

COLUMBIA GORGE FRUIT GROWERS NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2011

CALENDAR

July

- 13 Blueberry Field Day—
North Willamette Re-
search & Extension
- 20 MCAREC Field Day

MCAREC FUNDING

The Hood River County Commissioners have formed an Exploratory Committee that has met twice, with the mission of recommending a source or sources of funds to fill in the 25% budget cut that has been handed to all Oregon Experiment Stations. Oregon State University is requiring that each Experiment Station be financially supported by their respective communities, for MCAREC, the figure is \$180,000-200,000 per year.

Three years ago, Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers was asked by OSU to provide 25% of Todd Einhorn's salary for five years. When Peter Shearer was hired as superintendent, OSU asked CGFG to provide three years of support, which would be credited to the next research position filled. Consequently, the new post-harvest researcher position will be funded 100% by OSU for three years, then CGFG will supply 25% of the salary for two years. It was stressed to CGFG that this salary support was necessary to retain researchers at MCAREC. Any salary support will be considered part of the 25% community support.

There are several options that are being considered for recommendation by the committee, but the three that would most directly impact the growers are an endowment fund (grower assessments); grower assessments through CGFG; and a special tax district.. Both the endowment fund and grower assessments through CGFG would re-

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LEGAL WORKFORCE ACT—CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU

The Legal Workforce Act, H.R. 2164 by House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith, R-Texas, would require employers to electronically verify the eligibility of prospective employees before hiring. Under E-Verify, the Social Security numbers of new hires are checked against Social Security Administration and Department of Homeland Security records in order to identify fraudulent numbers, prevent their use and help ensure that new hires are eligible to work.

Under the bill, employees performing "agricultural labor or services" would be subject to an E-Verify check within 36 months of the date of enactment; other employers would be given two years to comply. An individual engaged in seasonal agricultural employment would not be considered a new hire if the individual starts work with an employer for whom they have previously worked.

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri 9am-1pm
Afternoons subject to
change. Call 387-4769
for hours.

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TRAINING MATERIALS

The following training materials are available at the CGFG office.

For sale on DVD - \$4 each

- EPA Worker Protection Standard - Orchard Workers
- EPA Worker Protection Standard - Pesticide
- Tractor Safety
- Orchard Ladder Safety & Forklift Training

For Loan on VHS

- Load & Lift (English)
- Tripod Orchard Ladder Safety

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MCAREC FUNDING

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quire a vote of the CGFG membership before any implementation.

On July 20, Sonny Ramaswamy, Dean of Agriculture at OSU, will be at the MCAREC Field day to discuss the state budget and how it impacts MCAREC and the growers.

This is your opportunity to get the facts and ask questions. It is also important that you call Jean or a BOD member and voice your opinion and concerns on future funding of the Experiment Station.

E-VERIFY

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"If Congress is going to require producers and growers to use E-Verify, it is absolutely critical they give us a legal supply of workers. American Farm Bureau Federation policy is opposed to E-Verify," said Paul Schlegel, AFBF director of the Environment and Energy Policy Team who works on immigration reform issues.

FOR SALE

Ford L8000 with 20ft bed & CAT 3208 engine • 300 daisy tighteners • Edwards front transport • 370 Nelson R10 sprinklers 1/2 • Bartlett sorting screens • tractor tire chains 14.9/24 • Corner irons

For more information call Don Wanzek at 386-3025 or 541-490-1417.

BACKYARD TREE PROGRAM

CGFG was awarded a 2010 ODA Specialty Crop Grant to continue and expand the Backyard Tree Program, which addresses non-commercial pear, apple and cherry trees. A brochure explaining the program was mailed out to residences in Hood River, The Dalles, Mosier and Dallesport. So far, 65 households have signed up for the program to remove their trees. Both Lynn Long and Steve Castagnoli have held tree maintenance workshops for homeowners that want to keep their trees; written newspaper articles; and discussed the program on the radio. This is a long-term project that requires the cooperation of CGFG, the counties and home owners. If you know of any fruit trees that are not being maintained, please call the office and we will follow up with the property owner.

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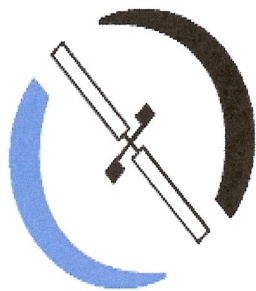
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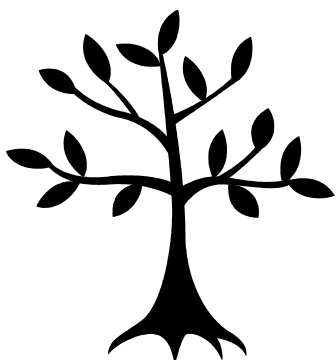
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MCAREC FIELD DAY & BBQ*

BBQ provided by

Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers



Field Day Agenda

2:00-5:00pm

- Field tours & presentations by Dr. Ken Johnson, Dr. Todd Einhorn and Extension Faculty.
- Entomology updates by Dr. Peter Shearer and Dr. Kaushalya Amarasekare. Also learn about enhancing biological control in orchards.
- Dean Sonny Ramaswamy will discuss the State Budget and its impacts on Statewide Services, including the Experiment Station and Extension.
- Poster Display with information on research & Extension Programs.

Mark your calendars for

Wednesday, July 20

Field Day 2:00-5:00pm

BBQ 5:00-7:00pm

Local wines and beer served by The Gorge White House

***Please R.S.V.P. for the BBQ no later than Friday, July 15 by calling**

CGFG at 541.387.4769



**3005 Experiment Station Drive,
Hood River, OR**

For more information regarding the Field Day Agenda, please call the Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research & Extension Center at 541.386.2030.

Considering New Cherry Rootstock Options - Lynn Long, OSU Extension

For the past six years I have been evaluating two new cherry rootstocks from Russia, Krymsk 5 and 6 along with Mazzard, MaxMa 14 and Gisela 6. More recently I have started a second trial (now in its third leaf) with the same two Krymsk rootstocks along with Gisela 6, 12 and Mazzard. Because of this work I was recently invited to visit the Krymsk research station in Russia to share our experience with the Krymsk rootstocks with their scientists and to learn about additional rootstock and variety work that they are involved in. I was also asked to talk about Krymsk 5 and 6 with local growers at an international symposium that they sponsored. One of the reasons why they wanted to hold the symposium was to interest their growers in these rootstocks. This is a situation similar to many where a prophet has no honor in his home town. As it turns out most of the local growers are growing their cherries on either seedling rootstock or Gisela 6. Few have tried the Krymsk rootstocks; a situation that I am sure is frustrating to Dr. Gennady Eremin, who developed the rootstocks.

I've actually been observing the Krymsk rootstocks several years previous to starting my first trial. Dave Meyer planted the first block of trees on Krymsk 5 and 6 about 10 years ago with Lapins as the scion. Due to the productivity of Lapins I was concerned that the combination would prove to be too productive. However, Dave has been very successful with this combination over the years in obtaining high yields of excellent quality fruit.

My research indicates that Sweetheart on Krymsk 5, another combination that might be considered difficult, is intermediate in productivity between Mazzard and Gisela 6, at least through the fifth leaf. If this continues to be the case it may give us an

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Continued from page 4

option besides Mazzard for the production of some of the more productive varieties such as Sweetheart, Lapins and Chelan. With somewhat reduced productivity compared to Gisela 6 it would seem that it would be easier to maintain a proper leaf to fruit ratio and thereby maintain fruit quality more consistently.

Another interesting observation from this trial is that of all the rootstocks that it is tested on Regina is most productive on Krymsk 6, even more so than Gisela 6. Unlike Sweetheart or Lapins, Regina is a cherry that typically exhibits low productivity. Increasing the productivity of Regina with Krymsk 6 could provide more consistent yields and higher returns.

Of course all of this is still preliminary, but it is interesting to see the results at this time and it helps to explain my guarded optimism concerning these two rootstocks. In addition to my research I have also made a number of observations about the Krymsk rootstocks. Dave Meyer has a block of Skeena on Krymsk 6 and Gisela 6 side by side. In our 100 degree heat it is possible to see the leaves on the Gisela 6 trees cupping as if they are under heat stress. The trees on Krymsk 6 do not exhibit this same trait. Dr. Victor Eremin (the son of Gennady) commented that Krymsk 6 was showing good resistance to heat in the Bakersfield, CA area as well.

Although promising, these rootstocks of course are not perfect. Both tend to sucker. Krymsk 5 will send up a moderate amount of crown suckers while Krymsk 6 tends to produce a few root suckers. My observations are that the suckering isn't too bad, but it is still a nuisance. In addition, both rootstocks are hypersensitive to prunus necrotic ringspot virus. This is something that I used to be concerned about, but I've seen many orchards on susceptible rootstocks such as Gisela 7 and the Krymsk rootstocks and there has been no problem with mortality. If infection does take place then there is a good chance that the tree will die before it transmits the disease to neighboring trees, thereby stopping the infection before it begins.

While I was at the Krymsk Research Station I also learned about another cherry rootstock that has just been released here in the U.S. called Krymsk 7. It is about 80% the size of Mazzard with somewhat less precocity than Krymsk 5 and 6. However, it is still considerably more precocious than Mazzard. This rootstock is very heat tolerant, but not as winter hardy as the other two Krymsk rootstocks. Unlike Krymsk 5 and 6, Krymsk 7 is tolerant to prunus necrotic ringspot virus, similar to Mazzard and Gisela 6 and 12. Propagation can be easily made through softwood cuttings. Gennady believes that Krymsk 7 may be a good rootstock for California and Oregon growers and may provide another option for highly productive varieties such as Sweetheart or Chelan.

For more information about cherry rootstocks, check out the new PNW publication entitled "Sweet Cherry Rootstocks for the Pacific Northwest". You can find it on my website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/horticulture>



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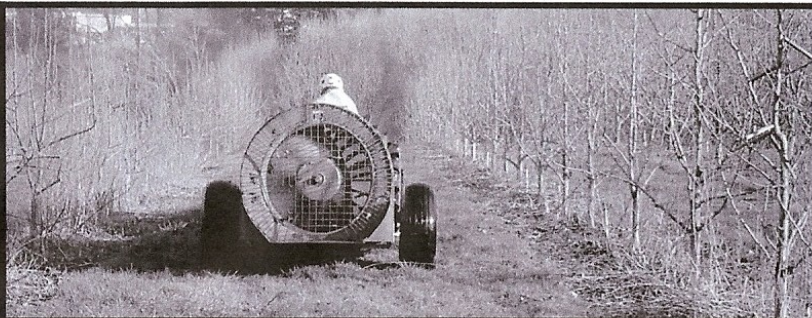
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