

MICHIGAN PEACH SPONSOR NEWS - Summer - 2005

Produced by the Michigan Peach Sponsors—a non-profit organization for research and promotion of peaches
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Date Set for 2006 Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention

Hershey, Pennsylvania will host the 2006 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention on January 31, 2006 through February 2, 2006. Peaches are discussed during one and one-half days of the conference. For hotel reservations, attendees should call the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center directly at (717) 533-3311. The Hershey conference is one of the best meetings for peaches for the northern US growing climate.

Progress Toward New Peach Varieties for Michigan

Bill Shane

District Fruit and Marketing Educator and Academic Specialist

New varieties are the lifeblood of the Michigan peach industry. Back in the mid 1990s, the Michigan Peach Sponsors, seeing a lack of suitable peach varieties for Michigan began increasing their funding of the Michigan peach breeding program. A breeding program is like a long pipeline—considerable time and work is needed before results start coming out the other end.

Under my direction the emphasis in the MSU breeding program has been primarily to develop for new melting flesh varieties in the post Red Haven season. Several very promising later season selections have been made. We also have been pleased by several promising selections in the pre Red Haven



Pre-Redhaven season selections from the Michigan State University Breeding Program

season (see pictures).

The MSU breeding program is also continuing to work to improve Leucostoma (Cytospora) canker resistance of peaches trees. Sources of resistance identified by Dr. Amy Iezzoni of the MSU Department of Horticulture have been used as a breeding parents.



Extreme gumming of peach limbs due to San Jose Scale infestations.



Watch Out for San Jose Scale

In last years Michigan Peach Sponsors newsletter we reported that San Jose scale was being more common in Michigan peach orchards. Severe symptoms have shown up in 2005 on numerous peach trees with heavy scale infestations in 2004.

On affected trees the scaffold limbs show abundant gum deposits and poor new branch.

Aggressive dormant (oil) treatment against overwintering scale and possibly treatment in summer against the crawler stage will be needed to keep these trees alive.

Aim™ herbicide gets clearance for peaches.

Aim™ herbicide (FMC) has been cleared for postemergence broadleaf weed control in peach and other fruit crops. The use rate for Aim ranges from 0.51 to 1.98 fl oz/A and may be applied in multiple applications, as needed, so long as total use rate does not exceed 7.9 fl oz/A per year and a minimum of 14 days has passed since the previous application. The 1.98 fl oz/A rate is for sucker control. The addition of crop oil (1 gal per 100 gal of spray solution) or non-ionic surfactant (1 qt per 100 gal of spray solution) is necessary for optimum results. Aim could be used in orchards where postemergence control of morningglory, pigweed, velvetleaf, dayflower, and nightshades is needed close to harvest. The 3 day PHI for Aim is considerably shorter than the 14 day PHI for Gramoxone Max. Weeds need to be relatively small (4 leaves or less). Aim will not control grass weeds.— *credit: Southwestern Regional Peach Newsletter Volume 5, No. 2, July 2005*



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Michigan Peach Sponsor Silver Members for 2005

THE NURSERY CONNECTION
 ED & DON RASCH
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 PAUL THELAN
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 HILLTOP FRUIT TREES
 ADAMS COUNTY NURSERY
 DALY ORCHARDS COMPANY
 SCHULTZ'S FRUITRIDGE FARMS
 BAIERS ORCHARDS
 STARK BRO'S NURSERIES
 BIRDS EYE FOODS
 CEREXAGRI
 JOE HERMAN
 MACRO-PLASTICS
 M.C. CHRISTOFFERSON
 KURT WEBER
 STEVE SCHILLING
 UMLOR ORCHARDS
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Michigan Peach Sponsor Gold Members for 2005

GRANDVIEW ORCHARDS
 7901 Territorial Rd, Watervliet, MI 49098

MOSER FRUIT TREE SALES, INC
 5329 Defield Rd, Coloma, MI 49038
 Matt 269-468-4356

SUMMIT SALES
 55826 60th Avenue, Lawrence, MI 49064
 269-674-8866

PETERSON FARMS, INC
 3104 Baseline Rd, Shelby, MI 49455
 231-861-6333

ALLEN OVERHISER FARMS
 6317 107th Ave, South Haven, MI 49090

FRUIT ACRE FARM MARKET
 2559 Friday Rd, Coloma, MI 49038

WILLMENG FARM
 7515 N. Branch Rd, Watervliet, MI 49098

New Peach Wine from the Heartland of Michigan



Sandhill Crane Vineyards is a small-scale family-owned vineyard and winery in rural Jackson County. The vineyard and winery, is the enterprise of Norman and Alice Moffatt, Anne Leisinger (Norman's sister) and Holly Balansag and Heather Price (daughters).

Sandhill Crane Vineyards was one of several cooperators in the Michigan State University GREEN project designed to encourage the use of Michigan peaches in processing products.

The Sandhill winery used the GREEN project peaches to create 'Peach Blossom', a 50% - 50% peach and chardonal wine. According to Norman Moffatt, 'Peach Blossom' appeals to the taste of many people liking a sweet wine. Sandhill Crane Vineyards is located at 4724 Walz Road, Jackson, MI 49201, 517-764-0679



Select a Taste of Michigan helps to promote Michigan peaches in 2005 for third year.



The Michigan *Select a Taste of Michigan* Program will promote Michigan peaches again in 2005. The promotion focuses on Meijers, Family Fare, and Super Wal-Mart stores in the Grand Rapids, Plainwell, and Holland areas during the peak August peach month.



W-LHT Radio personality Kim Carson helps to promote Michigan peaches

The promotions, organized by Christine Lietzau of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, uses in store demonstrations, radio, and extensive interactions with chain store produce managers to insure that Michigan peaches are advertised and displayed to their best advantage. In-store demonstrations will feature W-LHT radio personality Kim Carson, culinary historian Priscilla Massie, and members of the peach industry during August

11 through August 20th.

The *Select A Taste of Michigan* Program is funded through the Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems program with additional support from the Michigan fruit industry.



Priscilla Massie—culinary historian will showcase peach recipes

Peach Store Promotion Schedule for 2005

Plainwell Meijer

1195 M-89
Plainwell, MI
Aug 11th 5PM-7PM

Grand Rapids Meijers

Rockford
2799 10 Mile Rd NE
Aug 13th 10AM-12PM

Knapps Corner

1997 E Beltline NE
Aug 13th 1PM-3PM

Rockford

2799 10 Mile Rd NE
Aug 20th 10AM-12PM

Wyoming Meijer

Clyde Park
5500 Clyde Park SW
Aug 13th 4:30PM-6:30 PM

Family Fare

Cedar Springs
4175 17th Mile Rd
Aug 20 1PM-3PM

Wal-Mart Supercenter

South Haven
10AM-12Noon

Holland

Aug 18th 5PM-7PM

Clingstone Peach Growers Wanted in Southern Michigan

Peterson Farms, Inc, a major fruit and vegetable processing firm in Michigan is seeking fruit growers interested in planting and producing clingstone peaches. For further information contact Leo Steffens at (231) 861-7101 x 229, fax (231) 861-2274, Peterson Farms, Inc., 3104 W. Baseline Rd., PO Box 115, Shelby, MI 49455

New National Peach Council Web Site

The US peach industry is represented by the National Peach Council, an organization based in Columbia, South Carolina. The National Peach Council, with the help of managing director Charles Walker, serves as an information source for growers, packers, processors and for governmental agencies. The Council has now established a web site (address: www.nationalpeach.org) which can be browsed for peach industry information including statistics, the Peach Times newsletter, and useful links to other web sites.



Niche peaches for the fresh market

Saturn is a white fleshed flat peach developed by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station in the mid 1980s. Saturn is very hardy, very productive Pan Tao or Peen To (literally “flat peach”) with a mild, sweet flavor, melting flesh, and a small round pit.

Comments regarding Saturn peach were given by grower Brian Cosgrove, Cosgrove Orchards, Fennville in the Direct Marketing grower panel at the Michigan Peach Update Session, March 2005. “We find that Saturn is a challenging variety to grow, labor-wise. All thinning has to be done by hand, you basically have to roll the fruit off the limb with your hand, banging the limb does not work, you can’t run a stick up and down it. Another challenge is picking—you have to do a twist motion. For the customers who want them early, you have to use little clippers to cut the stems. We do get a premium price for them but a lot of time goes into them”.



Saturn peach—a doughnut peach

Vulcan is a non-melting yellow flesh, canning-type peach with fresh eating quality. Vulcan was developed by now-retired research Neil Miles at the Vineland Experiment Station in Ontario, Canada.

Vulcan ripens about 5 days ahead of Redhaven and has an attractive 60 to 80% red blush on a yellow background. Since most peaches harvesting at this time are nearly clingstone anyway, this characteristic is not a problem when it comes to marketing. The advantage of the non-melting flesh is that Vulcan has excellent shelf life. Vulcan has very good bacterial spot resistance, nice size (average 2 1/2”) for the season, good productivity, excellent sweet/acidity balance. Like most non-melting canning peaches, this variety should be picked before the fruit develops melon-like overripe taste.



Automated trunk sprayer developed by Michigan State University Researcher

A new mechanical trunk sprayer is promising to make insect borer control easier in peaches and other tree fruit. Dick Ledebuhr, research specialist in the Department of Agricultural Engineering, Michigan State University has been the primary developer of an automated trunk sprayer. This device promises to replace the traditional method of using a hand gun to apply insecticides to tree trunks, one of the least favorite grower tasks.

With the help of a GREEN grant from Michigan, Ledebuhr has developed several prototypes over the last few years with the assistance of Michigan research station personnel and grower cooperators.



The current system uses laser technology to “see” trunks. Earlier prototypes with electric eye and infrared sensors were not suitable for the dirty orchard environment. Also key to the trunk sprayer is an accumulator that holds sufficient spray liquid volume close to the spray boom for quick flooding of the trunk.

On level surfaces the trunk sprayer has been operated in orchards at speed approaching 6 miles per hour with excellent coverage.



Accumulator reservoir allows a quick gush of spray

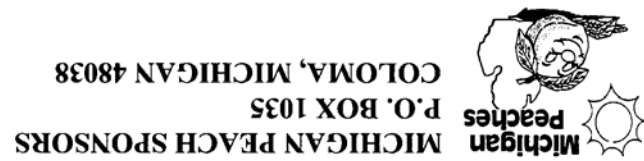


Dual nozzles allow spray to wrap around tree trunk

Five Ledebuhr trunk spraying systems have been field tested in the

Michigan area during the 2005 season. Southwest Michigan growers are welcome to see the unit pictured above at the SW Michigan Research and Extension Center (SWMREC) by Benton Harbor.

Thanks to support received from Dow-Agriscience and Gowen Companies, the SWMREC trunk spray will be available for testing by local growers through arrangements by the SWMREC Farm Manager. 269-944-1477



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