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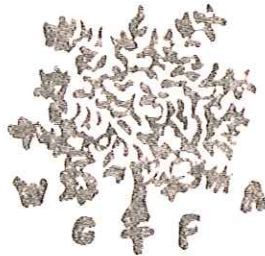
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Address Correction Requested

MARILYN TILBURY
4916 52ND AVE S
SEATTLE, WA - 98118

HAVE YOU PAID YEARLY DUES?

WCTFA NEWSLETTER



SPRING 1985

GROWING JONAGOLDS COMMERCIALY by Tom Perkins

I went down the line with about two dozen other students, testing and grading some twenty apple varieties. When class was over, I went back to see if any Jonagolds were left. I found half of a Jonagold apple, ate it and decided that I was right on the first testing--it was the best apple I had ever eaten. Since that class I have planted over 12,000 apple trees and at least 7,000 of them are Jonagold because I consider it the best dual purpose apple grown.

ROOTSTOCK AND SCIONWOOD SALE

The rootstock and scionwood sale at the spring meeting will be handled much the same as in other years. If you are interested in buying rootstocks for spring grafting, please indicate on the form below how many of each type you want and return the form to me with your check for the total amount. Note that prices are the same as last year. Also note that we will charge state sales tax at the rate of 7.8%. Please include the tax when you make out your check. All rootstocks should be picked up at the spring meeting. If, for some reason, you can't make it to the meeting after having reserved rootstocks, you may contact me to arrange a pick up at a later date. I will hold the plants until I hear from you, but not later than April 1st.

ROOTSTOCK ORDER BLANK

APPLE

Prices: \$1.50 each; \$12/10; 25 or more \$1 each except for EMLA 27.
EMLA 27 \$1.65 each or \$13 for 10.

	<u>AM'T</u>		<u>AM'T</u>
M7A _____	_____	EMLA 27 _____	_____
M26 _____	_____		

Plum and Cherry

Price: \$2 each

	<u>AM'T</u>	
St. Julian A _____	_____	Sub total _____
Myrobolan _____	_____	Tax _____
MXM 14 _____ (Said to make tree 12-14 ft.)	_____	Total _____

Name, address & phone No. _____

Please mail to Walter L. Lyon, 19717 80th N.E., Bothell, WA 98011: Phone 483-5574

Scionwood prices will be \$.50 each, same as last year. Pick out the ones you want and pay the treasurer. All members are asked to save for the sale scions of your favorite varieties, and any others you think other members might like to have. Save only from healthy trees. Most easily done when you are pruning. Pick only new wood, preferably about lead pencil size. Label carefully. Wrap in plastic bags and store in refrigerator until time to bring to our meeting. Please don't bring wood of any patented varieties. Purchasers are advised to bring labels and bags for their purchases.

Jonagold is that big (sometimes weighing a pound) attractive apple, yellow ground color with red striping or red blush (depending on area fruit is grown) that resulted from a cross between Jonathan and Golden Delicious by the Geneva New York Experiment Station.

We made our first Jonagold planting in 1975 and plant a few more every other year. We do most of our grafting and leave the trees in the nursery for two years. Since we usually have such mild winter weather, we transplant the trees from the nursery to the orchard in November because the tree root system continues to grow when the ground temperature remains around 35 to 40 degrees.

With a generic nod to both parents, the Jonagold is a spreading tree with strong wide crotches and is a vigorous grower, producing a heavy crop every year. Results of this combination can be scaffold branches that are pulled downward by heavy crop loads and difficulty in maintaining a central leader system. We have this type of problem in our first planting--three rows (1200 feet) on EM 26 rootstock with a tree spacing of 8 feet by 14 feet.

This year we will correct the situation by building a support system that consists of 8 feet cedar posts, placed along each row every 100 feet with a wire along the top of these posts. This wire will be used to support the central leader and to give additional support to heavy laden branches.

We have a new Jonagold block using M 9 rootstock, spaced 4 feet by 14 feet, and EM 26 rootstock with a 6 feet by 14 feet spacing. Our planting layout is 4 rows of Jonagolds and one row of pollinators (Spartan, Akane, Melrose and Chehalis). We also plan to scatter Royal Gala throughout the block. The initial plan for training this block was the slender spindle method, but as we watched limbs, heavy with fruit, break on the older trees, we changed our plans to a five-wire trellis support system.

This system consists of 6" x 6" x 12' old growth cedar posts that are first sharpened, then soaked in penta and diesel oil in a barrel. Use a 55 gallon drum with another half drum welded on and then sunk in the ground for easier post handling. The treated posts are then driven four feet into the ground using a post driver attached to a bucket loader tractor. Use a four inch auger to make pilot holes first. The posts are spaced every 75 feet down each 800 foot row, with the two end posts 6 feet apart and braced. The bottom wire is 18 inches above the ground and the top wire runs along the top of the posts. The 12-gauge galvanized wire is wrapped around one end post and is attached to the rest of the posts in the rows are notched to support the wire. This allows the wire to be tightened in summer and loosened during the winter.

We are using Max Taperers to fasten the branches to the wires. The only pruning that was done during the first dormant period was the heading back of the central leaders to force branching below the second wire. We do not plan to do any pruning during the second dormant period.

The only summer pruning we do is taking out new growth during the first two weeks of August to allow sunlight to penetrate to color and ripen the fruit.

Trees in this new block averaged seven feet of growth at the end of their second year. They were fertilized twice the first year and once the second year. We expect to pick a few bins of apples from these young trees this coming season.

Our spray program for Jonagold is not much different from other varieties. Jonagolds are moderately susceptible to scab and mildew. Bitter pit is a problem, as with most large apple varieties, but we have had good success with three applications of calcium chloride applied 30 days apart in June, July and August. The point to remember in applying calcium chloride is that the chemical has to be applied to the fruit.

It has been suggested by Dr. Stebbins, OSU, to apply calcium chloride later when the apple is larger with about 2 weeks between sprayings.

Since Jonagold is a triploid, more than one pollinator must be used in order to have fruit on the pollinators. Jonagold blossom time is in mid season and it has a tendency to bloom over a long period of time--three to four weeks--depending on weather conditions.

We hand thin the blossoms from central leaders and thin the rest of the tree as soon as apples form. We thin Jonagolds approximately six to eight inches apart, depending on location on the tree. Always keep in mind that 40 to 50 leaves are necessary to feed each apple.

What's different about raising Jonagolds? Nothing!

DON'T FORGET THE ALL ABOUT FRUIT SHOW
NOV. 2&3 TACOMA DOME

TWO WORKSHOPS OFFERED

Tom Thornton of Cloud Mountain Farm will be teaching two workshops on biological management of fruit trees in March.

The first is for small scale commercial orchardists in western Washington--those with 50 trees or five acres. Subjects to be covered include cultivars, rootstocks, orchard design, soil and water management, disease and insect management, and sources of small scale equipment and hardware. Participants will tour 11 acres of producing orchard with various rootstocks, cultivars and training systems.

The small scale commercial orchard workshop will be taught on Saturday, March 9th, from 8 am to 5 pm at the Cloud Mountain Farm near Bellingham. Pre-registration is required and there is a fee of \$25.

The second workshop is for home orchardists and will March 23rd from 12 noon to 4 pm at Cloud Mountain Farm. Subjects to be covered will include cultivars, rootstocks, planting requirements, the first five years of orchard management, insect and disease management, and pruning basics. There is a \$3 fee.

For more information and to register for the workshops, contact Tom Thornton, 6906 Goodwin Rd., Everson, Wa, 98247. His phone number is 206-966-5859.

* * * * *

IDFTA CONFERENCE

The 28th annual conference of the International Dwarf Fruit Tree Association will be in Yakima from February 24th through March 1st. The conference includes two days of international speakers and a three day orchard tour in the Yakima-Wenatchee area.

For information on late registration, contact IDFTA, Dr. Robert F. Carlson, 301 Horticulture, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 48824; 517-355-5200.

JONAGOLD MOST POPULAR

During the November meeting of the North Olympic Fruit Club, a chapter of WCTFA, members were asked "If you were starting from scratch with what you know now...which six apples and pears would you plant?"

Not surprisingly, Jonagold was first with 10 votes. Gravenstein and Melrose tied for second place with seven votes. Chehalis, King and Spartan tied for third place. Discovery, Macoun, Mutsu, Summerred and July Red were runners up. For pears, Comice was number one with 6 votes, Bartlett number two with five votes, and Highland and Twentieth Century tied for third place with four votes each.

NOFC TRIP TO SUMMERLAND

It was a great great trip. On September 25th through the 27th, 45 WCTFA members made a bus trip to Penticton, B. C. for a one day tour of the research station at Summerland. John Parker, NOFC president, (wheeler dealer, tour director and guide--even offered to drive the bus at times) did an outstanding job in making arrangements and handling the financial matters. The success of the trip was his doing, even arranging for beautiful weather.

Six scientists at Summerland lectured and led field trips on fruit tree rootstock studies; tree fruit breeding programs, growth regulator research, orchard floor vegetation management, pear rootstock and training, and post harvest-storage research. All were very well conducted and it was evident that they wanted us to understand what they were doing so that we would be better informed for our own tree growing pursuits.

The highlight of the tour was being turned loose in the experimental apple orchard. All that beautiful fruit was ours for feeling, smelling, cutting and tasting. Everyone picked their favorites and insisted everyone else taste them. Few knew what they were eating since the trees were numbered--not named--and there were only two persons with variety lists. It was decided then that we would have to come back next year to spend more time in the orchard and select the special varieties that we would like to grow.

by Ben Lalonde

PRUNING WORKSHOPS

Due to space and time limitations, the pruning workshop will not be held in conjunction with the annual meeting. Instead, we have scheduled two pruning demonstrations--one in Mt. Vernon on February 21st and one in Marysville on March 8th.

The Mt. Vernon workshop will be at the Research Station on Thursday, February 21st, from 1:30 pm to 4 pm. Gary Moulton, research assistant, will demonstrate the right way to prune and train fruit trees using the station's extensive collection of trees.

The Northwestern Washington Research Station is located about four miles west of Mt. Vernon on the Memorial Highway. Take the Kincaid St. exit off of I-5 and follow the signs for the Anacortes Ferry.

The Marysville pruning-disease workshop on Friday, March 8th, will be a combination lecture-hands on pruning demonstration. Dr. Ralph Byther, disease specialist at WSU's Western Washington Research Sta-

tion, will speak on fruit tree diseases from 10 am to 12 noon at Jennings Park in Marysville. Everything from disease cycles, to prevention, to corrective pruning will be covered. Slides, pictures and samples of western Washington diseases will be shown.

Bring a brown bag lunch (coffee and tea will be provided) and we will break from 12 noon to 12:45 pm. Jennings Park is also the site of the Tri-County Master Gardener Foundation Demonstration Garden and we can take a quick peek at their newly started demonstration orchard.

At 1 pm we'll meet at the Cushman orchard (maps will be provided a lunch time) for some hands on serious pruning of what to do if you:

- 1 planted trees too close together.
- 2 used the wrong rootstock
- 3 have seriously diseased trees
- 4 ruined the scaffold branches by allowing too much fruit to set when the trees were young
- 5 never prune because you're afraid of doing the wrong thing

Rick Reisinger, Snohomish County Extension horticultural agent, will demonstrate how to correct all of the above (hopefully).

To reach Jennings Park, take the Marysville exit off of I-5, turn east onto 4th St., continue past the stoplight to the stop sign. Make a left turn onto 47th (Liberty). This road bends to the right, becoming Armar, then 51st. The park is located on your right shortly before the blinking light intersection. Look for the large hemlock hedge which hides the park sign.

For the two pruning workshops, dress warmly and bring pruning tools.

Another opportunity to do hands on pruning under expert guidance is offered at the Piper Orchard Chapter work parties--the last Saturday of the month in February, March and April. Contact Dave Battey, 888-2504; Ed Lewis, 364-0161 or Walt Lyon, 483-5574 for more info.

Do let us know if you object strongly to having separate pruning workshops and having them on weekdays. Unfortunately, we cannot get top quality instructors unless we agree to weekday meetings. Our long term goal is to do most of the pruning-grafting hands on training in the local chapters since it can be taught much easier in small groups.

WCTFA NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

Members are encouraged to submit articles of general interest on fruit tree, berry and grape growing for publication in the WCTFA newsletters. We are especially interested in hearing about successes with unusual varieties, rootstocks and growing methods; keeping up with new research and publishing information on upcoming educational events.

Newsletters will be issued February 1st, May 15th, August 15th and November 30th. Deadline for submitting material is two weeks before issue date. If you can submit a clean typed copy with one and a half inch margins, it can be duplicated on an electronic stencil without having to be retyped.

Send material to Nancy Cushman, 9210 131st N.E., Lk. Stevens, Wa. 98258.

PESTICIDE TRAINING

WSU pesticide short courses are being offered in Bellevue, February 27th, 28th and March 1st; Vancouver, February 26th, 27th and 28th; and Sequim, February 12th, 13th and 14th. The short courses include two and a half days of training plus the pesticide tests. For more information, contact the Western Washington Research and Extension Center in Puyallup, 206-593-8575, or your local county extension office.



ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

DATE: March 2nd - 9 am to 4 pm

LOCATION: Marysville-Filchuck High School

take the Marysville exit off of I-5, turn east onto 4th St. Make a left turn onto State St. at the stoplight. Continue through Marysville on State St., staying in the right hand lane. This lane branches off to Shoultes Rd. at a "Y" intersection. Continue on Shoultes Rd. to 108th, turn right, and the high school is approximately one-fourth mile on the left.

SCHEDULE:

- 9 am to 9:30 short WCTFA business meeting with election of directors
- 9:30 to 10:15 using IPM in western Washington orchards by Sharon Collman
- 10:15 to 10:30 coffee break
- 10:30 to noon tree training and orchard management systems by Dr. Steve Blizzard
- noon to 1 pm brown bag lunch (beverages provided) grafting demo, scionwood exchange, delivery of pre-ordered rootstock, Liberty tree sale, payment of dues
- 1 pm to 2:15 Dr. Steve Blizzard
- 2:15 to 2:30 coffee break
- 2:30 to 4 pm Dr. Steve Blizzard
- 4 pm short board meeting to elect new officers

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:

Sharon Collman, King County Cooperative Extension entomologist, recently returned to her desk from a sabbatical leave. Lest you think that sabbatical is synonymous with R&R, be assured that Sharon spent her time learning plenty of new stuff which she is now sharing with us. She spent part of her time poking around eastern Washington orchards talking with Integrated Pest Management specialists. IPM involves using a variety of pest control techniques, not just the traditional sprays.

At our annual meeting, she will tell some of what she learned, how she feels the information can be adapted to western Washington, and introduce a proposal for an experimental IPM involvement in western Washington orchards and gardens. Sharon has repeatedly designed innovative, successful educational programs during her years with extension. We fruit growers are going to benefit from Sharon's interest in our subject.

by Helen Zuelow

Thanks to Tom Perkins, we will have an outstanding speaker for our spring meeting. Dr. Steve Blizzard is a West Virginia native like Perkins, so expect to hear a bit of West Virginia mountain drawl. Steve is a full professor at West Virginia University and also directs the management of all of the university's outlying stations and farms in the state. He has travelled widely in Europe and is presently leading a group of fruit growers on a tour of New Zealand orchards.

He will speak to us on various aspects of his research, but particularly on tree training and orchard management systems. Whether you have one tree or a thousand, you'll enjoy Dr. Blizzard's presentation

by Robert A. Norton

NEW CHAPTERS FORMING

The WCTFA was founded in 1960. During 1982, Olympic Peninsula members formed the North Olympic Fruit Club and asked to affiliate with WCTFA as a chapter. Bylaws were amended and the precedent set. Since that time, the WCTFA Board of Directors has developed a considerable enthusiasm for encouraging WCTFA to evolve the chapter format--mainly because of the lively and energetic example set by the NOFC.

Some of their accomplishments are:

monthly meetings with guest speakers, demonstrations, impromptu discussions, coffee breaks with homemade tasty treats and excellent fellowships. (These meetings are so popular that turning the lights out is the only way to get people to go home!)

local orchard tours

a well-attended Peninsula fruit show

a spectacularly successful three day bus tour to the Summerland, B.C. fruit tree research station

At our 1984 fall Board meeting, we resolved to supply assistance and start-up funding to developing chapters. Two chapters are now in the process of forming--an urban-oriented chapter in Seattle, and a special-interest chapter focusing on a historic orchard in a Seattle park. Descriptions follow, but first, if you are interested in forming a chapter, contact any Board member for some first-step information. Here is a partial list of names and numbers: Helen Zuelow, 827-2939, Kirkland; Dave Battey, 888-2504, Snoqualmie; Ed Lewis, 454-3615, Bellevue; Nancy Cushman, 659-6087, Lk. Stevens; and Bob Norton, 424-6121, Mt. Vernon. We will do all we can to see you through the formation process.

SEATTLE CHAPTER

Emory Leland, WCTFA member and Seattle gardener, has been wanting information on fruit growing which he can use in his small urban garden. Not one to wait for others to do the work, he began spreading the word last year, inviting other interested city people to join him in forming a WCTFA chapter. They met for the first time on January 26th with 44 urban fruit growers attending. Sixteen people became new paid members of WCTFA on the spot and several renewed memberships.

Everyone participated in the introductions with high spirits. Some fascinating facts were offered. One couple lives on a large lot in Ballard which has some huge, historic Cravenstein trees and the original Jannes apricot tree. Another person lives in the University District in the midst of an old orchard which still persists even though the trees linger as monuments throughout many small yards. In fact, each person attending had interesting reasons for seeking information on fruit growing.

The Seattle-urban chapter selected a temporary Board and agreed to meet on the last Saturday morning of each month. Contact Emory Leland 523-6363, or Helen Zuelow, 827-2939, for more information.

PIPER ORCHARD CHAPTER

In 1985 we will form a new WCTFA chapter in North Seattle to oversee support and maintenance of the Carkeek Park historical orchard planted about 100 years ago by A. E. Piper, a Bavarian born fruit grower and baker. The primary reason for forming the new chapter will

be to adopt the Piper Orchard as part of the Seattle Park Department's "Adopt-A-Park" program. Many WCTFA members have already been involved in the work parties that have re-claimed the old orchard from the blackberries and ~~alder~~ ^{maples}.

If you live in North Seattle or would like to be involved in the Piper Orchard program, please call Paul Donaldson, 364-0161; Daphne Lewis, 783-2252; Dave Battey, 888-2504; Ed Lewis, 454-3615 or Walt Lyon 483-5574. Members of the Piper Orchard chapter of the WCTFA will be involved in grafting and replanting historically correct replacement trees in the old orchard, and in pruning, and care of the trees. This is a neat way to be involved, and pick up some experience while helping to preserve a priceless reminder of the rural atmosphere that was Seattle just a few years ago.

Work parties are scheduled for the ^{Third} ~~last~~ Saturday in February, March and April. An organization meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm Wednesday, February 27th, at a home near Carkeek Park. Phone Paul Donaldson, 364-0161, for the address and directions.

by Dave Battey

FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

Your Board members have been busy. Our general feeling is that our organization has entered a period of growth and refinement. Bob Norton, Nancy Cushman and Walt Lyon (ex-board member) have put together an annual meeting offering considerable variety and a chance to be introduced to information hard to find in any format. Nancy has also organized two workshop days. Dave Battey has computerized our membership roster, an effort which is already paying off with a downright spectacular increase in ease of communication.

We are discussing a proposed rewrite of the Bylaws. Also honorary life memberships, chapter guidelines, a formalized working calendar, an improved newsletter, development of committees (as a way to spread out the work load, provide better service and additional activities), the first steps toward a demonstration orchard and more are in the works. We welcome your suggestions and participation.

by Helen Zuelow, WCTFA President

NEW HORT MAGAZINE

Be alerted to the existence of a year-old 12-page newsletter called "HortIdeas". Similar in format to "The Avant Gardener", "HortIdeas" is more intensive and cheaper. The scope is fairly broad, but the focus is on reporting research and on food plants, including, of course, fruit trees. For a subscription, send \$10 to "HortIdeas", Rt. 1, Box 302, Gravel Switch, Ky., 40328.

by Helen Zuelow

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NOV. 2&3 TACOMA DOME

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RESEARCH UPDATES

More Progress on Control of Peach Leaf Curl

Here's a quick update on where we stand right now.

poor flavor

On resistant varieties, 'Frost' is the main variety now available that has shown resistance in our tests. But don't expect it to be immune, especially on young trees. For some reason, young trees seem to be more susceptible. Other varieties showing resistance are WSU Q-1-8 (white flesh), Rosy Dawn and Five Star Curless. We have had no experience as yet with Five Star but it looked good in the field at Raintree Nursery at Morton.

On control, we confirmed again this year that the December spray (lime sulfur, copper or whatever) is generally a waste of time. The critical timing for the first spray seems to be from January 20 to February 1 in most parts of western Washington. Follow this with a second spray 3 weeks later and that should give 60-80% control depending on material. We are still working on various fungicides e.g. lime-sulfur, fixed copper or Bordeaux, Ziram, Cyprex and Bravo (Ortho). If you haven't gotten anything on yet, you may be too late for this year.

Another interesting finding -- we found that if you can simply protect your tree from rain for about 3 - 4 weeks from January 20 to February 20, you can avoid leaf curl without spraying. If you have a genetic dwarf peach, it should be easy; also can be done if you train the peach tree in a flat plane against a south-facing wall or fence.

By Robert A. Norton

Apple Maggot Situation

On November 21, your president and I wrote a letter to Keith Ellis, director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture expressing our concern about the spread of apple maggot in western Washington. Most of the monitoring and control effort by his department has been concentrated in southwest Washington and in the Spokane area. We stressed in our letter that the spread of this pest in western Washington would devastate non-commercial fruit growing in this region and provide a continuous source of infestation for commercial orchards throughout the state. We also expressed our concern for the quarantine which would prevent moving fruit from place to place without inspection. If this is enforced, our "All About Fruit Show" would be in jeopardy.

Director Ellis replied to our letter on December 11 but gave no concrete suggestions in response to our concerns. A new director, Dr. Al Pettibone, formerly director of resident instruction in the WSU College of Agriculture, will replace Ellis in the very near future. Since I am well acquainted with Al, I'm hoping we will get a more receptive hearing in the future.

Liberty - Scab Resistant Apple Trees Available as Spring Meeting

Through a special bulk purchase from Carleton Nurseries in Oregon, we will have 100 2-year, branched trees of Liberty on M7 for sale to attendees of the spring meeting on a first come - first served basis, at the price of \$7.00 per tree. This is a buy! Liberty is probably the best scab resistant apple available today. We have tested it here at Mt. Vernon and find the quality excellent both for cooking and eating. Liberty is a medium-sized, red-stripped apple, maturing with Spartan and it tends to set heavy crops requiring hand thinning. It blooms mid season and will pollinate most other varieties.