

# PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

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## Fall Planting of Fruit Trees

*Jerome L. Frecon, Agricultural Agent*

**M**any fruit growers ask about the benefits of fall planting of trees. There are both advantages and disadvantages of fall planting.

It is important to receive mature, quality trees of the size and variety ordered, early enough to plant before the ground is frozen to obtain all the benefits. The trees should be naturally defoliated and good reddish brown wood before being dug and handled as "bare-root" stock. Occasionally, a nursery may rush fall digging of green trees that are hand defoliated. It is more a shock to handle and/or transplant these trees. They will not acclimate well if a sudden, very cold snap occurs immediately after planting.

Occasionally, fall ordered trees are dug in special lots. Since just enough trees are dug to fill the order, the grower may be asked to accept a wide variety of sizes to get the trees early enough for planting. Let the nursery know your feelings on accepting mature quality trees of the size ordered.

### **The advantages of fall planting are:**

- A. Root growth occurs if soil temperatures are above 40-45 degrees F. When warmer temperatures occur in the spring the trees may break growth quickly and grow for a longer time producing a larger tree the first season. These warm soil temperatures were experienced throughout the winter of 2005-2006;
- B. The weather is frequently better for fall planting and the soil not wet or saturated;
- C. Many growers have more time and more available labor for fall planting;
- D. Fall planted trees more frequently receive the benefits of early spring rains resulting in less exposure to moisture stress responsible for the early death and poor growth of some spring planted trees;
- E. The grower may utilize the tree expense during the fall fiscal year.

### **The disadvantages of fall plantings are:**

- A. Trees may be exposed to early winter low temperatures that will injure them, particularly if they are not mature and improperly planted;
- B. More frequently, trees are planted and exposed to soils low in moisture; adequate soil moisture and proper watering is critical in the fall;

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- C. The decision of where and what to plant is hastened; some farmers who are procrastinators, or for some good reasons don't make planting plans until they have the time and tranquility of the winter months;
- D. Trees shipped in the fall usually have to be paid in full 30 to 60 days after receipt; trees planted in the fall should be soaked and kept moist before planting. It may be beneficial to leave a slight depression around the tree for rainwater to collect until the first good freeze. Mounding and painting should follow to protect the trees for the winter.

If trees cannot be planted until late fall it may be beneficial to receive trees in the fall and heal-in or store them until spring planting. Too often, a grower has received a letter or phone call during the spring planting season with a message, "sorry we oversold that variety or didn't have enough trees to fill your order." Receiving trees early lessens the possibility of this happening. When the trees are received, the roots should be moistened or soaked in water a few hours. A trench should be dug 12'-18" in a sheltered location. The bundle should be broken and the trees planted in the trench. The root system should be spread and well covered with soil. Once the ground is frozen, it may be beneficial to mound trees with light mulch. Protect the trees from mice or rabbits.

Trees can also be sorted in a partially ventilated apple-free building. Standing the trees upright in bulk bins is excellent. Well cured (not fresh) sawdust, bark, shavings or moss can be used to cover the roots. Apples and green shavings give off ethylene gas, which kills trees. Fresh sawdust and shavings will also kill roots. The trees should be stored from 32 to 45 degrees F with 75% to 85% relative humidity and be watered irregularly to keep the roots moist but not wet. If trees are received in the fall and stored, the nursery must know problems or shortages at this time not in the spring at planting. □

## 2007 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention

### Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Growers Preparing to Compete in the World Marketplace

*Innovations for Competing in a World Marketplace* will be the theme of the 2007 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention. Dr. Ann Dugan from the University of Pittsburgh, will make the Convention's keynote presentation on the opening day, January 30. About 1,800 fruit and vegetable growers and other industry persons from throughout the mid-Atlantic region and beyond will be gathering at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA, for the Convention which will conclude on February 1.

The Convention has been jointly sponsored by the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association, the Maryland State Horticultural Society and the New Jersey State Horticultural Society for the past 29 years, making the 2007 Convention the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Pennsylvania State University, University of Maryland and Rutgers University Cooperative Extensions all assist in organizing the three days of educational sessions as well. The Convention has become one of the premier grower meetings in the Northeast.

The Great American Hall at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center will host the Trade Show with over 140 exhibitors. Specialized horticultural equipment, farm market merchandise, and packaging, will all be on display along with information on the latest seed varieties, fruit varieties, pesticides and other supplies and services for the commercial grower.

Many pesticide applicator update training credits are available to growers attending the sessions. The program covers nearly every aspect of fruit, vegetable, potato, wine grape and small fruit production. Commercial growers should not pass up this terrific educational opportunity.

Dr. Dugan's keynote presentation on January 30 will focus on family relationships in a family business and incorporating younger generations into a family business. Since most Mid-Atlantic fruit and vegetable growers are family farm operations, these family business issues are important to them. Dr. Dugan is Assistant Dean of the Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh.

Six or seven concurrent educational sessions will be offered on all three days of the Convention. Besides the plenary session for the keynote address, the opening day will feature sessions on Tree Fruits, Wine Grapes, Featured Growers, High Tunnels/Season Extension, Cantaloupe/Watermelon, General Vegetables, Organic Vegetables, Onions, IPM Cost Sharing, Managing Phytophthora, Snap Beans and Farm Management.

On the second day, sessions on Direct Marketing, Tree Fruit, Peaches, Bedding Plants, Sweet Corn, Pumpkins, Potatoes, Small Fruit, Vegetable Cultivars and Cut Flowers will be featured.

The Convention will close on the third day with sessions on: Small Fruit, Tree Fruit, Peaches, Tomatoes, Cut Flowers, Farmers' Market Crops, Alternative Energy, Reduced Tillage & Soil Health, and Greenhouse Vegetables.

On January 30, fruit and vegetable growers will be treated to a reception followed by the annual Fruit and Vegetable Growers Dinner. The Dinner will include awards and recognitions. On January 30, the

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## Top Ten Reasons to Have Crop Insurance

Win Cowgill, Agricultural Agent, and Jon Clements, Tree Fruit Extension Specialist, UMASS

**C**rop insurance is the cornerstone of an overall risk management strategy for tree and small fruit growers. Very few farmers can truly afford to be without it. If you still aren't convinced why you should have crop insurance, here are Win and Jon's top-ten reasons why you should:

- 1.) Crop insurance is the 800-pound gorilla of an overall risk management strategy for your farm or orchard. You do have a risk management plan, don't you?
- 2.) Crop insurance is not about making money. It is about protecting your investment.
- 3.) Crop insurance does not replace the retail value of your fruit if you sell retail, rather look at it as what it would cost to buy the apples for your retail business, it's a replacement tool...
- 4.) The probability of crop loss is likely greater than a vehicular accident or a property fire – yet you wouldn't consider NOT insuring against the loss of these valuable assets.
- 5.) Don't risk more than you can afford to lose! Crop insurance is a great way to protect against that one-time catastrophic loss that could put your orchard/farm/business out-of-business for good.
- 6.) Multi-peril crop insurance is cheap! The basic level of CATastrophic coverage is cheap. How about free in NJ. Catastrophic (CAT) Coverage is fixed at 50% of average yield and 55% of the Price Election. CAT is 100% subsidized with no premium cost to you except for an administrative fee of \$100, regardless of the acreage. **Note:** in the apple coverage Options A, B, & C are not available with the CAT endorsement.
- 7.) If that is not good enough for you, buy-up insurance is available that will cover up to 85% of your loss.
- 8.) In New Jersey, apples and peaches are eligible for multi-peril crop insurance, as are cranberries and blueberries. For crops that are not insurable, you buy coverage via a written agreement. Or, look at Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) insurance, which covers whole farm revenue, and which the government also pays a significant portion of the insurance premium (**January 31, 2007 closing date**).
- 9.) Disaster payments, although politically popular, are NOT going to last forever. USDA is urging growers to adopt crop insurance as a risk management tool.
- 10.) Your crop insurance agent will be helpful in tailoring a crop insurance policy to fit your needs. But remember to contact them before November 20!

**Note:** Apple, blueberry, cranberry and peach policies must be purchased or renewed by November 20, 2006!

Additional information (including directions to Rutgers workshop locations or insurance agent lists) can be obtained by visiting our crop insurance and risk management web site:

<http://saalem.rutgers.edu/cropinsurance> or by calling Garden State Crop Insurance Hot Line at 1-800- 308-2449.

Also a good resource is the USDA Risk Management Agency's Website at: <http://www.rma.usda.gov>. □

## Prowl H<sub>2</sub>O Labeled for Bearing Fruit Trees

Bradley A. Majek, Ph.D., Specialist in Weed Science

**P**rowl H<sub>2</sub>O has received a label for use on bearing pome and stone fruit trees. Labeled pome fruits include apple, pear, and oriental pear. Labeled stone fruits include apricot, sweet and tart cherry, nectarine, peach, and plum. Prowl H<sub>2</sub>O is a residual herbicide that controls annual grasses and small seeded annual broadleaf weeds. Tank-mix Prowl H<sub>2</sub>O with Chateau, Karmex (diuron), Princep (simazine), and/or Sinbar, or use in combination with Casoron in late fall to improve annual broadleaf weeds. Apply 2 to 4 quarts of Prowl H<sub>2</sub>O per application, and do not exceed 6.3 quarts per acre per year. Use the lower rate when short term control is desired and the higher rate when longer term control is the objective. Expect the 2 quart rate to provide 2 to 4 months of weed control, and 4 quarts to control susceptible weeds for 5 to 6 months. Prowl H<sub>2</sub>O has a very low solubility in water, and is very strongly adsorbed to the soil, so herbicide loss due to leaching during periods of above average rainfall is not likely to reduce weed control. However, no residual herbicide, including Prowl H<sub>2</sub>O, will stand up to trickle irrigation during a dry summer.

Growers that plan to apply late fall and late spring residual herbicide applications should apply 2 to 3 quarts of Prowl H<sub>2</sub>O, tank-mixed with 2,4-D and Princep, Chateau, or sequentially with granular Casoron in late fall, and an additional 3 quarts of Prowl H<sub>2</sub>O in late spring tank-mixed with Chateau or Karmex.

Growers that plan to apply residual herbicides to their orchards only in the spring should apply 4 quarts of Prowl H<sub>2</sub>O per acre tank-mixed with Gramoxone Inteon or a glyphosate product and Chateau, Karmex and Sinbar, or Princep and Sinbar in April or early May. When Prowl H<sub>2</sub>O is used for annual grass control, the Sinbar rate used in spring tank-mixes should be reduced to 0.25 to 0.5 pound per acre. The Sinbar in this combination is for short term annual broadleaf control when conditions after application are dry. □

## Peach Marketing Summit II

*Jerome L. Frecon, Agricultural Agent*

### **“Where have we been and where are we going?”**

It was December 2003 when we had our first Peach Marketing Summit, after the disastrous season of 2003, which we never want to see again in New Jersey. To keep our “Peach Marketing Ship” on the right course we want to have a follow-up summit on **December 14, 2006** at the Gloucester County Office of Government Services in Clayton, NJ.

The New Jersey Peach Promotion Council (NJPPC) has agreed to co-host the meeting with Rutgers Cooperative Extension and put together an interactive program with all New Jersey peach growers, shippers, wholesalers, to gain a worldly perspective on where we have been and where we are going. The program will begin at 9:30 am with refreshments. At 10:00 am invited presenter, the Honorable Charles Kuperus, New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture will kick off the morning session.

After a peach statistical analysis of the past three years, the NJDA will present an overview of some of the department’s efforts and observations in marketing the New Jersey Peach Crop.

A panel of growers, wholesalers, brokers and others will discuss and present some of their observations on trends in the past three years and their “vision” of the future of the peach market. Participation and comments will be solicited from all attendees.

After a luncheon, courtesy of the NJPPC, a keynote speaker from the food retailing industry will present their perspective on the future needs of the food industry for peach products.

During the afternoon, presentations will be provided on new packaging trends and satisfying the demands of food safety requirements. Not to be overlooked are presentations on current and future activities of the New Jersey Peach Promotion Council, rapid development of the community farmers market and agritourism as it affects the peach industry. A panel of successful direct marketers will present their perspective on retailing peaches and peach products.

All are welcome to attend. Further details will be provided as plans are finalized. Pre-registration is required to make sure enough food is provided. Contact: Jerry Frecon at 856-307-6450 Ext 1 or [Frecon@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:Frecon@aesop.rutgers.edu).

RSVP by December 11, 2006 by phoning or e-mail Jerry Frecon, or mail your response to: Jerome L. Frecon, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Gloucester County, 1200 N. Delsea Drive, Clayton, NJ 08312. □

## Calendar of Events

**December 14, 2006** – Peach Marketing Summit II – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Topic - “Where have we been and where are we going?” Featuring guest speaker, Charles Kuperus, NJ Secretary of Agriculture. To be held at the Gloucester County Office of Government Services, 1200 N. Delsea Drive, Clayton, NJ. Pre-registration is required and all are welcome to attend. For contact or registration information - Jerome L. Frecon at 856-307-6450 ext 1 or e-mail at [frecon@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:frecon@aesop.rutgers.edu).

**January 16, 17, 18, 2007** – New Jersey Vegetable Growers Convention (Includes small fruit sessions), Trump Taj Mahal Hotel and Casino, Atlantic City, NJ. Contact: Michelle Infante-Casella 856-307-6450 ext 1, [www.njveggies.org](http://www.njveggies.org)

**January 30, 31 & February 1, 2007** – Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention and Trade Show, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, PA. Contact: Jerome L. Frecon 856-307-6450 ext 1, <http://gloucester.rce.rutgers.edu/>.

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### *MID-ATLANTIC CONVENTION FROM PAGE 2*

Pennsylvania Apple Marketing Board and the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association will each sponsor evening receptions for growers. The processing tomato growers with the highest yields for the 2006 season will be honored at the annual Tomato Awards Luncheon on February 1.

For further information, contact William Tietjen - 908-475-6505 or Jerome Frecon – 856-307-6450, ext 1, the New Jersey State Horticultural Society or:


<http://gloucester.rce.rutgers.edu>

Persons registered for either the fruit or vegetable program can attend all the sessions offered (fruit, vegetable and small fruit sessions) plus the trade show. Registration either through the mail or at the door is required to attend both the trade show and educational sessions.

*Submitted by Jerome L. Frecon, Agricultural Agent and William Tietjen, Agricultural Agent. □*

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