

# **Northern Michigan FruitNet 2016**

## **Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center**

### Weekly Update

**FruitNet Report – March 2, 2016**

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

##### **2016**

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>3/12</b> | <b>Healthy Forests - Caring for our trees!</b><br>Grand Traverse Conservation District  |
| <b>3/22</b> | <b>The Cost of Producing Tart Cherries in Northwest Michigan Workshop</b><br>Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center |
| <b>4/6</b>  | <b>First day of Tractor Safety – Registration info below</b><br>Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center              |
| <b>4/14</b> | <b>IPM Kickoff - 3PM – 8PM (More information to come)</b><br>Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center                 |

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### **Tractor Safety Program**

Teens can improve their chances of employment by completing tractor safety training. MSU Extension will host a 4-H Tractor Safety Program for 14 and 15 year old youth on Wednesdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27 from 6-8:30 pm at the NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station. The written and driving test will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 8:30am – 2:30pm. Participants must attend all five sessions to become certified. The cost is \$75 per student and some scholarships are available if finances are an issue. Youth must be 14 years of age by June 1, 2016. Space is limited. The registration deadline is March 25. Registration forms are available online at [www.msue.msu.edu/leelanau](http://www.msue.msu.edu/leelanau) and attached.

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

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## **The Cost of Producing Tart Cherries in Northwest Michigan Workshop**

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center  
March 22, 2016  
5:30 – 8:00 PM

We would like to invite tart cherry growers to please join us for dinner and a cost of producing (COP) tart cherries workshop hosted by Mollie Woods, Emily Pochubay, and Nikki Rothwell at the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center (NWMHRC) on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. This workshop will be a good opportunity for growers who are new or returning to the tart cherry business to learn about the many variables associated with production and how to calculate costs. We also encourage more seasoned growers to join us for an evening to catch up on crunching numbers or those who are looking to compare their COP estimates with an industry average.

The meeting will kickoff at 5:30 PM with a brief introduction to the findings of our 2015 COP study and describe to participants how the study's estimated production costs were generated. Following this presentation, participants will be provided with a current COP worksheet and guided through an exercise to calculate their individual farm business' production costs. We would like to encourage any interested individuals to bring with them any known costs such as chemical input expenses, labor rates, etc. as well as estimated yields on a per acre basis to improve the accuracy of their individual COP calculations. However, industry averages will be provided in the event that the suggested information is not available.

**Please contact Jenn Goodrich at 231-946-1519 or [goodr100@msu.edu](mailto:goodr100@msu.edu) to register by March 14<sup>th</sup>. This meeting is FREE and includes dinner. However, registration by March 14<sup>th</sup> is required to guarantee your dinner.**

**Thank you to the Michigan Cherry Committee for funding the cost of production research and this workshop.**

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## **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 database 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](mailto:kama.ross@macd.org).

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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 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>

