

HORT UPDATE

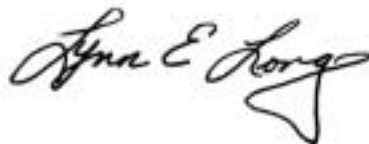
Clarification for Master Fruit Grower Classes

My recent newsletter mentioned the Master Fruit Grower Classes that will be offered this fall by the Extension Service. I have a lot of confidence in the abilities of our cherry growers in the Mid-Columbia area so I intentionally set the bar very high in stating that growers who signed up for the class would need to attend all the classes and would be able to pass a test each week in order to remain in the class. The reason that I decided to give a weekly test was to encourage participants to study and learn the material, so that they would be better able to retain the information that was taught.

In reviewing the program with the Wasco County Fruit & Produce League board they suggested that the tests be given only as a review, for personal progress and learning. This was truly my intent and I did not plan on asking anyone to leave the class because of a poor test score. Unfortunately, the newsletter said the exact opposite of this, and I forgot to correct the newsletter before I mailed it out.

Therefore, I want to make the issue very clear. There will be a test given for each class the week after the material is presented, but the test is only for personal edification. Tests will be self-graded and will not be turned in. Participants in the program should commit to attend all classes, take notes, study those notes and participate in class as much as possible, but nobody will be asked to leave the class. My goal is that the program be a positive learning experience for all involved.

Call the Wasco County Extension Office to register, 296-5494. The deadline for registration is Friday, November 8, but earliest registrants will have preference for admission. The registration fee is \$30.00. Oregon and Washington pesticide license re-certification credits will be applied for.



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