



Hort Headlines

February 5, 2010

- **Tree Fruit Day Promotes Industry And Legislative Policies** – This past week more than 25 industry representatives participated in the 8th annual Tree Fruit Day in Olympia. One of the objectives of Tree Fruit Day is bringing producers face-to-face with key lawmakers to discuss critical industry issues. Industry representatives met with more than 65 legislators and Employment Security Commissioner Karen Lee. The one-day event is a powerful public relations and government affairs tool for the tree fruit industry. Our representatives helped communicate the importance of the tree fruit industry to the economic well being of the state.
- **Legislators Appreciate Gift Packs** – One of the highlights of Tree Fruit Day is the distribution of more than 300 gift packs to legislators and other officials. The event is becoming well recognized by legislators and their staff. Companies donated apples, pears, apple juice, Aplets & Cotlets, and other industry-related items. Issue packets were also delivered providing background about the tree fruit industry.
- **Thank You Tree Fruit Day Gift Box Donors** – A BIG thank you goes to the following companies that stepped forward to donate items for our Tree Fruit Day gift boxes: Aplets & Cotlets, Blue Star Growers, Bob Mathison Orchards, Columbia Fruit Packers, Crane & Crane, Custom Apple Packers, Dovex Fruit, Flynn Packaging, Gilbert Orchards, McDougall & Sons, NCW Fieldman's Association, Northern Fruit, Northwest Wholesale, Pear Bureau NW, Stemilt Growers, Tree Top, WA Apple Commission and Wilbur Ellis.

- **Pest Management Workshops** – WSU Chelan County Extension will be providing Pest Management Workshops. The IPM workshops cover various topics that highlight critical issues, discuss industry trends, and point out possible horticultural and business solutions. The training workshops are presented by Tim Smith, WSU Extension. For more information email smithtj@wsu.edu.
 - **February 11** | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Wenatchee Valley College Lyceum (2 credits)
 - **February 25** | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Wenatchee Valley College Lyceum (2 credits)

(Note Below: attend both sessions 1 and 2 for complete pesticide license pre-testing training)

 - **March 4** | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (Part 1) Wenatchee Valley College Library Lyceum (2 credits)
 - **March 11** | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (Part 2) Wenatchee Valley College Library Lyceum (2 credits)
- **WSU Apple Breeding Program** – The process for releasing new varieties from the WSU apple breeding program emphasizes access by all Washington growers. For more information about the current apple release, WA 2, and the commercialization process please go to the [WSU web link](#). An application form may be found at the [tree fruit research commission website](#). Growers must have evaluation agreements to make commercial plantings of WA 2.
- **Ag Safety Day Set For Yakima** – The sixth annual Agriculture Safety Day will be held Wednesday, March 3, at the Yakima Convention Center from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The program is designed for employers, supervisors, farmworkers and safety professionals. All sessions will be offered in English and Spanish. Topics to be discussed will include eye and ladder injury prevention, safety, communication issues in agriculture, ammonia safety and much more. The conference fee is \$65 at the door and includes a buffet lunch. To register online visit <http://www.wagovconf.org/files/AgSafetyDay.pdf>. For more information please email Shannon at registrar@kfevents.com.

Headline Links

Senate Introduces Alternative Workers' Comp Bill – Senate Democrats have introduced a bill that would delay needed reforms this year to the state's workers' compensation system. Learn more on this story from www.kpbj.com.

More Talk, No Action On Worker's Comp Leaves Business With Bad Taste – After all the debate of the last few months on worker's compensation, and all the fierce arguments between business and labor interests, it appears that the Legislature's solution is more study. Learn more on this story from [Washington State Wire](#).

Murray Honored For Washington Agricultural Support – U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., was presented with the Legislator of the Year Award on behalf of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG). Learn more on this story from [Columbia Basin Herald](#).

Agriculture Bills Sprout Up In Olympia – A long list of bills that affect agriculture in Washington state are pending in the 2010 Legislature, and deadlines are coming up fast for lawmakers to take action on them. Learn more on this story from [www.kvnews.com](#).



GRAS2P "Tip of the Week" – Many third-party food safety audits require an orchard operation to have a documented orchard map referencing each block or unit of production. A Google map makes a great base. The purpose behind this requirement is traceability (block name and/or number associated with variety harvested), but there are several benefits to you as a grower in managing your orchard operation. You may want to consider including: number of acres; varieties, rootstocks and year planted; planting densities; water sources and irrigation systems; soil types; location of structures such as chemical and equipment sheds; location of sewage treatment/septic system; and adjacent land uses.

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