



WCTFA

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1988

SPEAKERS SET FOR SPRING MEETINGS

MARCH 19TH--ROOTSTOCK AND SCIONWOOD SALE

10 am Grafting Lecture and Demonstration by Joe Dupre, who teaches and does much of the grafting for the Skagit Mens' Garden Club.

12 noon Rootstock and Scionwood Sale. Bring your own sack lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided.

1 pm Dormant Pruning--past president Ed Lewis will show and narrate a video on pruning.

2 pm What is a Dormant Spray? Sharon Collman, Snohomish County Extension horticultural agent, will discuss dormant sprays and how they are used.

APRIL 9TH--ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

9 am WCTFA business meeting

9:30 am Tom Thornton who recently returned from a government sponsored trip to South America will discuss fruit growing "down under".

10:30 am Break--tea and coffee provided.

11 am Pate Svinth, who amazed members on last year's fall fruit tour with his two year old bearing walnut trees, will talk about growing nuts in the Pacific Northwest.

12 noon Lunch--bring your own.

1 pm Fruit Pollination by Dr. Daniel Mayer, WSU/Cooperative Extension entomologist at Prosser.

2 pm To Be Announced Later

Both meetings will be held at the WSU/Snohomish County Extension Education Center in south Everett. See map on back page.

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS . . .

FALL FRUIT SHOW It was agreed that the fall fruit show will be on the Olympic Peninsula at the Jefferson County fairgrounds in late October or early November.

CHAPTERS TO BE REPRESENTED Board members voted that chapter presidents by virtue of their office are automatically members of the board with full voting privileges. The chapter president has the authority to appoint a proxy to represent the chapter at board meetings.

WCTFA BYLAWS Board members agreed that WCTFA bylaws are not binding on local chapters, especially article 5, section 1, which refers to the election of officers.

LIFE MEMBERS NOMINATED Past president Helen Zuelow and newspaper editor Nancy Jo Cushman were selected as candidates for life membership. This will be voted on at the spring meeting.

ELECTIONS COMING UP Three board positions will need to be filled at the 1988 spring meeting. If you'd like to volunteer or have a name to recommend, please contact a board member. The board generally meets once a month at the Snohomish County Extension Office in south Everett. Next meeting will be March 14th, 10 am at the extension office. Board meetings are open to the general membership.

WCTFA OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS



John Parker, President (not a board member)
60 Tala Shore Dr, Port Ludlow 98365; 437-2313

John Davey, Vice President (1989)
3519 SW 171st St, Seattle 98166; 246-6144

Paul Donaldson, Secretary (1989)
916 NW 122nd, Seattle 98177; 364-0161

Walt Lyon, Treasurer (1990)
19717 60th NE, Bothell 98011; 483-5574

Nancy Jo Cushman, Newspaper Editor (1988)
9210 131st NE, Lk. Stevens 98258; 659-6087

Dave Battey (1988)
40404 SE 70th Dr, Snoqualmie 98065; 888-2504

Dr. Robert Bordeau (1990)
15211 Wash. Av NE, Bainbridge Is. 98110; 842-4865

Ben LaLonde (1990)
491 Lotzgesell Rd, Sequim 98382; 663-4055

Emory Leland (1988)
7014 29th Av NE, Seattle 98115; 523-6363

Gene Lewis (1989)
17052 10th Av NW, Seattle 98177; 542-4664

JAPANESE GROWING RED FUJI

by L. D. Tukey

Penn State Horticultural Reviews

The apple cultivar Red Fuji is popular in Japan and is being planted in various parts of the world. The Naga Fu#2 selection from the Tagano Prefectural Agricultural Experiment Station in Japan is highly regarded, according to Takanba Nakamura, a Japanese fruit grower, during a recent visit to Tasmania, Australia.

Fruits tend to russet in the early years, but this has disappeared as the tree gets older. Red Fuji is picked at Nagano at 180 days after full bloom, as compared to 150 days for Red Delicious. Its important market is in December. In comparison, according to Mr. Nakamura, Jonagold is an early season cultivar whose price drops as soon as Fuji reaches the market. Early strains of Red Fuji are being developed in Japan. However, standard Fuji has superior flavor.

Mr. Nakamura uses M-9 as the rootstock, and a plant spacing of 21.5x4m (8x13 ft). Fruiting is discouraged for the first 4 years. Bagging the fruit on the tree is no longer done except in the hotter fruit growing areas of Japan.

WHICH ROOTSTOCK FOR YOU?

by L. D. Tukey

Penn State Horticultural Reviews

Very dwarfing apple rootstocks in the M-27 to M-26 tree size group can enhance land productivity if intensive systems are utilized, according to research at Penn State. Further, stionic vigor is influenced not only by the vigor of the scion and rootstock but also by the training system or orchard form being used.

There is no singular dwarfing rootstock for a cultivar under all soil conditions or for all orchard systems. The vigor of cultivar, rootstock, soil, and system must be matched to develop the required stionic vigor. Close spacing of stions and early cropping enhance smaller tree size, the maintenance of small trees, and land productivity.

SUMMER PRUNING ENHANCES FRUIT COLOR

by L. D. Tukey

Penn State Horticultural Reviews

Summer pruning of apple trees need not impede enlargement of the fruit. It has been a common practice in the Penn State low trellis hedgerow system for many years, and has never caused a reduction in fruit size. Used in training, summer pruning involves the removal of vigorous lateral and vertical shoots over 12 inches in length arising from the main scaffold limbs. This growth neither adds to the tree's bearing wood nor contributes to the carbohydrate reserves in the tree. In fact, its foliage generally shades that of the bearing wood.

The key to successful summer pruning is its timing, in late summer between mid-August and early September. This timing allows for the benefits from vigorous growth to be realized while decreasing shading of bearing wood during a critical period in fruit maturation and fruit bud development. Shoots over 12 inches in length are cut back to about an inch, stubbed to 3 leaves. Regrowth is minimal at this time of the year, which usually develops into spurs or short shoots.

TWO HORT BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE

by L. D. Tukey

Penn State Horticultural Reviews

Cultivated Fruits of Britain, Their Origin and History by F. A. Roach is now available in paperback (ISBN 0-631-15523-6) for \$15.95. It is published by Basil Blackwell, Inc., New York, NY. For those interested in the origin and history of cultivated fruits, the book will make interesting reading, and be a valuable addition to one's library. An extensive bibliography covers material from ancient times to the 20th Century.

Gardening By Mail 2: A Source Book by Barbara Barton has been updated and republished by Tusker Press (PO Box 1338, Sebastopol, CA 95473). It is available in paperback (ISBN 0-937633-02-X) from bookstores or the publisher for \$18.50 postpaid. This where to buy directory lists over 1000 seed and plant sources, and over 300 garden suppliers and services in the US and Canada. It also contains sources of books, lists of professional societies and trade associations, horticultural societies, magazines, and libraries, and has an extensive index and cross reference.

OLDER IS BETTER

by L. D. Tukey

Penn State Horticultural Reviews

The taste and appearance of several Delicious apple strains were evaluated last fall for consumer acceptance. Some interesting preliminary results were obtained in the tests conducted by the Sensory Evaluation Lab at Penn State. The old Starking strain of Delicious was rated as having the best flavor and crispness. Ultrared and Bisbee received the lowest rating of the 9 strains in the taste test. The results confirmed what the industry has been saying for years: that "old Delicious" tastes better.

MORE ABOUT GRAPE GROWING IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

David R. Johnson, who wrote the grape growing article in the last newsletter, would like to hear from people who are growing new and unusual as well as obscure and rare grape varieties, especially MUSCAT flavored ones. He is presently making several controlled crosses and some day hopes to have his own varieties for sale.

Dave does have plants and rooted cuttings for sale of most of the varieties listed in his article. (Ed. Note: Festival should be Festivae--couldn't read Dave's writing.) You can contact Dave at 922-2403 (Saturdays are best) or leave a message at 922-7224.

HERE COME THE MICE!



Voles, often called Meadow Mice or Field Mice, are common throughout the United States. These little short-tailed/short-eared rodents will sometimes feed upon and damage plants in our gardens and orchards. Washington has six species but most damage in N.W. Washington is probably done by the Oregon Meadow Vole, *Microtus oregoni* (A.K.A. Creeping Meadow Vole).

SIGNS

In the Winter of 1988, this little animal was responsible for an unusual amount of damage in local apple orchards by feeding on the roots and girdling trunks. Oregon Meadow Voles will also tunnel through vegetable and flower gardens, feeding on juicy roots, tubers and bulbs - damage that is often blamed on our poor, insect-eating Moles! Voles will even use the mole's tunnels when making these raids!

How can you tell if you have a vole problem? Obvious signs include gnawed roots and root crops (note the small grooves left by the 2 large front teeth), girdling of tree trunks extending to just above soil line (rabbits usually damage trunks and twigs higher up and leave larger tooth marks while Mountain Beavers clip the branches, leaving 2 inch stubs) and well-used tunnels through the soil and/or in the grass or thatch. Voles often leave open, 1 inch holes in areas of heavy activity.

MANAGEMENT

Vegetation management is a key issue in keeping vole populations low. In orchards, keep the tree rows vegetation-free at least 36 inches away from the trunk by weeding or by using a registered herbicide. Be very careful if you use mulches! Oregon voles are often encouraged by a nice, loose mulch. Closely mow the grass in between rows and keep it short. Avoid thatch which the voles can hide under. Finally, be sure to pick up all cull fruit so the voles can not feed on it.

In gardens, try to keep surrounding areas free of tall grass and thatch and don't leave root vegetables in the ground over winter.

CONTROL

Biological: Almost all small meat-eaters love to feed on voles. By encouraging hawks, owls, weasles and shrews you can help keep vole populations from exploding.

Mechanical: For very small populations, trapping may be sufficient. Ordinary mouse-traps can be baited with peanut butter or apple and set IN the runs. Digging into the underground tunnels to place the traps and then covering with a board is quite effective. Check traps daily and re-set as needed. This is a very time-consuming method but useful where baits are not wanted. Tree guards, which are effective in controlling rabbit damage, will NOT discourage voles since they feed largely underground. In fact, voles have been known to nest under loose-fitting guards!

Chemical: Several rodenticides are registered for use on voles. Some are more water-resistant and acceptable to the mice than others. Paraffinized anticoagulant baits placed in the underground runs are probably the safest to use. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL BEFORE USING ANY PESTICIDE!!! Some of the chemicals registered include strychnine and zinc phosphide (both VERY toxic - also, zinc phosphide decomposes quickly in damp situations), chlorophacinone and diphacinone (anticoagulants).

How do you know where to place the baits? Damaged areas, tunnels and runways are always likely areas. However, since vole populations fluctuate wildly, it's a good idea to first place apple or carrot pieces in your various target areas and cover with a shingle or 12"x12" piece of cardboard (be sure the cover doesn't blow away). If there is no feeding on these materials within 24-48 hours, there are probably no voles in the immediate few square yards. You can save your expensive bait by applying only where the mice show feeding activity.

A week after you place you bait, put out some more apple or carrot pieces. If there is no feeding within a couple days, your baiting program was successful.

SUMMARY

In order to discourage voles, it is most important to remove as much of the mouse's shelter as possible (grass, thatch, etc.). Locate the areas of feeding by setting out food and checking for feeding signs. Finally, the population can be reduced by trapping (for small areas) or using registered rodenticides.

by Dave Pehling, Snohomish County Extension Assistant



Microtus
MT. ALTA
VICE

A DISCOURSE ON CIDER PRESSING

by Nancy Jo Cushman

You can only eat so many fresh apples and some apples you wouldn't want to eat. So if you've got more than a dozen mature apple trees, you probably need a cider press. It's the easiest way of getting rid of your mistake trees without really admitting that you goofed and the tree(s) should be chopped down. You can press anything (in moderation, of course) and make decent cider. You can even sneak four Wolfdrivers in each batch (I wouldn't recommend anymore) and nobody will know the difference. The rest of the Wolfdrivers you can pawn off on people who have fond memories of Wolfdriver from grandpa's place.

The tree(s) that you bought on a friend's recommendation as being THE best apple he's ever eaten will probably press just fine, even though it's THE worst apple you've ever eaten. And the scionwood or trees that you bought that were mislabeled and not a pleasant surprise either, can be used in cider, too. And then there are the mistakes you make on your own...

Since I always look forward to the first ripe apple each year, I planted a whole bunch of early ripening varieties. With the exception of Gravenstein, Chehalis and Summerred, the rest aren't worth the powder to blow 'em up. I might make an exception for Scarlet Pimpernel and Oriole, but definitely not for Red Baron, Discovery (every single apple cracks), Vista Belle, Julyred, etc. We won't mention Summer Scarlet--even the horse won't eat that one.

But now I can look forward to the first fresh cider of the year, which is almost as good as the first fresh apple. Since we don't like sweet, insipid cider, I always throw in a few drops (not too many or they cause the runs) and do look out for the worms.

Which brings up another point. What do you do with 2 large boxes of Summerreds? Probably the best thing to do is to estimate the amount you can eat fresh before they get overripe and make cider from the rest. Mature and overripe apples do not press well and make insipid cider.

Gravenstein, when cut with tarter apples, makes excellent cider. Which is a blessing since about 5 years ago I decided to collect different strains of Gravenstein. In retrospect, I should have topworked them all on one Gravenstein tree. Now that I have a use for excess Gravensteins, one tree snapped at the graft due to the fruit load and another turned out to be a Baldwin. That makes three Baldwin trees (all surprises) and say what you like about Baldwin quality grown in this climate, they do produce heavily. I'm sure they'll press nicely!

I'm equally sure that my collection of "greening" varieties and "sweet" apples will be a nice addition to the cider pressing. That's a comforting thought when you wonder why you grafted 8 different "sweets" on separate M-7 rootstock when you should have put them all on one topworked M-27 tree.

You can press just about any apples, but there are a few varieties you should plant just because they make the best cider. My favorites are Belle de Boskoop and a russeted Spy type which nobody can ID. Both are useless for anything else. Northern Spy, Golden Russet and Wayne also come highly recommended as cider apples.

And do consider adding your pear mistakes (both Oriental and European) to your cider. About 1/4 pears and 3/4 apples per pressing turns a ho hum cider into a treat. Now it may seem wasteful to press Oriental pears, but if you have 4 boxes of golf ball size fruit (didn't quite thin enough), what else can you do? Besides, how can one family possibly eat 4 trees worth of Oriental pears before they spoil.

This year I also pressed a European pear--the kind that goes from tasteless and gitty to overripe and rotten in about 2 hours. Pressed at the gritty stage, they worked just fine---and I had finally convinced myself that was one tree I could cut down since it had absolutely no redeeming value.

The best way to press cider is to use a lovingly restored antique press or a nice handcrafted modern one that's sturdy enough to stand still while you're cranking. Add a claw footed bathtub to wash the apples in, a gently nickering horse in a nearby pasture waiting for the occasional treat, and a hazy and crisp but still warm fall day and you have the perfect inducement to make cider.

Don't think about pressing the late season apples when you have to haul hot water to wash the apples in so your hands won't freeze or hosing down the press in the dark when it's raining so hard you're tempted to let mother nature clean the press. And definitely don't think about having to spend hours in the kitchen processing 300 quarts of cider. You can only drink so much fresh cider, after all.

NEW CULTIVAR BOOK AVAILABLE

Apple Cultivars for Puget Sound by Dr. Robert A. Norton and Jaqueline King will be available for sale at both spring meetings for \$8.00. The book has color photos, bloom dates, pollination lists, disease resistance lists, ripening dates, and other information on the hundred plus varieties tested at Mt. Vernon.

MAJOR TREE FRUIT APHIDS OF WASHINGTON

COMMON NAME	HOST PLANTS	SECONDARY HOSTS	INJURY	OVERWINTERING		COLOR OF		DISTINGUISHING FEATURES
				FORM	NYPHS	STEM MOTHERS		
ROSY APPLE APHID	apple, pear, and quince	narrow-leaved plantain	tight leaf curling, twig stunting fruit forming	black egg in crevices of bark, etc.	dark green	pink to purple	curling of leaves, color of adults, deforming of fruit	
APPLE APHID	apple, pear hawthorn, lambs quarters, red clover, dandelions	maintains on apple, but also on many weeds	slight leaf curling, sooty blotch on fruit	black egg on smooth twigs	dark green	apple green	slight leaf curling, stays on apple partially	
WOOLLY APPLE APHID	apple, pear hawthorn and elm (?)	elm (?) (not proven)	keep wounds in bark open, deformed roots	young apterous viviparae on roots (mainly)	light pinkish brown	reddish brown to black	covered with cottony white wax, short cornicles and antennae	
BLACK CHERRY APHID	sweet cherry, rare on sour cherry and plum	cruciferous plants (partial)?	kills terminals, honeydew causes fruit cullage	black eggs around buds	brown to greenish	black	curling of terminal foliage, color of adult, globular shape of body	
MEALY PLUM APHID	plum, prune, and apricot	reed-grasses and cat-tails (partially)	kills terminals, honeydew causes fruit cullage	black eggs with silvery threads	light bluish green	bluish green with waxy "bloom"	white powder-like wax on body, no leaf curling	
LEAF-CURL PLUM APHID	plum, prune, less on peach and apricot	weeds and flowering plants (mums)	tight leaf curling, kills terminals	black eggs at bases of buds	light green	reddish with brown bands	very tight leaf curling on prunes and plums	
THISTLE APHID	plum and prune	thistle, mums, shepherd's purse, and others	"rolls" leaves slightly, kills terminals	black eggs around buds	light green	green with dark markings	only slight rolling of leaves, dark markings on adults	
GREEN PEACH APHID	peach (less on other stone fruits)	"anything green" (esp. potato)	curling of foliage, dropping of young fruit	black eggs in bud axils and crevices	dark green with brown legs	pale green with pinkish marks	pale green with darker green longitudinal stripes, dark dorsal patch on alates	
BLACK PEACH APHID	peach (less on apricot and plum)	none	twisting of leaves, feeding on twigs or roots	adults and nymphs on roots	light brown to reddish brown	black	feeding on bark or roots, black color	

MAJOR TREE FRUIT MITES OF WASHINGTON

COMMON NAME	FAMILY	HOST PLANTS	OVERWINTERING FORM	COLOR OF ADULT	AMOUNT OF WEBBING	NO. GENERATIONS PER SEASON	DISTINGUISHING FEATURES
EUROPEAN RED MITE	Tetranychidae	tree fruits, berries, and other plants	red eggs on twigs and limbs	brick-red to greenish	little or none	6 (partial 7th and 8th)	overwintering eggs, reddish mite with white spines
BROWN MITE	Tetranychidae	three fruits, shade trees, and almond	red eggs on twigs and limbs	dark brown to dull greenish (often bicolored)	none	4-5	overwintering eggs, long front legs, brown to olive green color
TWO-SPOTTED MITE	Tetranychidae	"anything green"	orange females in trash on ground	greenish with 2 dark spots	moderate	9-10	2 more or less distinct spots, pearly spherical eggs
MCDANIEL MITE	Tetranychidae	tree fruits and raspberry	orange females in trash on ground	greenish with 4 dark spots	copious	10-11	heavy webbing of foliage and trunks, orange winter females
PEAR LEAF BLISTER MITE	Eriophyidae	pear	adult females in leaf buds	light yellow	none	several, overlapping	dark brown to black blisters on foliage
APPLE LEAF BLISTER MITE		apple					light brown blisters on foliage
APPLE RUST MITE	Eriophyidae	apple, pear and prune	deutogynes (all stages in mild winters) in or on buds and axils	opaque white to yellowish		several, overlapping	rusting of foliage, no curling
CHERRY RUST MITE (plum nursery mite)		prune, plum and cherry					
PEACH SILVER MITE	Eriophyidae	peach	deutogynes (all stages in mild winters) in or on buds and axils	opaque white to yellowish	none	several, overlapping	silvering of foliage, wrinkled or curled foliage

Ed. Note: Sharon Coleman, Snohomish County Extension Agent, supplied these two pages from her files. We would like to know who wrote them, so he/she could receive proper credit.

ANOTHER DISEASE TO WATCH OUT FOR

by Nancy Jo Cushman

Oriental pears are fun to grow because they're pretty trees and are relatively disease and insect free. Besides, everyone likes to grow fruit that's selling for two bucks apiece in grocery stores.

But in the past year or so, problems have cropped up with *Pseudomonas syringae* on Oriental pear trees, as well as Japanese maples, lilacs, cherries and other stone fruits. This bacterial disease resembles fire blight--blackened and burned twigs and branches. Cankers and peeling bark can also be seen.

Pseudomonas usually infects Oriental pears at blossom time, especially if there is frost damage. As little as one degree of frost will predispose the blossoms to infection. It can also infect trees through the leaf scars in the fall.

Control recommendations are:

1. Pruning out and destroying infected twigs and branches (do sterilize pruning tools between cuts). Make your cuts 6 inches below diseased wood.
2. Using a spray of fixed copper in fall after leaf drop, in mid-winter and at bud break.
3. Don't dormant prune, prune one month after bloom. This will also encourage lateral branching.

Another solution would be to plant Oriental pear varieties that are less susceptible to *Pseudomonas*. Dr. Norton at the Mt. Vernon Research Station and other growers are inadvertently discovering which varieties are very susceptible to *Pseudomonas*. Nijisseiki (Twentieth Century) and Ya Li are reportedly very bad. I have had trouble with Chojuro, but not Shinseiki. Developing a disease resistant list of Oriental pears may be a problem, since some varieties do better here with *Pseudomonas* than they do at Oregon State University's fruit testing plots in Corvallis.

PRUNING EVERBEARING RASPBERRIES

Everbearing raspberries bear on the tips of the new canes in the fall. The following spring they bear lower down on these canes. They can be pruned two separate ways. If you have regular summer bearing raspberries, you can mow down the everbearing raspberries after the fall crop. If you want them to bear in the summer, prune the tips off after the fall crop. Then prune to the ground after the summer crop.

WESTERN CASCADE TREE FRUIT ASSOCIATION
9210 131st N.E.
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

Bulk Rate
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Permit No. 16



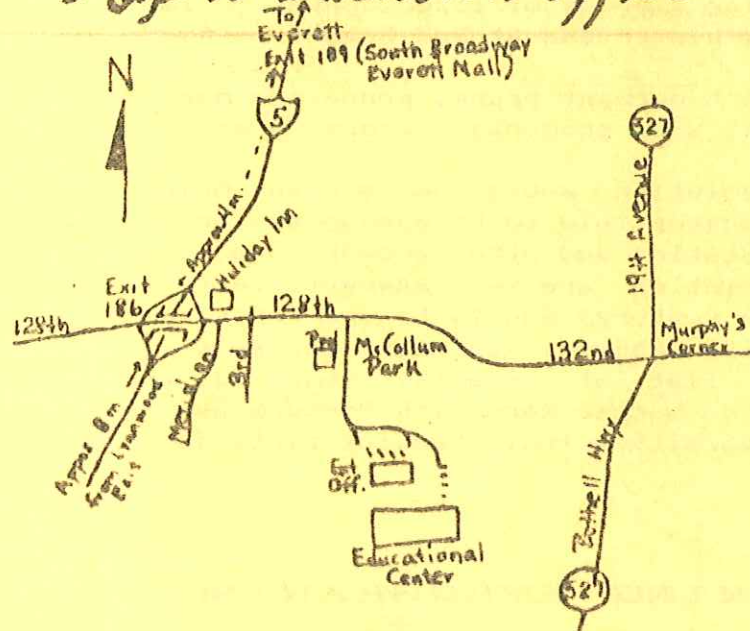
Address Correction Requested

DICK & MARILYN
TILBURY
4916 52ND AVE S
SEATTLE

DEC88

WA 98118

Map to Extension Office



The Snohomish County office is just east of I-5 on 128th Street (2 exits north of the I-5/405 interchange and south of Everett). Proceed east for approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to McCollum/Pioneer Park. We are at the back beyond the swimming pool and park work area.