

HORT UPDATE

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Pre-Harvest Tour Set for June 8

This year's Pre-Harvest Tour will feature discussions on orchard renewal, automated irrigation systems, centrifugal stem separation, optical sizing and color sorting, bin picking, new varieties and cherry doubling as well as many other topics. Dr. Matthew Whiting, WSU, Jon Bailey, Grant J. Hunt Co., as well as representatives from United Pipe and Supply and Rainbird and others will join us for the discussions.

The tour starts at 7:45 am on Friday, June 8 at Tim Dahle's Lower M&M Block (see agenda for directions). We are grateful to Jac le Roux, Irrinet and Don Fesler of United Pipe and Supply for hosting lunch.

Retirement Open House for Dr. Helmut Riedl

Please join the faculty and staff of the Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center at an Open House on Friday, June 8, from 3-5 pm in honor of Dr. Helmut Riedl. Helmut is retiring after 22 years of service to OSU, MCAREC, and the tree fruit industry of the Mid-Columbia region. The Open House will be held at MCAREC, 3005 Experiment Station Drive, Hood River. Call 541-386-2030 for further information.



International Fruit Tree Association Orchard Tours

The International Fruit Tree Association (IFTA) is offering a sweet cherry tour in the Yakima area from June 10 through 12. Discussions will center on varieties, rootstocks, production systems, high tonnage output, quality focus, economics, fresh packing and processing. Tour details and registration information are available at the IFTA website <http://www.ifruittree.org/home/>, or by calling 509-884-5651.

WSU Cherry Field Day

Dr. Matthew Whiting is hosting his annual Cherry Field Day Tour this year on June 12 beginning at 1:00 at the WSU, Prosser Rosa Orchard (see insert for directions). Topics of discussion will include crop load management, high efficiency orchard systems, reflective ground cover, powdery mildew xsampling research and much more.

OSU MCAREC Field Day

Mark your calendar for the annual OSU MCAREC Field Day, which will take place on Thursday, August 2nd. Details will be announced at a later date, but tentative plans are for a late afternoon tour followed by a BBQ dinner. I will make further announcements through my e-mail distribution list. Alternatively, call MCAREC at 541-386-2030 for more information.

Fruit & Produce League/Grower Shipper Merger Update

Jeff Heater, President of the Wasco County Fruit & Produce League has written the following update.

The merger of Wasco County Fruit and Produce League and Hood River Grower Shipper Association is progressing well. The new by-laws have been circulated to both boards and should be approved by this time. The name for the new organization is Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers. In late May, you will be receiving a ballot inserted in the next HRGSA newsletter that is the ballot for voting on this merger. If you have any concerns or questions about the merger please feel free to call Jean Godfrey, Director HRGSA at 541-387-4769 or any board member of either organization.

WCF&PL Board Members:

Jeff Heater, President	541-308-6175
Jim Woods, V. P.	541-993-2201
Ken Bailey, Sec/Treasurer	541-298-4496
Deede Anderson	541-298-5588
Stacey Cooper	541-288-6773

Orchard Sprayer Trials – Drift and Coverage

By Steve Castagnoli

In the May issue of the Hood River Grower-Shipper Association newsletter, you should have received a summary of the orchard sprayer trials conducted by Ram (Nagarajan) Ramalingam. Ram measured coverage and drift using the following sprayers:

1. Conventional airblast sprayer
2. Airblast modified with plywood donuts
3. Airblast modified with air-induction nozzles
4. Proptec tower
5. Hardi tower



The main findings from Ram's work were that:

1. The airblast sprayer modified with air-induction nozzles or low cost plywood donuts and both tower sprayers reduced drift compared to the conventional airblast sprayer.
2. The conventional airblast sprayer generally had better spray coverage.

Kelly Wallis, working under the direction of Drs. Helmut Riedl and Jeff Jenkins, is continuing the orchard sprayer trials. This year, Kelly is looking at the effects of reduced coverage on pest control. More detailed information on constructing the plywood donuts is available at: http://oregonstate.edu/dept/mcarec/information/news/april_2007.pdf.

If you have not received the summary of Ram's work, it is available at: http://oregonstate.edu/dept/mcarec/information/other%20publications/orchard_sprayer_fact_sheet.pdf.