



WESTERN CASCADE TREE FRUIT ASSOCIATION  
2015 N Avenue  
Anacortes, WA 98221

WCTFA NEWSLETTER - Summer 1983

Coming Events

- 14 July Open House at NWREU, prunes and grapes
- 13 August Open house at Tom Perkins residence
- 30 August Open house at NWREU, tree fruit
- In October WCTFA fall orchard tour.
- 5, 6 November All About Fruit Show, Puyallup Fairgrounds

Notes

The Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Unit is located about 4 miles west of Mount Vernon on the Memorial Highway. If going north on I-5 take the Kincaid Street exit number 226, turn left to the first traffic light. At the traffic light turn right and follow the road to another traffic light. This roadbed becomes eventually Memorial Highway. Proceed through the light, across the bridge and about 4 miles later look for the NWREU sign on the left side of the road. If coming from the north take the highway 20 exit in Burlington, follow the signs toward Anacortes when on Highway 20. About 2+ miles west of Burlington there is a caution (yellow flashing) light above the highway. This is the Avon-Allen Road. Turn left and go to the second stop sign. The second stop sign is the Memorial Highway. Turn right and NWREU is 1/2 mile or so on your left. Carpooling is recommended.

The open house at NWREU for 14 July is from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The agenda includes a talk at 2:00 p.m. by Dr. R. A. Norton on research conducted at the unit. At 2:30 p.m. S. Nkofo Sekoli (a plant researcher) will talk on her studies of cherry fruit abortion. At 2:50 concurrent walking tours (you select either/or) of potted trees, genetic dwarfs, rootstock and leaf curl. The other tour is on plums, peaches, apricots, cherries and grapes. At 4:15 p.m. concurrent tours (as above) begin by caravan to: 1) Tom Perkins variety orchard and new cold storage plant, or 2) visit to block E and F to view nursery, early apples, peaches, cherries. At 6:00 p.m. there will be a repeat of the concurrent walking tours.

The agenda for the open house on 30 August is not yet firm. The times are the same 2-8 p.m. The tours will highlight peaches, pears, early apples and grapes. The 13 August open house at Tom Perkins, 816 Sims Road is basically from early morning (8-9 a.m.) until everyone leaves. Sims Road is east of Sedro Woolley on State Highway 20. About 2 miles east of the city limits look for Sims Road sign and his orchard on the right side of the highway. Follow Sims Road to his house. Bring a sack lunch. There is no firm agenda but his new cold storage shed will be complete and open for inspection. There is much to see in several genera of fruit.

There will be more info on the fall orchard tour and on the All About Fruit Show in the September newsletter.

2-26-83 meeting at NWREU. At a brief business meeting Lester Merritt, R. A. Norton and Helen Zuelow were elected to 3-year terms on the Board of Governors. The days events went pretty much as outlined on the front page of the Spring 1983 Newsletter. Les Merritt of Merritts Gravenstein Orchard reported he grows at least 6 strains of gravenstein of which "Sheets" produces the most uniform apples. He uses Winter Banana and Yellow Transparent for pollinators. He quickly discovered gravenstein is too vigorous on M7 rootstock, some trees making 5 or more feet of annual growth. He controls biennial bearing with chemicals and hand thinning. Powdery mildew is controlled with Bayleton applied beginning when the leaves are ½ inch long. Pre drop is controlled with an NAA spray. (Smallholders might try Holly Dip).

Mike Dolan of the Onalaska Burn Ridge Nursery specializes in nut trees. He fiddles with any nut he can get to grow in western Washington. He says filberts and chestnuts can be grown on marginal land as ornamental, for wind-breaks, pole production and as a nut crop. Barcelona filbert produces large nuts which are husk free. Cross pollination is needed and deer can be a problem. European chestnuts can grow 80 feet high. The Chinese varieties rarely exceed 40 feet. Seedlings begin to bear in 3 to 4 years. At 10 years or more they may produce from 1000 to 2000 pounds per acre. Grafted trees of named cultivars produce more but are hard to find. Colossal is a good hybrid. English walnuts produce better nuts here than in California. Franquette is not hardy here. Plant all walnuts at least 50 feet apart. Hanson is a dwarf variety to consider if space is limited.

Hands on experience at grafting and at pruning were gained by all interested members under the watchful eyes of experts.

From the board meeting held 18 June the following is summarized: Director Marion Frost resigned and Nancy Jo Cushman was elected to replace her for the remainder of Marion's term. Resolution of the dues split between WCTFA and her chapter, the North Olympic Fruit Club, was achieved. The Charter date of NOFC on 24 April 1982 was accepted as the date from which dues accrue to NOFC. A \$1,000 contribution was made to NWREU for continuing research of interest to home fruit growers. Linda Chace and Tom Jensen are compiling a booklet on fruit growing things for the WCTFA growing area. It will include commercial and non-professional sources for varieties, cultivars, trees, scions, rootstock, tools, chemicals, etc. If you know of sources please contact Linda or Tom. The bylaws were amended to include the immediate past president as a board member. The newsletter will be published 3 times a year (January, May, September). Supplemental mailing to alert members to events of fruit growing interest will be mailed out as brief notices or postcard types. (To help get good useful information out to you please feel free to send items in to Joe Dupre at the return address listed on this Newsletter. Any kind of items can be used from lengthy articles on one subject to brief items listing new uses for old tools, varieties that grow well for you, etc. Hand written if legible rough O.K.) Helen Zuelow will firm up a fall orchard tour, probably in the Snohomish County area. Rick Reisinger reported on preparation for the All About Fruit Show. He asked that WCTFA take charge of contacting commercial exhibitors and arrange and coordinate the display spaces. Publicity will be handled by media professionals. Volunteers will be needed to act as official Hosts and Hostesses during the 2 day show. WCTFA will contact groups and coordinate their efforts. If you are interested or know of groups or individuals who may wish to be Host/Hostess please contact Ed Lewis.

John Parker could use some assistance in the fruit ID booth. If you want to know more about or learn how to identify various fruits please contact John Parker. His new address is "60 Tala Shore Drive", Port Ludlow, WA 98365.

President's Message

We are beginning the fourth year of our treefruit association, which has experienced an amazing growth in interest and membership. We have added Chapter No. 1, the North Olympic Fruit Club, with a membership of over forty, who are having regular monthly meetings, under the leadership of John Parker. They hosted the WCTFA with a fine orchard tour and luncheon last Fall. We hope to be invited again in the near future to visit the orchards we missed. Let's not forget the Port Townsend All Fruit Fair they also sponsored that attracted 736 attendance on Oct. 30, 31, 1983.

We have received many compliments on the past Spring meeting on Feb. 26th in Mount Vernon. I want to thank the Board members for their cooperation this past year. I, also, wish to welcome to the Board Dr. Robert Norton, Helen Zeulow, and Nancy Cushman as Treasurer. I look forward to working with them, for another successful year.

*Ed Lewis*

The September newsletter will be mailed using the new WCTFA membership roster. Included in this mailing are 71 delinquent members. Please attend to this matter at once if you intend to remain in WCTFA. JD



Membership Application  
WESTERN CASCADE TREE FRUIT ASSOCIATION

**Purpose:**

Shall be to bring together persons interested in growing fruit and nuts west of the Cascade Mountains for the purpose of disseminating information.

Shall be to aid financially to tree fruit research in the Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Unit, Mount Vernon, Washington.

**Membership activities:**

Spring - one day seminar, Fall - orchard or facilities tour, and fruit show. Three issues of Newsletter - spring, summer and fall.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$10.00, annually at or before spring meeting. New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_

Mail to: Nancy Cushman, 9211-131 st NE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258

Your fruit speciality or interest \_\_\_\_\_

## NORTH OLYMPIC FRUIT CLUB

### MINUTES

MEETING June 16, 1983  
Gardiner Community Hall

Called to order by Pres. Parker at 7:30. A short business session was followed by several reports. An evaluation of hose-end sprayers, based on a report available in Extension offices, shows that only 2 or 3 out of a dozen tested are at all reliable. They are not good for small amounts of spray. Kaiser showed a one-quart pump-up "Polyspray" that will jet 25 feet, and is also useful for spot aphid spraying. Regarding soap spray, Safer's Soap is hard to get here; Ivory Liquid at much less cost seems to be just as good; use 2 tablespoons per quart. On codling moth, which is rare here, a recently published schedule for prediction of egg hatch, using accumulated heat units, shows that we have only one full cycle per year, while in central Washington there are 3. Kaiser showed permanent plastic labels, a strip with a slit in one end, that promises to last more than a year; also a marking pen, samples from which have lasted fully legible for over a year. Both are mail-ordered. Wired labels break and blow off here.

After coffee and cookies Parker talked on fruit thinning, and its importance for good-sized fruit, and for reducing alternate bearing. The methods of removal were demonstrated, and discussed by the group. John showed some unusual thinning and pruning tools. A short presentation on summer pruning and a handout on that topic were followed by setting June 22 at 5:30 p.m. for a summer pruning hands-on session. Ruth Russell showed her "Munch-bunch" apple stickers.

Discussion developed a general desire for monthly meetings during the growing season; next meeting is July 21. Volunteers for booths at our County Fairs were requested. Several questions were discussed, on dropping of half-formed cherries, and mole damage of tulips. It was thought that the first was due to poor pollination; moles if a problem can be kept out by hardware cloth baskets. Buckets of 5 varieties of strawberries from Graymarsh Farms in Sequim were taste-tested. Benton won first, Shuksan second. Adjourned at 9:45.

### HORT NOTES

Leaf curl of peaches - Resistant varieties and chemical control R. A. N.

Only one resistant cultivar is presently on the market in limited quantity. The "Frost" peach, discovered by Herb and Marion Frost, is now propagated by Biringer Nursery, 12105 Old Highway 99, Marysville (206 659-6727). This nursery is wholesale only. The Frost peach is not immune to "curl" and young trees especially may be rather severely attacked. We are evaluating several other promising clones but nothing will be available to the public for several years. Incidentally, Frost peach is a heavy bearing, yellow flesh, semi-freestone, maturing with Redhaven and Rosy Dawn.

Regarding chemical control, our studies over the past two years, have shown that consistent control of leaf curl can be obtained with either lime-sulfur, copper (Cordeaux or fixed copper) or Ziram when applied the last week in December, at bud swell, and three weeks after bud swell; the last two sprays being most important in our area. Ziram appears to be the most effective material followed by lime sulfur and finally Microcop. We are planning to suggest that spray bottle labels be changed for our area so that the three week post bud swell spray be added which significantly reduced leaf curl infections.

## Spraying Plants--Questions to Ask Before You Spray

"I have a sick plant. What can I spray with?" To know what, if any, pesticide to use, the cause of the problem (fungus, bacterium, insect, cultural, or weather stress) must first be determined.

If the plant has a fungus disease, you must determine what fungus is causing it, what fungicide to use, and when to apply it. Not every fungicide controls every fungus disease, and proper timing of applications is vital. If it is an insect problem, what is the insect? Not every insecticide controls every insect equally. Mites are not insects and may not be controlled by insecticides.

Some disease organisms and insects are difficult to control with pesticides. Cultural controls (pruning, variety selection, etc.) may be helpful, but the cause must be known before proper measures can be suggested. Pesticides will not correct damage caused by cultural or weather stress (improper watering, poor transplanting, drought, cold, etc.) which are the causes of most plant problems in our area.

You must also know what kind of plant is affected. This helps identify likely causes and determines what pesticide could be used. The plant site, or a category which logically includes it, must be listed on the label of the pesticide to be used. Knowing the plant also allows specific care suggestions.

"What should I spray my sick plant with?" Correct advice is not that simple! The person giving advice needs to know the cause and the kind of plant before proper diagnosis and control suggestions can be made. To assist you in analyzing your problems there are two handy sources of information. The first is your local Cooperative Extension Service Agent. The other is any one of the several Washington State University Master Gardener plant problem clinics. Either has the full resources of the WSU Extension Service investigative arm at their disposal.  
R. M. D. & J. D

## Table grapes for coastal conditons R. A. N.

The most promising table grapes varieties for this area are Interlahen Seedless, Canadice (a pink seedless) and one called either Williams Seedless or Early Red Seedless. The later one is not a true seedless grape, but will be mostly seedless if not planted next to other varieties that can pollinate it. We do not recommend Black Monukka or Himrod. Black Monukka will not mature in most areas of Western Washington. Himrod is generally shy bearing. If you can find some gibberillic acid (ProGib), one or two sprays at 100 ppm (3.89 ms/gal) at bloom and two weeks past bloom will increase fruit set and stretch the bunches of seedless grapes so that the berries can grow larger.

## Open House at Northwestern Washington Research Unit - July 14, 1983 at 2:00 to 8:00 P.M. R. A. N.

The first of two Open House programs on tree and small fruits will feature cherries, peaches, apricots and plums. In addition, we plan a side trip to Perkins Variety Orchard at 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. to see the new cold storage as well as a quick look at the new orchard planting. Plan to have a picnic supper on the grounds of the "Station", sample the fruits in season and hear about the latest research results. See apples, peaches, nectarines, avocados and grapes in containers growing in our plastic tunnel.

The research station is located on Route 536 (Memorial Highway) just 3 miles west of Mount Vernon. Call 206 424-6121 if you need further directions or information.

Raised beds and plastic mulch for strawberries R. A. N.

Recent research at Northwestern Washington Research Unit has shown that clear plastic can increase yields 60 percent over no plastic and 30 percent over a black plastic row cover. However, weeds must be controlled either by fumigation or a herbicide before the plastic is put on, so this becomes a difficult operation for the small grower. The best program at present for the small grower is to apply black plastic (36" width 2 mil) over the prepared raised bed and punch a hole through the plastic to plant the strawberry plant. All fertilization should be done pre plant, if needed at all. If the soil is reasonably fertile, skip it altogether.

Tree Fruit Research and Extension Workers Conference in B.C. (June 1983)  
of interest to WCTFA members G. A. M. 1

I am going to mention a few miscellaneous notes that might be of interest to you. When selecting a crabapple for pollination, select a variety that has cup shaped petals. Flat petals are used as a landing platform by the bee and she will suck nectar from the side. A cup shape flower makes the bee crawl over the anthers and stigmas to get to the nectar and she becomes a better pollinator. Bees also have sight in the ultra violet (U.V.) range. Dark pink flowers appear different under U.V. photography than either light pink or white which appear the same, and the dark pink flowers are less attractive to bees.

Soils are much easier to amend before planting than after; remember that before starting a new planting. Particularly important is with regard to pH of our soils which tend to be on the acid side. Soils most sensitive to acidification have a low Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC). Other causes of acidification are fertilizers, irrigation, and bare soil. Soil pH's should be periodically taken and adjusted to 6.5 to 7 when needed by application of lime to raise soil pH and sulfur to lower it.

In Canada they are using a black plastic woven mulch under fruit trees to control weeds. The plastic mulch is woven so water and fertilizers percolate through it. The mulch will last 5-7 years. It can be obtained through Harry Sharp & Sons in Seattle or Vancouver, B.C.

A new book, Mineral Nutrition Of Fruit Trees, was recommended at the meetings. Editors: R. Atkinson, J. E. Jackson, R. O. Charles, W. M. Wallen. Publisher: Butterworth & Co., Publisher Ltd.

The meetings were interesting and fun. I was impressed by a few individual growers in regard to their progressive tree training methods.

Insects and diseases to watch for this summer. R. A. N.

(See pest control bulletins from Cooperative Extension for control measures)

Cherry - Black aphids  
Brown rot  
Peaches - Brown rot  
Plums - Brown rot, aphids  
Apples - Bitter pit (calcium sprays)  
Aphids  
Pears - Aphids  
Grapes - Mildew

Keep in mind that in most small orchards most pests will not get out of control if trees are kept open to the air and light. A few aphids or mites do not justify spraying and foliar and fruit diseases normally do not become epidemic if the fruit is well thinned and exposed to air and light. The only positive exceptions to this are leaf curl of peaches and blossom brown rot (blast) of all stone fruits except prunes.