Program, a volunteer program of monitoring and reporting health conditions into a statewide data base to increase our chances of effective control of non-native threats to our forests.

For more information or to register, contact Kama Ross, District Forester, Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts at 231-256-9783, or kama.ross@macd.org.

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.

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 is available at the new cherry website:

<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>