

PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

FRUIT EDITION \$1.50

OCTOBER 13, 1998

Deer Fencing is Still Available from the Division of FG & W

Bob Belding, Ph.D., Pomology



Deer damage is ranked as the worst problem facing fruit growers in New Jersey. The deer population problem has been compounded by two important factors. The first is that hunters do not have access to much of the prime deer producing habitat. Deer have adapted to living in the same terrain as people and where there are houses, hunters are not often welcome. In 1997, I had a small herd of deer spend the hunting season in my back yard hiding from nearby hunters. The second factor involved in deer overpopulation is the fact that New Jersey sportsmen love to hunt and are willing to spend lots of money doing it. New Jersey gains more from hunting than from fruit farming. The deer, however, spend their time getting fat eating buds from fruit trees that could be fruit, and rubbing branches off of small developing trees.

Each year, the Division of Fish Game and Wildlife has made available some amount of fence to protect the perennial crops from the ravaging deer. This year, with the help of the Department of Agriculture, additional funding has become available for enhancing the deer-fencing program, and there is a considerable amount of fence still available.

To date, too few farmers have come forward to take advantage of the fence giveaway program. More of the high-tensile woven wire fence is still available, and the deadline to apply for fence has been extended to the end of the year. To qualify, the farmer must document \$40,000 in gross sales, have a federal ID number, own the land, and prove there is deer damage. Farmers must show they have attempted to control the damage by either opening the land to hunting, or having applied for a depredation permit.

In return, successful applicants will receive up to 30 rolls (approximately 4950 feet) of mesh fence, which is enough to protect approximately 20 acres. The farmer must provide the poles and gates, as well as erect the fence within one year or is required to return the materials. With the application, farmers must submit a map of the area to be fenced in relation to the entire farm, and provide a copy of their most recent tax return.

Fence installation information is available in a new Rutgers Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet (FS889), *High-Tensile Woven Wire Fences for Reducing Wildlife Damage*, as well as a video that goes along with

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New Apple Cultivars Evaluated in the NE-183

Jeremy Compton, Plant and Soil Science Technician, and Win Cowgill, Agricultural Agent

The 1995 planting of the North East Cooperative Regional Project (NE-183) apple cultivar evaluation was established at the Rutgers Snyder Research and Extension Farm in Pittstown, NJ. This planting consists of 26 apple cultivar scion/rootstock combinations established as a uniform test orchard. What makes this trial unique is its replication across the United States and Canada. The trial is designed to evaluate new and upcoming apple cultivars from around the world for their adaptation to the northeast. Intensive plantings throughout the country expose these cultivars to a wide range of climatic and soil conditions in a short period of time, as well as varying degrees of insect and disease pressures. Several of these test plantings were established just to measure insect and disease susceptibility. The Snyder Farm planting is primarily a horticultural characteristic trial designed to evaluate these apple cultivars for their horticultural potential in the apple marketplace in New Jersey.

Minimum inputs are utilized in the maintenance of this trial. The tree is allowed to form its natural structure. The cultivars were established on M9 and Mark rootstocks so that early production was achieved. Growth characteristics and extensive data collection on fruit quality are measured annually. This was the second year that cultivars from the block fruited at the Snyder Farm site, and the crop load proved to be variable. With the early spring and a moderate to light bloom, no chemical thinning was warranted. Even so, only a limited number of cultivars carried a full crop.

The light crop produced excessively large fruit on some of the varieties this year. Gingergold, Honeycrisp and Fortune (NY 429), all produced fruit that was 4" or larger in diameter and weighed in excess of one pound. With this excessively large, fruit calcium disorders such as flesh corking were evident. No foliar calcium was applied this season in order to determine the susceptibility of these cultivars to calcium disorders.

Suncrisp (NJ 55) has extremely high eating quality but was lightly cropped this year. Suncrisp produces a very manageable tree but fruit load management may need to be observed carefully in assessing this variety. Other cultivars that produce a nice tree with good quality fruit are; Breaburn and Arlet. Arlet is a Golden Delicious x Idared cross that comes in about a week after most strains of Gala.

Topping the fruit quality assessment again this year were Cameo and Sunrise. Sunrise is an early season apple that is harvested around the middle of August. It

produces a large round shaped fruit with a brilliant red over color. Sunrise is a weak but precocious tree on M9 and rootstocks. Cameo (formerly Carousel) is a tree with a more vigorous, but spreading, growth habit. The fruit is large with a light red appearance that is round to slightly conic in shape. Many people compare Cameo to the original strains of Red Delicious for eating quality. When picked at the optimum time, Cameo will produce a firm fruit that will hold in conventional cold storage for three months. Even with a reduced spray program, and minimal corrections for nutrient deficiencies, both Cameo and Sunrise were of superior quality again this year.

Fruit harvest began in this block on July 20th with Pristine, and will wrap up in another three weeks with the harvest of the other disease-resistant cultivar in this block, Goldrush. The evaluation of both tree and fruit is revealing interesting differences about some of these cultivars and their growth habits in our region as compared to other areas of North America. This variability can be assessed with the cultivar Creston. Creston is a high quality variety that was developed in British Columbia, Canada. Creston grows well in the northwest but we are finding that the soil and climatic conditions of our region may limit its potential in our area.

It is our hope that future evaluations and observations such as the ones being conducted in this block will reveal the next potentially profitable apple cultivars for growers in New Jersey.

The second trial of the NE-183 project has been budded for spring planting in 1999. Twenty seven plantings consisting of twenty four apple cultivars will be established across North America with one again in New Jersey.

For more information on the NE-183 project visit the NE-183 home page on the world wide web at <http://www.VIRTUALORCHARD.net/NE-183/> which is hosted by the Virtual Orchard at <http://www.VIRTUALORCHARD.net/> □

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the fence.

Applications are available at county Extension offices, local Fish and Game offices or can be obtained by calling the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection at (609) 292-6685. □

Commercial Nursery Web Sites for Fruit Trees

Jerome L. Frecon, Agricultural Agent

The following nurseries have commercial web sites where you can see what varieties they sell, what is available for 1999, and actually order trees. Each site also lists their E-Mail address, where you can ask questions and get immediate answers.

Those that I have been able to use are:

Pro Tree Nurseries - <http://www.protreenurseries.com>
Four Mile Nursery - <http://www.fourmile.com>
Hilltop Nurseries - <http://www.scglink.com/Hilltopnurseries>
C&O Nursery - <http://www.c-onursery.com>
Adams County Nursery, Inc. - <http://.acnursery.com>
Brandt's Fruit Trees, Inc. - <http://www.wolfenet.com/~brandts/bft>
Burchell Nursery, Inc. - <http://www.burchellnursery.com/index.html>
Van Well Nursery - <http://www.digifx.com/VanWell>
Stark Brothers Nurseries - <http://www.starkbros.com>
Willow Drive Nursery - <http://willowdrive.com>
Tresco - <http://www.tresco.nu>
Dave Wilson Nursery - <http://www.davewilson.com/index.html>
Sierra Gold Nurseries - <http://www.sierragoldtrees.com/index.htm>

Calendar of Events

November 9, 1998 - NJ Farmers' Direct Marketing Meeting, Cook Campus Center, Cook College, New Brunswick, NJ. Contact Dr. Ramu Govindasamy 732-932-9171, ext. 25.

Feb. 17, 1999 - South Jersey Fruit Meeting and Trade Show, Masso's Crystal Manor, South Delsea Drive, Glassboro, NJ. Sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the New Jersey Horticultural Society.

Contact Jerry Frecon at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Gloucester County at 609-863-0110 for registration information.

February 20-24, 1999 - 42nd Annual International Dwarf Fruit Tree Association (IDFTA) Conference, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Contact Bruce H. Barritt, Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center, 1100 N. Western Avenue, Wenatchee, WA 98801, 509-663-8181, ext. 233, E-mail: etaplz@wsu.edu. Or check the IDFTA web site for additional information: <http://www.IDFTA.org>

1998 New Jersey Farmers' Direct Marketing Meeting

Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the New Jersey Farmers' Direct Marketing Association proudly announce the 1998 New Jersey Direct Marketing Conference. Direct marketing continues to be a successful method of distributing agricultural products in New Jersey as evidenced by the increasing number of farmer's markets throughout the State. The direct marketing conference provides an opportunity for practicing direct marketers to exchange ideas and marketing strategies with one another as well as a chance to interact with policy makers regarding the regulations they must conform to. This year, the conference will be held on November 9th, 1998 and again take place at the Cook Campus Center located at Cook College of Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

A wide variety of presentations have been selected which will appeal to direct market professionals, farm market operators, farm stand owners, and food marketers. The featured topics include expanding your market/ market makeovers, marketing on the Internet, selling ethnic produce, insect control around the farm market, worker protection standards, tax code changes, Right to Farm and limited liability issues for PYO operators, marketing field-grown cut flowers, and a specific time for questions and answers. Pesticide recertification credits are also available for attending the conference. Speakers and presenters include farm owners, New Jersey Department of Agriculture and Department of Labor personnel, and Rutgers Cooperative Extension specialists. Updates of local marketing activities such as the North Jersey Council of Farmers and Communities, and the Jersey Fresh Program will also be presented. The conference is also sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the North Jersey Council of Farmers and Communities, and the New Jersey Farm Bureau.

Advance registration is \$29, which includes admission and lunch. Registration at the door is \$34. For more information or a registration form and program, please contact Dr. Ramu Govindasamy 732-932-9171, extension 25. □

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PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

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