Home
Background & Projects
Calendar
Directions
InfoVideos
Links
Extension Expert Search
Publications
Staff

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2008
Weekly Update
NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station

Nikki Rothwell, District Horticulturist
Erin Lizotte, District Fruit IPM Agent
Bill Klein, Farm Mgr, NWMHRS
Duke Elsner, Agricultural & Regional Viticulture Agent
Rob Sirrine, Leelanau Extension Director

September 2, 2008

GROWING DEGREE DAY ACCUMULATIONS THROUGH September 1st AT THE NWMHRS

Year	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	18yr. Avg.
GDD42	2985	3347	3329	3386	2651	2968	3040
GDD50	1953	2247	2213	2306	1614	1915	1992

Weather Report
On the first of September, we had the hottest day of 'summer'. Temperatures reached into the nineties, and we expect more of the same today. Conditions are extremely dry, and we have accumulated only 0.92 inches of rain in the last month.

Crop Report

All cherry harvest is complete, and many growers have finished with their post-harvest sprays. Very early apples, such as Lodi, are available in the region. Due to lack of rain, non-irrigated apples are particularly small in size. We will begin testing other early varieties for maturity later this week.

Pest Report

Cherry **Obliquebanded leaf roller** numbers are still high at the NWMHRS, particularly in our cherry blocks. We captured over 75 moths in one block, and overall catches are in the mid-forties. Most borer catch at this time is **greater peachtree borer**, and we are still catching **cherry fruit flies** in the entomology block. Many orchards with **cherry leaf spot** have had a post-harvest spray.

Apple The insect pest to note this week is our **apple maggot catch**. This week was the first time where we caught AM, so growers need to be aware these adults are flying. We are also still catching a small number of **codling moth** (~5-6/trap).

Grapes Things in the vineyard look good at this time, except for some growers that missed a few crucial powdery mildew sprays. As with many other tree fruit crops, **two spotted spider mites** have been problematic in some regional vineyards—particularly those without irrigation.

APPEARANCE OF LATE SUMMER MITES IN TREE FRUITS
John Wise, MSU Trevor Nichols Research Complex
Nikki Rothwell, MSU Northwest Horticulture Research Station
David Epstein, MSU Tree fruit Integrator

With the relatively cool Michigan spring / early summer and repeated episodes of early heavy rain, European red mite (ERM) and two-spotted spider mite (TSSM) populations remained low in most apple and stone fruit orchards. Economic thresholds for justifying control measures are well established, but they mostly target scouting data obtained in June - August:

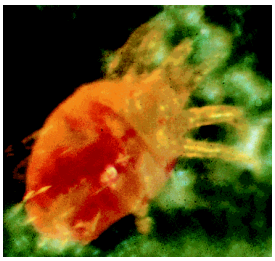
2-3 mites per leaf from petal fall to mid-June
5-7 mites per leaf from mid-June through July
10-15 mites per leaf in August

Reports from the Fruit AOE team suggest that the recent weeks of droughty weather conditions have resulted in a unique late summer surge of mite populations in some apples and stone fruit orchards. In most cases, these mite populations will not have enough time to cause economic injury to trees before diapause (overwintering stage) is triggered. ERM can lay eggs in the calyx end of fruit at this time in apple; with high populations, eggs can result in a contaminant problem for fruit destined for fresh market or export. However, the more probable concern is how these late season mite populations will impact the 2009 production season. ERM adults will be laying eggs on spur shoots and limb crotches over the next several weeks, which will serve as the starting point for next year's spring mite population. We recommend that orchards that currently have high ERM populations be marked for pre-bloom scouting next spring in order to get a jump on optimal control tactics for the season.

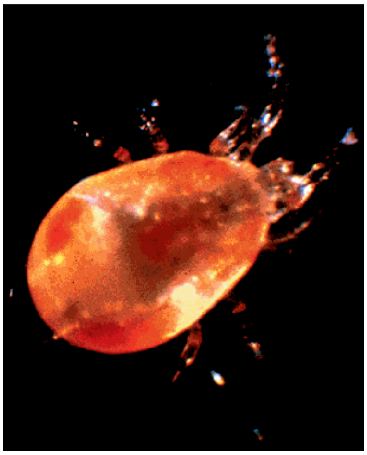
Late season populations of two-spotted spider mite (TSSM) provide a slightly different situation. In cherries, post-harvest management of TSSM is common, and maintaining healthy foliage into the fall is important for sustainable fruit production. TSSM change color as they move to overwintering sites—they lose their spots and take on an orangish-color. These overwintering adults and immatures move to rough areas of tree bark or in leaf litter on the ground in early to mid-September. Often we observe these populations at the bases of trees in a web of orange mites. Once this overwintering migration begins, control actions are no longer warranted. We recommend that orchards with high TSSM populations in August be marked for scouting next May or June—earlier than would be warranted under

typical conditions.

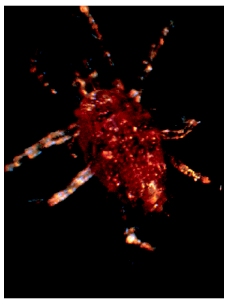
We also recommend that scouts/growers document the levels of predacious mites in these orchards right now. If healthy populations of mite predators exist, they will continue to feed on ERM eggs well into October, potentially reducing the egg populations well below the levels that would justify control next spring. To report on predacious mites, scouts/growers should collect a 100-leaf sample and count the numbers of each of the predator mite species. The three most important predaceous mites are *Amblyseius fallacis* (Phytoseiidae), *Agistemus fleschneri* (Stigmaeidae), and *Zetzellia mali* (Stigmaeidae) (see "A Pocket Guide for IPM Scouting in Michigan Apples" – E-2720 for pictures). Predaceous mites are smaller than adult ERM, but they can be seen with a hand lens and typically move very quickly across leaf surfaces. The presence of predaceous mites (>1/leaf) can be enough to make a significant impact on the overwintering ERM egg population.



Zetzellia mali



Amblyseius fallacis



Agistemus fleschneri

PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR CHERRY FRUIT FLY WORK
N.L. Rothwell, District Horticulturist

Results from a cherry fruit fly (CFF) study conducted by Drs. Luis Teixeira, Larry Gut, and Rufus Isaacs have found that we have very unique late emerging CFF population. This information is apparent at the NWMHRS where we caught 35 CFF this week in the unsprayed entomology block. Using genetic techniques, the researchers found that these populations are in fact from last year's overwintering pupae. They believe that due to 2007's droughty conditions, the CFF pupae did not pupate to adulthood in 2007 but waited to emerge this season. They think that if the overwintering CFF do not emerge in the first year, they emerge much later than the typical emergence timing the second season. More information on this exciting news will be forthcoming.

BIRD DAMAGE IN MI FRUITS
Erin Lizotte
IFP/IPM District Educator, MSU-E

As all fruit growers know, bird damage causes significant loss of fruit crops each year in this region. The last bird damage survey in Michigan was performed in 1972 and estimated tart cherry damage at 17.4%. These numbers are considered minor compared to losses in the wine grape and blueberry industries each year. We are lucky to have attracted the interest of Dr. Catherine Lindell, Dept of Zoology, MSU, who has worked extensively with bird pests in Costa Rica and has been visiting apple, cherry, and grape growers to learn more about our industry. Dr. Lindell will be helping us gather information on species structure and bird behavior in fruit systems.

We are distributing surveys to growers to record your observations on your farm. These surveys are meant to determine what species of birds are in the fruit, what they are doing in the orchard/vineyard, and how many of them are present. These surveys will be used to develop a season-long bird species profile for different crops. As we go into the busy harvesting season, this information becomes even more important, as most of the damage will take place as the fruit ripens.

Please go to http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/birdsurvey.pdf to print the survey form and fill out the survey for observations made during a one week period. You don't have to fill one out every week to participate as the information will be consolidated across counties. Bird surveys will also be available from the Research Station in paper form. The data collected in these surveys will be used to prove impact during grant application, and will help direct future research.

To return your survey via fax, please send it to (231)946-1404, attention Erin. You may also e-mail them as an attachment to taylo548@msu.edu.

"KEEP OUR FARMERS FARMING" AUCTION

The Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation will be having an auction on **October 4, 2008**. It will be held at **10:00 am** at the Horticultural Research Station, 6686 S. Center Highway in Leelanau County. The Foundation is currently seeking items for the auction. Individuals or businesses can donate or consign farm equipment, lawnmowers, 4 wheelers, antiques, collectibles, or miscellaneous items worth over $25.00. The commission rate on consigned items is 10% to the Auction House, 20% to the Foundation and 70% to the individual or business. Proceeds will be used to fund horticultural research in northwest Michigan. Auction services will be provided by Century Asset Management, Inc. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Questions should be addressed to:

Jeff Winegard, Event Coordinator, Phone: (231) 348-8273 E-mail: winegard@charter.net
Dennis Kubesh, Auctioneer, Phone: (231) 228 6667 Fax (231) 228-7518 Web: www.centuryassets.com

PROGRAM DATES

Saskatoon Workshop**, Sept. 20,** NWMHRS
Pesticide Core Manual Review - **December 1** at the Banks' Township Hall and **December 2** at the NWMHRS
Great Lakes Expo, **December 8-10**, DeVos Center, Grand Rapids
Irrigation School, **December 11-12,** DeVos Center, Grand Rapids
IPM Tree Fruit School, **February 16-18th, 2009, KBS**
Program details will be given closer to the dates.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST
Weekly CIAB Raw Product Report
http://www.cherryboard.org/Production2008.htm

Information on cherries is available at the new cherry website: http://www.cherries.msu.edu/
Insect and disease predictive information is available at:
http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu/home.asp

This issue and past issues of the weekly FruitNet report are posted on our website at: http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/faxnet.htm

ACTUAL AND PREDICTED DEGREE-DAY
ACCUMULATIONS SINCE MARCH 1, 2008

Please send any comments or suggestions regarding this site to:
Bill Klein, kleinw@msu.edu

Last Revised: 9-2-08

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2008
Weekly Update
NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station

Nikki Rothwell
District Horticulturist

Erin Lizotte
District Fruit IPM Agent

Bill Klein
Farm Mgr, NWMHRS

Duke Elsner
Agricultural & Regional Viticulture Agent

Rob Sirrine
Leelanau Extension Director

September 9, 2008

GROWING DEGREE DAY ACCUMULATIONS THROUGH September 8th AT THE NWMHRS

Year	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	18yr. Avg.
GDD42	3141	3562	3504	3569	2840	3132	3212
GDD50	2053	2407	2332	2433	1747	2023	2108

Weather Report

The temperatures have cooled off in recent days, and we finally have received some adequate rainfall. Here at the NWMHRS, we received 0.78 inches of rain on Thursday (9/4) and 0.27 inches on Friday (9/5). We have accumulated 3141 GDD base 42 and 2053 GDD base 50 as of Monday.

Pest Report

Cherry Obliquebanded leaf roller numbers are still high at the NWMHRS, particularly in our cherry blocks. We captured over 83 moths in one block this week. OnlyAmerican plum borer were captured this week, and we are still catching cherry fruit flies in the entomology block. Many orchards with cherry leaf spot have had a post-harvest spray.

Apple One apple maggot was caught at the station again this week, with southern areas of northwest Michigan reporting apple maggot as well. We only caught onecodling moth this week in our trapline.

Grapes Things in the vineyard look good at this time, except for some growers that missed a few crucial powdery mildew sprays. As with many other tree fruit crops,two spotted spider mites have been observed in some regional vineyards—particularly those without irrigation

FARM SERVICE AGENCY ANNOUNCES 2008 CROP YEAR BUY-IN FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) created five new disaster programs, collectively referred to as Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance Programs. Those programs include:

Programs. These programs include:

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

The 2008 Act requires producers who wish to participate in the new disaster programs to have crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for the land which assistance is being requested, and for all farms in all counties in which they have an interest. Since the 2008 Act was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, producers who did not have such coverage could not comply with this requirement in order to be eligible for the new disaster programs. Therefore, for2008 crop year only , producers who were eligible to obtain at least CAT level crop insurance or NAP, but did not, can "buy-in" to be eligible to participate in the applicable Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance programs by paying the administrative fee that would have been applicable if the producer had timely applied for CAT or NAP.

Every producer whose crops, including grazing lands, are not fully covered by crop insurance or NAP may take advantage of this one-time opportunity. *The buy-in fee is due no later than September 16, 2008.* Those who miss this opportunity will not be eligible for disaster assistance. Producers are also reminded that the payment of the applicable buy-in fee does not afford the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the 2008 disaster programs.

Producers who meet the definition of "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource", or "Beginning Farmer or Rancher" do no have to meet the Risk Management Purchase Requirement, and therefore, are not required to pay the buy-in fee.

The buy-in fee for 2008 eligibility for either the catastrophic risk protection insurance (CAT) or NAP is $100 per crop, but not more than $300 per producer per administrative county, or $900 total per multi-county producer. Producers can contact their local administrative FSA County Office to file the application for waiver and pay the applicable fees.

To continue eligibility into the 2009 crop year for Disaster Assistance Programs, producers will be required to purchase crop insurance and NAP coverage for all crops on all farms in all counties, including grazing lands. NAP administrative service fees have increased to $250 per crop, $750 per county, and $1,875 total per multi-county producer. *Due to the late signing of the farm bill, for this year only, the 2009 NAP application closing dates have been extended until December 1, 2008 for all crops with closing dates prior to December 1, 2008.*

For subsequent years, the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) sales closing dates are as follows:

- September 30: Sales closing date for forage crops, winter wheat, rye and other fall seeded crops.
- October 1: Sales closing date for Chestnuts. Note October 1st NAP coverage ends for many 2008 NAP crops.
- November 20: Sales closing date for apples, apricots, asparagus, blueberries, sweet/tart cherries, cane berries (raspberries), grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, plums, rhubarb, and strawberries
- December 1: Sales closing date for 2009 honey and maple sap.

Contact the Grand Traverse Area Farm Service Agency at 231-941-0951 for more information.

Apple Maturity Testing at the NWMHRS

This year the NWMHRS will be testing apples for maturity. Results will be sent via fax and email to past apple maturity list subscribers and results will be put on the pome fruit section

of the code-a-phone (947-3063). The maturity newsletter and code-a-phone will be updated weekly on Wednesdays. If you have not received this information in the past and wish to subscribe to the list, please contact the NWMHRS (946-1510 or **nwmihort@msu.edu**).

If you are interested in having your fruit tested, drop off a 10 – 12 fruit sample at the NWMHRS on Mondays, if possible. The fruit should be picked randomly from the outside portion of the trees and should be large in size and free of blemishes with the stem attached.

GROWING AND MARKETING OF SASKATOON BERRIES

DATE: *Saturday, September 20, 2008*
LOCATION: NW Horticultural Research Station, 6686 County Road 633
TIME: 8:00 am – 1:00 p.m.

Agenda:

8:00 – 8:30 am…….Coffee and Rolls

8:30 – 9:00 …….. "Overview of Saskatoon Project: Past, Present and Future"
Steven Fouch, MSUE, Benzie County Director

9:00 – 10:00 …….. "Growing and Marketing Saskatoons"
Jarvis Bluske and Troy Isaac, Canada

10:00 – 10:30 …….. "Insect and Disease Problems and Control Measures"
Annemiek Schilder, Plant Pathology, MSU
Erin Lizotte, IPM and Tree Fruit Practices Educator, NW Station

10:30 – 11:00 …….. "Our Experiences with Saskatoons"
Panel of Local Growers/Processors

11:00 – 11:30 …….. "Options for Organizing Growers"
Alan Anderson, USDA, Traverse City Office

11:30 – 12:00 …….. "Using Saskatoon Berries in Cooking"
Chef Mike Skarupinski, Culinary Arts Instructor, NMC

12:00 – 12:30 pm……. "Next Steps- Where Do We Go From Here?"
Question and Answer Period

12:30 – 1:00 pm……..Sampling Products and Visiting with Speakers

.

"KEEP OUR FARMERS FARMING" AUCTION

The Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation will be having an auction on **October 4, 2008**. It will be held at **10:00 am** at the Horticultural Research Station, 6686 S. Center Highway in Leelanau County. The Foundation is currently seeking items for the auction. Individuals or businesses can donate or consign farm equipment, lawnmowers, 4 wheelers, antiques, collectibles, or miscellaneous items worth over $25.00. The commission rate on consigned items is 10% to the Auction House, 20% to the Foundation and 70% to the individual or business. Proceeds will be used to fund horticultural research in northwest Michigan. Auction services will be provided by Century Asset Management, Inc. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Questions should be addressed to:

Jeff Winegard, Event Coordinator, Phone: (231) 348-8273 E-mail: **winegard@charter.net**
Dennis Kubesh, Auctioneer, Phone: (231) 228 6667 Fax (231) 228-7518 Web: **www.centuryassets.com**

PROGRAM DATES

- Saskatoon Workshop**, Sept. 20,** NWMHRS
- Pesticide Core Manual Review - **December 1** at the Banks' Township Hall and **December 2** at the NWMHRS
- Great Lakes Expo, **December 8-10**, DeVos Center, Grand Rapids
- Irrigation School, **December 11-12,** DeVos Center, Grand Rapids
- IPM Tree Fruit School, **February 16-18th, 2009, KBS**

Program details will be given closer to the dates.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Weekly CIAB Raw Product Report
http://www.cherryboard.org/Production2008.htm

Information on cherries is available at the new cherry website: **http://www.cherries.msu.edu/**

Insect and disease predictive information is available at:
http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu/home.asp

This issue and past issues of the weekly FruitNet report are posted on our website at:
http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/faxnet.htm

ACTUAL AND PREDICTED DEGREE-DAY ACCUMULATIONS SINCE MARCH 1, 2008

Please send any comments or suggestions regarding this site to:
Bill Klein, **kleinw@msu.edu**

Last Revised: 9-9-08

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station
6686 S. Center Hwy • Traverse City, Michigan 49684
Tel: 231/946-1510 Fax: 231/946-1404

Home
Background & Projects
Calendar
Directions
InfoVideos
Links
Extension Expert Search
Publications
Staff

Northern Michigan FruitNet 2008
Weekly Update
NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station

Nikki Rothwell, District Horticulturist
Erin Lizotte, District Fruit IPM Agent
Bill Klein, Farm Mgr, NWMHRS
Duke Elsner, Agricultural & Regional Viticulture Agent
Rob Sirrine, Leelanau Extension Director

September 16, 2008

GROWING DEGREE DAY ACCUMULATIONS THROUGH September 15th AT THE NWMHRS

Year	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	18yr. Avg.
GDD42	3264	3661	3623	3769	3033	3322	3363
GDD50	2120	2454	2396	2577	1884	2157	2204

Weather Report

The overall weather for northwest Michigan was more typical this season than in the past few years. We started the season cool and wet with a challenging pollination period for all fruit crops. We were also hit with a few late season spring frosts, which were particularly damaging to southerly areas of the region. The rainfall stopped in mid-season, and the area entered a droughty phase which rivaled last year in lack of precipitation. As fall approached, we received more much needed rainfall for sizing the apple harvest. As of September 15, we have accumulated 3264 GDD base 42 and 2120 GDD base 50. Since April 1, we have had 19.6 inches of rainfall.

Crop Report

Despite pollination, weather issues, and disease pressure in northwest Michigan, most crops faired well. However, we must include a caveat in that crop quality and yield varied across the region. Strawberry harvest was a bit variable this season, where some growers had an excellent crop, but areas hit with late season frost faired much worse. Sweet cherry yields were similar to last year, but American brown rot was particularly problematic across the region—this disease greatly impacted the quality of fruit. Estimated tart cherry yields for the region were much lower than expected; the USDA estimated the tart cherry crop to be 75 million pounds, and the actual harvest came in at 95.8 million pounds. Peaches were of particularly good quality this year although some farms without irrigation struggled with size if the trees had not been adequately thinned. Apple harvest has really just begun here in the north, and again, southerly areas of the region were hit hardest by frosts. We have much lower yields in those areas, and frost damage is evident on fruit still on the trees. As we move further north, apple quality is looking excellent, particularly with the recent rains to size fruit.

PEST REPORT SUMMARY FOR 2008

Apple

Fire blight was a challenge this season. Almost the entire bloom period fell under weather conditions that pushed the epiphytic infection potential over 100, a situation exacerbated by high winds and ample rain. Additionally, the region saw a large amount of tag bloom and hail/wind damage, prolonging the fire/trauma blight season well into June. **Apple scab** was present in substantial levels region-wide with six infection periods, totaling 13 days were predicted in June alone.

European read mites were a problem in some area apple orchards, particularly in the spring. **Plum curculio** was controllable in apple blocks this year with little or no damage to managed blocks here are the station. **Codling moth** biofixed on June 5 and we continued to catch moths through last week (see trap catch summary below). It was difficult to differentiate between generations this year as trap catches were relatively consistent throughout the season. **Spotted tentiform leafminer** emerged in late April and we continue to catch them to date, with peak flights occurring on May 19, July 21, and September 2. **Oblique-banded leafroller** were first caught on June 23 in the station apple blocks and trap catches have been variable throughout the season.

Cherry

Heavy rains this spring set the stage for an intense level of disease throughout the region this year. **Cherry leaf spot** (CLS) infections were frequent during the early season, with the NWMHRS weather station predicting CLS infection periods for 20 out of 30 days in June. These conditions were intensified by high winds that prevented fungicide application. Overall the weather in July was less conducive to CLS infection, and in August the weather station recorded only 0.89" of rain.

American brown rot (ABR) was sighted early this season with our first observation during the last week in June on green tart cherries. ABR reached epidemic levels in some area sweet cherry orchards this year, in some cases growers were forced to abandon blocks due to high infection levels. Perhaps due to cooler weather, we observed significant retention of unfertilized sweet cherries this season. These cherries failed to drop in early June and, when combined with poor spraying weather, could have contributed to the high levels of ABR this season.

Bacterial canker was also widespread this season, particularly in areas that were hard hit by the freeze after Memorial Day weekend. ***Alternaria*** was also a problem in some area orchards, a disease more commonly observed in overripe fruit.

American plum borer were first caught in May, and continue to be caught at present (see trap catch summary below). **Lesser peach tree borer** has been emerging since late May, with adult trap catches peaking in mid-late June and continuing through last week. **Greater peach tree borer** emergence began the second week of June and peaked in mid-late August, with this week marking the first with no catch. **Plum curculio** began emerging in early May and we continued to see ovipositioning scars into late June. **Oblique-banded leafroller** (OBLR) adult emergence began around June 16 and first and second generation emergence peaked in July and late August, respectively. We caught our first **cherry fruit fly** (CFF) on June 30, well ahead of the region average, and the population peaked on July 28.

Grape

Grape growers in the region were hit hard by the freeze early in the season, but things have remained relatively quiet this season. **Downy mildew** was observed for the first time at the beginning of July, but quickly subsided. **Powdery mildew** was spotted in late July; surprisingly it showed up on clusters before leaves this year. Vineyards that received dormant fungicide applications or were kept covered early in the season remain clean. We also saw sunscald on exposed bunches in late July. A rare case of **phomopsis** cane and leaf spot was also observed in one area vineyard.

In early June grape **phylloxera** and **leafhoppers** were observed in area vineyards (see trap catch summary below). Despite spring storms, **potato leafhopper** populations remained unusually low this season. On June 20, grape plume moths and rose chafers were observed for the first time. **Japanese beetles** arrived in late July, and before the recent rain **two-spotted spider mite** populations were flaring.

Here is a link to this years trap line numbers in NW Michigan

FALL NAA TO STOP APPLE DROP

N.L. Rothwell, District Horticulturist

Many growers have observed dropping in apples and are wondering if NAA is a valuable tool for this time of year. This product is sold as Fruitone N, and the main ingredient is NAA. NAA is commonly known for its thinning capabilities early in the spring, but evidence has shown this chemistry to help stop dropping apples in the fall. NAA stimulates ethylene production but at the same time stops the abscission layer from forming. When the abscission layer does not form, apples are less likely to drop.

Growers should be applying NAA at the first signs of loosening of fruit, and application rates should be 20ppm or 8oz per 100 gallons of water. If the product is applied with less than 100 gallons of water (~50+ gallons), growers should increase the amount of NAA to 16-20oz/acre. This product takes three days to become active and then inhibits the abscission layer for seven days. If growers are not going to pick the apples within that 7-day activity window, a second application must be made at a one week interval. Therefore, if growers apply one spray of NAA, they need to pick apples 10 days after the application. However, if growers do not intend to pick 10 days after that first application, they will need to make a second application at the 7 day timing. When NAA is removed from the trees, abscission layers will immediately form and fruit will begin to drop. Growers will need to have pickers in NAA-sprayed blocks at the end of the product's activity period.

Growers in the past have sometimes questioned whether NAA is indeed working, and although we cannot provide answers about individual orchards, the general consensus is that NAA has been working well throughout the state this season. NAA works particularly well on Macintosh, a variety that tends to drop readily near harvest.

Apple Maturity Testing at the NWMHRS

This year the NWMHRS will be testing apples for maturity. Results will be sent via fax and email to past apple maturity list subscribers and results will be put on the pome fruit section of the code-a-phone (947-3063). The maturity newsletter and code-a-phone will be updated weekly on Wednesdays. If you have not received this information in the past and wish to subscribe to the list, please contact the NWMHRS (946-1510 or nwmihort@msu.edu).

If you are interested in having your fruit tested, drop off a 10 – 12 fruit sample at the NWMHRS on Mondays, if possible. The fruit should be picked randomly from the outside portion of the trees and should be large in size and free of blemishes with the stem attached.

GROWING AND MARKETING OF SASKATOON BERRIES

DATE: *Saturday, September 20, 2008*
LOCATION: NW Horticultural Research Station, 6686 County Road 633
TIME: 8:00 am – 1:00 p.m.

Agenda:

8:00 – 8:30 am……Coffee and Rolls

8:30 – 9:00 …….. "Overview of Saskatoon Project: Past, Present and Future"
Steven Fouch, MSUE, Benzie County Director

9:00 – 10:00 …….. "Growing and Marketing Saskatoons"
Jarvis Bluske and Troy Isaac, Canada

10:00 – 10:30 …… "Insect and Disease Problems and Control Measures"
Annemiek Schilder, Plant Pathology, MSU
Erin Lizotte, IPM and Tree Fruit Practices Educator, NW Station

10:30 – 11:00 …….. "Our Experiences with Saskatoons"
Panel of Local Growers/Processors

11:00 – 11:30 …….. "Options for Organizing Growers"
Alan Anderson, USDA, Traverse City Office

11:30 – 12:00 …….. "Using Saskatoon Berries in Cooking"
Chef Mike Skarupinski, Culinary Arts Instructor, NMC

12:00 – 12:30 pm…… "Next Steps- Where Do We Go From Here?"
Question and Answer Period

12:30 – 1:00 pm……Sampling Products and Visiting with Speakers

CHANGE IN "KEEP OUR FARMERS FARMING" AUCTION

The Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation has decided to include all donated or consigned items in an upcoming Century Asset Management auction later this fall. The site of the auction will be at Century Asset's auction barn on M-72 just west of Co. Rd. 667.

The Foundation is currently seeking items for the auction. Individuals or businesses can donate or consign farm equipment, lawnmowers, 4 wheelers, antiques, collectibles, or miscellaneous items worth over $25.00. The commission rate on consigned items is 10% to the Auction House, 20% to the Foundation and 70% to the individual or business. Proceeds will be used to fund horticultural research in northwest Michigan. Auction services will be provided by Century Asset Management, Inc. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Questions should be addressed to:

Jeff Winegard, Event Coordinator, Phone: (231) 348-8273 E-mail: winegard@charter.net
Dennis Kubesh, Auctioneer, Phone: (231) 228 6667 Fax (231) 228-7518 Web : www.centuryassets.com

PROGRAM DATES

Saskatoon Workshop**, Sept. 20,** NWMHRS
Pesticide Core Manual Review - **December 1** at the Banks' Township Hall and **December 2** at the NWMHRS
Great Lakes Expo, **December 8-10**, DeVos Center, Grand Rapids
Irrigation School, **December 11-12,** DeVos Center, Grand Rapids
IPM Tree Fruit School, **February 16-18th, 2009, KBS**
Program details will be given closer to the dates.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST
Weekly CIAB Raw Product Report
http://www.cherryboard.org/Production2008.htm

Information on cherries is available at the new cherry website: http://www.cherries.msu.edu/
Insect and disease predictive information is available at:
http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu/home.asp

This issue and past issues of the weekly FruitNet report are posted on our website at: http://www.maes.msu.edu/nwmihort/faxnet.htm

ACTUAL AND PREDICTED DEGREE-DAY ACCUMULATIONS SINCE MARCH 1, 2008

Please send any comments or suggestions regarding this site to:
Bill Klein, kleinw@msu.edu

Last Revised: 9-16-08