

AUGUST 2008 REGIONAL FRUIT GROWER NEWSLETTER

CALENDER OF EVENTS

- 8/15** **FSA Deadline for Reporting Acreage**
- 8/19** **Sweet Cherry Pilot Insurance Program**
NWMHRS
- 8/21** **NWMHRS Open House**
- 8/23** **Lake City Expt Station Forage
& Livestock Field Day**
- 9/1** **Deadline for Pesticide Container Recycling**
- 9/20** **Saskatoon Workshop**
NWMHRS
- 9/24** **Design Guilds in Permaculture**
w/Dave Jacke, Permaculture Teacher
& Author of Edible Forest Gardens
- 9/25** **Household Hazardous Waste/Clean Sweep Collection**
- 10/4** **Equipment Auction & Fundraiser**
NWMHRS
- 12/9-11** **Great Lakes Expo**
DeVos Place Conference Center
Grand Rapids
- 2009**
- 1/20-22** **NW Michigan Orchard & Vineyard Show**
Grand Traverse Resort
- 2/4-5** **SW Michigan Hort Days**
Lake Michigan Community College's
Mendel Center
- 2/16-18** **MSU Tree Fruit IPM School**
KBS
- 2/17-19** **Winery Establishment**
MSU SW MI Res & Extension Center

CHERRY PILOT INSURANCE PROGRAM MEETING FOR GROWERS

Matt Kamphoefner, Specialty Crops Coordinator

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation's Board of Directors approved the implementation of the Actual Revenue History (ARH) Cherry Pilot Program on April 24, 2008. This pilot plan's design replaces the Fixed Dollar plan of insurance for cherries for the 2009 crop year. The Michigan counties approved for the program are Grand Traverse and Leelanau. On **August 19, 2008**, RMA will be sponsoring an ARH Cherry meeting for growers. Watts and Associates, the program developer, will be presenting at the informational seminar. This will be an excellent opportunity for Michigan cherry growers to become familiar with the design of the new insurance program for crop year 2009.

Where: NW Michigan Horticultural Research Station
6686 S Center Highway
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

Time: 1:30-3:30 p.m.

2008 NW STATION OPEN HOUSE

The Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station Open House will be held **Thursday, Aug. 21** in Traverse City, Mich. The education sessions will begin at 3:30 p.m. and will conclude with a wine tasting event at 5:15 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. Featured speakers during the afternoon event will be Dr. George Sundin presenting information about diseases; Dr. Paolo Sabbatini discussing a new wine grape variety trial planted at the Northwest Station; and Dr. Diane Alston, a visiting researcher from Utah State University, providing preliminary results in her cherry entomological research here in Michigan. During the evening program, there will be a special presentation to the family of Dr. Dom Iezzone in his memory of his work for the cherry industry.

The Northwest Station Open House is hosted by the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, Michigan State University Extension, the Leelanau Horticultural Society, the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Foundation and Parallel 45. The educational sessions are free and open to all who would like to attend. Dinner, to be catered by Ethnic Garden Catering, is available for \$12 per person for those who make reservations by **August 19**. Call MSU Extension-Leelanau County at 231/256-9888 or email to msue45@msu.edu to make dinner reservations.

MAEAP Phase I Scheduled During the NWMHRS Open House

A Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program Phase I educational session is scheduled for the NWMHRS Open House for Thursday, August 21 at the NWMHRS conference room. The session will start at noon with a **FREE** salmon/trout boiled lunch courtesy of Lake Michigan. (seeking for volunteers and fixings). Lunch will be followed by a MAEAP Phase I educational session. Scott Piggott, with Farm Bureau, will be the highlighted speaker. He will give an update to the group on the history of the water use legislation and the changes to the legislation and how it may affect farmers.

Come learn more about the benefits of MAEAP and get an update on important agricultural topics. Please call/email Dan Busby to RSVP for this program. You can contact Dan Busby by email at dbusbyb@gtcd.org, or the new GTCD office at 941-4191 or mobile number 883-9962.

2008 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND CLEAN SWEEP COLLECTIONS

You can properly dispose of old, unusable pesticides through the *Household Hazardous Waste/Clean Sweep* collections. The remaining collection for 2008 is scheduled for **Thursday, September 25**. You must call the Grand Traverse County recycling hotline at **941-5555** to schedule your appointment or you may go online at www.recyclesmart.info to schedule an appointment for a collection. Clean Sweep (pesticide) material is accepted free of charge to all Michigan residents. Funds to properly dispose of these pesticides come from the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program. If you are not a residence of Grand Traverse County, there may be a fee for household hazardous waste material – call for details. Check your county on possible Household Hazardous Waste and Clean Sweep collections held in your county.

2008 PESTICIDE CONTAINER RECYCLING PROGRAM

What do you do with all of your empty pesticide containers? It is illegal to dispose of them on the farm (burning or burying them)! You can legally dispose of properly rinsed pesticide containers (triple rinsed or power rinsed—free of product and residue) at the landfill, but that will cost money. Recycle those plastic pesticide containers at: Ellsworth Farmers Exchange in Attwood, Wilbur-Ellis in Acme, UAP Great Lakes in Bear Lake, and Hamilton Agronomy in Traverse City. Large plastic bags are available for storage and transfer of pesticide containers at your local agri-chemical dealer.

- All 2.5 gallon containers (and smaller) and 5-55 gallon plastic drums are accepted.
- Container collected during the month of August during normal business hours.**
- Containers must be properly rinsed and free of product and labeling.
- Please remove all caps, foil and labels - glued on labels are OK.
- September 1 is the deadline for this pesticide container collection!!**

SASKATOON WORKSHOP SET FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Those interested in growing Saskatoon berries are invited to a special workshop about saskatoons. There have been a number of **Saskatoons** planted in the northwest Michigan area over the past several years and the interest continues to increase. The purpose of this MSUE sponsored session is to update participants on recommended varieties, planting tips, insect and disease control, impact of weeds, performance of local plantings to date, marketing of berries, organizational options, and plant availability.

Although final details are underway, a number of speakers will be featured from Canada, MSU/MSUE, and the local growing community.

Those attending will be treated to several Saskatoon dishes made with locally grown berries.

Date: **Saturday, September 20**

Location: NW Horticultural Research Station, 6686 Center Highway, TC

Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

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Registration Form:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

e-mail address: _____

Fee: _____ Number attending X \$20.00 = _____

Make check payable to:

MSUE-Benzie County

P.O. Box 349

Beulah, MI 49617

PREDICTED PEAK 2008 APPLE HARVEST DATES

Phillip Schwallier, District Horticulture Educator and Station Coordinator

Amy Irish-Brown, District ICM Educator

Clarksville Horticultural Experimentation Station

Apple maturity for 2008 is expected to be close to the long term normal date and 7 to 10 days behind last year. Bloom dates were behind last year for the most part and temperatures during and after bloom were cold. This results in a prediction of delayed maturity. However, actual harvest dates for this year may differ from predicted dates for 4 reasons. First, the spring multiple freezes killed or damaged bloom on older wood including the king flowers. With bloom on older wood being reduced, many of the fruits on the trees are borne on 1 year old wood, which tends to bloom up to a week later. Second, where crop load is light, the fruit will mature a few days earlier than our predictions. Heavy crop load trees will mature a week after our predictions. This year there is quite a variation in crop loads, but most trees are light. Third, there was considerable variation in bloom dates from block to block and orchard to orchard. Some blocks bloomed 3 to 5 days after a neighboring block. There was also bloom variation up and down hills. Fourth, temperatures during bloom were quite cold causing an extended bloom which contributes to a less accurate prediction.

This year's weather gives us predicted harvest dates (Table 2) as much as 4 days ahead to 5 days later than the long term normal, depending on the variety and location. These predicted harvest dates are for the center or peak harvest of these varieties for CA storage. This year the state will harvest apples roughly 5 to 17 days behind last year (Table 2) predictions.

Hot temperatures during July and August will hasten the maturity of some varieties. Gala is notorious for ripening early when late summer temperatures are above normal. Other varieties are less prone to hot temperatures advancing fall maturity. Still other varieties ripen when cold temperatures occur at near harvest time.

The normal harvest dates for other varieties are listed in *Table 3* for the Grand Rapids area. This year's 2008 predicted dates are a rough estimate based on the McIntosh, Jonathan and Red Delicious predicted dates. Other areas of the state should adjust non-predicted varieties based on their own history.

Table 1. 2008 predicted peak harvest dates

Full bloom date				Predicted harvest date			
Station	McIntosh	Jons	Reds	McIntosh	Jons	Reds	Observer
SWMREC	5-6	5-7	5-7	9-13	9-22	9-28	Shane
Deerfield	5-7	5-8	5-8	9-12	9-25	10-1	Tritten
Flint	5-8	5-9	5-9	9-12	9-23	9-29	Tritten
Peach Ridge	5-9	5-11	5-11	9-14	9-27	10-3	Schwallier
Ludington	5-15	5-17	5-17	9-19	10-3	10-9	Danilovich
NWMHRS	5-21	5-22	5-22	9-21	10-13	10-19	Rothwell

Table 2. 2008 predicted peak harvest dates compared to normal and last year

Days relative to normal *				Days relative to last year*		
Station	McIntosh	Jons	Reds	McIntosh	Jons	Reds
SWMREC	-3	-1	+0	+17	+7	+7
Deerfield	-4	-4	+1	+11	+10	+9
Flint	-2	2	+3	+9	+11	+10
Peach Ridge	0	-1	+1	+13	+8	+7
Ludington	+3	0	+5	+5	+10	+12
NWMHRS	+1	-3	+4	+12	+5	+5

* - = days before, + = days later

Table 3. Normal peak harvest dates for varieties for the Grand Rapids area

Variety	Normal date	2008 predicted date
Paulared	8-24	8-24
Gingergold	8-26	8-26
Gala	9-10	9-11
McIntosh	9-15	9-14
Honeycrisp	9-18	9-18
Empire	9-22	9-21
Jonathan	9-28	9-27
Jonagold	9-28	9-27
Golden Delicious	10-2	9-30
Red Delicious	10-5	10-3
Idared	10-10	10-9
Rome	10-15	10-14
Fuji	10-25	10-25
Braeburn	10-25	10-25
Goldrush	11-1	10-30

“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

LABORATORY UPDATE AT THE STATION PAYS OFF

Erin Lizotte, IFP/IPM District Educator, NWMHRS

As many of you have heard, there have been numerous improvements to the laboratory at the Research Station over the past year. Those updates are starting to pay off this fall. With American brown rot at devastating levels, the debate has begun over whether sterol inhibitor fungicides are becoming less effective or if the weather and/or unfavorable spraying conditions were just too much to contend with this year. Based on this question, we have begun collecting and screening local American brown rot populations for fungicide sensitivity. We hope to have these data ready to present at this winter's educational programming. In addition, we are in the process of collecting local obliquebanded leafroller larvae to determine if organophosphate resistance is present in northwest Michigan orchards.

These two projects would have been impossible for us to accomplish without the new equipment funded by MDA and approved by the Foundation Board. This is a really exciting time for the Research Station and the region as we move towards producing region-specific information using progressive technology.



Karen Powers at work in the station lab.

CAN YOU GENERATE ENERGY ON YOUR FARM? THE ANSWER IS BLOWING IN THE WIND

EAST LANSING, Mich. -- Farmers interested in finding out whether building a windmill to generate energy or income might be feasible for their operations can apply for Michigan State University's (MSU's) anemometer loan program.

Ten anemometers (devices used to measure wind velocity) are available to qualified agricultural producers from MSU in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy. The anemometer loan is meant to help farmers determine if they have sufficient wind resources to benefit from the installation of small wind turbines.

Anemometers usually cost about \$4,000, but these devices will be made available to selected producers for \$250. The fee offsets installation costs.