Hard to believe, but spring is nearly here. It’s time to be updated on new information for fruit growers by the Southwestern Michigan’s Extension Fruit Educators and specialists. As part of the meeting we will review changes in the Michigan State University Extension Fruit Management Guide (E-154), including new management information for tree and small fruit insects and diseases, and new pesticide chemistries being introduced to control them.

Meetings are scheduled for 6:30-8:30 pm on March 12, 2013 at the Lawrence Conference Center, 490 South Paw Paw St. in Lawrence, Michigan and 6:30-8:30 pm on March 19, 2013 at SWMREC, 1791 Hillandale Rd. in Benton Harbor, Michigan. Each meeting, covering the same material, will focus on agrichemical labels, spray timing, biochemical mode of action, effectiveness and longevity. Pesticide resistance management and insect and disease management models will also be discussed. Two RUP Private, Commercial, or 1C credits will be available. There is no preregistration necessary; the registration fee is $5 payable at the door. A limited number of Michigan Fruit Management guides ($25) will be available for purchase at the meeting. They can also be ordered at the MSU Extension Bookstore online at http://bookstore.msue.msu.edu/ or by phone at 517-353-6740.

Fruit IPM kickoff meeting dates for 2013

March 12, 2013 6:30-8:30 pm
Lawrence Conference Center, 490 South Paw Paw St. in Lawrence, Michigan

March 19, 2013 6:30-8:30 pm
SWMREC, 1791 Hillandale Rd. in Benton Harbor, Michigan

On-farm composting workshop offered on April 10th

Remaining RUP testing and review session dates in March, April and May for Southwest Michigan

Berrien County MSUE will offer a pesticide applicator core manual review session 8:30- noon on March 14th, 2013 at the Berrien County Extension office, 1737 Hillandale Rd., Benton Harbor, MI. There will be no review of specific categories. The review session is $25.00 and has been granted 3 RUP recertification credits for private or commercial core. Call the extension office 269-944-4126 to register for the review session. Following the review, exams on March 14th for the core and categories will be administered by Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). Exams begin at 12:30 and must be started by 2 pm. The final testing only session for Berrien County this spring will be held April 17th, 2013 from 9 am-3 pm. Contact MDARD at 1-800-292-3939 to register for the exam only date. You can also register on-line at www.michigan.gov/pestexam. For more information
Weekly Monday night fruit IPM updates are scheduled to begin April 15 at Bjorge’s Fruit Acres Farm, 3390 Friday Road, Coloma, Mich. Michigan State University Extension fruit educators Bill Shane, Mark Longstroth and Diane Brown will review the results of their scouting and farm visits with growers every Monday evening. Usually examples of fruit insects, weeds or diseases are shown to help growers make a positive identification or know what to look for in their plantings.

The focus will be on tree fruit, blueberries, grapes and other small fruit. Growers are encouraged to attend and share what they have seen and learn about their options for pest control and other cultural practices. The meetings are attended by as many as 60 growers each week to allow them to stay current with what is happening in fruit crops locally and around Michigan.

These weekly meetings are from 5 to 6:30 p.m. They will run weekly until June 24. (No meeting will be held on May 27, Memorial Day.) Michigan pesticide applicator recertification credits will be available to attendees. No registration is necessary. Growers are invited to bring plant specimens, insects and weeds for diagnosis. New fruit varieties will be shown as the season progresses.

Remaining RUP testing and review session dates in March, April and May for Southwest Michigan
(continued from page 1)

about the pesticide applicator renewal process, contact Faye Burns @ 517-373-9752.

Core manual RUP reviews and RUP testing elsewhere in Southwest Michigan

March 13-Allegan County: Core manual RUP review– 3 RUP credits. Location -Allegan County Human Services Bldg., 3255 122nd Ave., Allegan, MI 49010 from 9 am–noon. $20/person, includes coffee and lunch. For more information on this review or to register, contact the Allegan county extension office at: 269-673-0370.

March 19- St. Joseph County: (Exam only) 9 am– 1 pm St. Joseph County Extension office, 612 E. Main St., Centreville, MI 49032. Register with MDARD at www.michigan.gov/pestexam or at 1-800-292-3939.

March 28-Van Buren County: Pesticide Applicator RUP Credit Program, Lawrence ISD Conf. Center. Training from 9-12 (3 RUP credits, $20.00), followed by the Pesticide Applicator Exam at 12:30. To reserve a seat for the training call 1-269-657-8213. Register for the exam with MDARD by phoning 1-800-292-3939 or online at: www.michigan.gov/pestexam.

April 3 and May 1 – Kalamazoo County: (Exam only) Michigan department of transportation, 1501 East Kilgore, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Register with MDARD at www.michigan.gov/pestexam or by phoning 1-800-292-3939.

Clean Sweep pesticide disposal dates announced for 2013

Dispose of unwanted, outdated, or unused pesticides and mercury items safely and for FREE through the Michigan Clean Sweep Collection program. These materials will be handled safely and recycled or disposed of properly by a local hazardous waste contractor.

There are 18 collection sites throughout the state of Michigan. You can contact your local extension office to find out the nearest Clean Sweep location, get an application and register to dispose of your items. Visit the Clean Sweep website, www.michigan.gov/cleansweep or call 517-241-3933 to find the location nearest you, with dates and times for collection. There are 4 collections scheduled for the tri-county area (Berrien, Cass, & Van Buren). The application process is simple and is designed to help organizers be prepared for materials coming in. The deadline to sign-up for each collection is 2 weeks prior to the event.

The 2013 Collections will take place:

- June 26 (sign-up deadline June 12)
- July 31 (sign-up deadline July 17)
- August 28 (sign-up deadline August 14)
- September 25 (sign-up deadline Sept.11)

Contact your local MSU-Extension office for an application: Berrien County 269-944-4126.
SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA SURVEY FOR RASPBERRY GROWERS

We are asking for information about raspberry growers’ experiences with spotted wing drosophila (SWD) to help support requests to the US Environmental Protection Agency for expanded insecticide labeling to control SWD. This information will also be valuable to provide background information for grants supporting research to guide management recommendations. All information collected will be summarized. Individual growers will not be identified, and information will remain confidential. This survey is being distributed via email and several mailings. You can also take the survey online at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GTF36QL

We apologize if you receive multiple requests to complete this survey. Please fill out this survey only once. Return completed surveys to: Berrien County MSUE, 1737 Hillandale Rd., Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Questions? Contact Diane Brown, Michigan State University Extension, Southwest Michigan, nylews1@anr.msu.edu phone: 1-269-944-4126

Location: country ______ state/province_________ county______________________________

Acres fall raspberries: field_____ tunnel_____

Acres summer raspberries: field_____ tunnel_____

Are you a conventional or organic grower? ___Conventional ___organic ____both

How do you market your raspberry crop? ___pick your own ___retail ___wholesale

In 2011, did you have Spotted Wing Drosophila in your raspberry plantings? ___Yes, ___no, ___don’t know

If Yes, was it in your ___field plantings _____tunnels _____both

Which month was it first noticed? _______________

What would you estimate as the % loss of crop due to SWD in 2011? ____________%

Approximate U.S. dollar value of any crop loss in 2011? $______________

In 2012, did you have Spotted Wing Drosophila in your raspberry plantings? ___Yes, ___no, ___don’t know

If yes, was it in your ___field plantings _____tunnels _____both

Which month was it first noticed? _______________

What would you estimate as the % loss of crop due to SWD in 2012? ____________%

Approximate U.S. dollar value of any crop loss in 2012? $______________

What insecticides have you used for control of SWD: name, number of applications, rate

Which insecticides do you consider provided the best control of SWD?
SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA SURVEY FOR RASPBERRY GROWERS

Continued from page 3

What other techniques have you used to minimize the impact of SWD infestations in your planting? Check all that apply: ____ monitoring to detect first fly activity, ____ netting your plants, ____ trapping out flies, ____ picking berries early, ____ cooling fruit after harvest.

Other:

In addition to any crop loss, how much did it cost you to manage SWD at your farm in 2012?

Include costs of labor, fuel, equipment, insecticides, etc.  $_______________________________

Are you considering an increase, decrease, or maintaining your current summer raspberry plantings?

Are you considering an increase, decrease, or maintaining your current fall raspberry plantings?

Please comment on factors that might contribute to increasing, maintaining or quitting raspberry fruit production.

Comments:

Once it is completed, results of the survey will be shared with all interested respondents.

your email address or mailing address:

Your email address or mailing address will be used only for sharing summary of survey results with you, if desired.

Thank you for your assistance with collecting this information.

Michigan State University is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement of products by MSU Extension is implied.
The Need for Irrigation
Recent years have shown irrigation to be critical for economic production of many southwest Michigan crops. Characteristics that make our soils desirable for cultivation also make them drought prone. Recent dry summers have made crop production without irrigation economically risky.

Why Irrigation Scheduling
Efficient water use is important for several reasons. Under irrigation leads to decreased yields, but over irrigation may lead to nutrient run-off or leaching - an economic loss to the producer and potential environmental threat to water sources. Over irrigation also leads to increased disease problems. Finally, it is simply good stewardship of a valuable resource.

Benefits of Scheduling
By maintaining more uniform soil moisture irrigation scheduling reduces water use while maintaining yields. The goal is to keep soil moisture between 65 and 100% field capacity. This is accomplished by weekly monitoring, projecting water use and operating the irrigation system to meet weekly or daily needs. To monitor each site a 3’ long PVC tube is installed (4” will be above ground) and a moisture probe is slid into the tube and readings taken every 10 cm (4-inches). Access tubes are installed in May or early June.

Our Service
Since 2003 Michigan State University has conducted soil moisture monitoring and irrigation scheduling on a limited basis in southwest Michigan. MSU has expanded this service on a pay for service basis to irrigators within the Berrien, Cass and Van Buren County area. The fee varies depending on the length of the crop season. Sites will be monitored on a weekly basis and growers will receive an email or FAX providing a plot of soil moisture change over time. The graphs help determine irrigation effectiveness and helps growers adjust irrigation length or frequency as needed. The graph below is an example, and it shows the 11-week (series), season-long moisture changes at 10 to 80 cm (4 to 32-inch) depths.

If you are interested in participating in this program please fill out the information in this flyer and follow the return instructions. The fee schedule is listed below. If you have further questions, or if your crop is not listed on the fee schedule, please contact: Ron Goldy, at 269-944-1477 ext. 207, or e-mail at goldy@anr.msu.edu

2013 Fee Schedule

Short Season Crops $80/site
Green Beans, Cucumbers/pickles, Yellow Squash, Zucchini

Mid-Season Crops $105/site
Cantaloupe, Watermelon, Pumpkins, Fall squash, Sweet corn

Long Season Crops $155/site
Field Corn, Peppers, Soybeans, Tomatoes

Perennial Crops $155/site
Apples, Blueberries, Brambles, Cherries, Christmas Trees, Grapes, Nursery Stock, Hops Peaches/Nectarines

Do not send any money at this time. You will be billed at a later date.
Hold the dates- schedule for 2013 in-season grape meetings in Southwest Michigan

Our first in-season grape meeting for Southwest Michigan will be held at the Berrien County Extension Office at 1737 Hillandale Rd., Benton Harbor, MI on April 24 from 6 pm until 8 pm. Annemiek Schilder will cover updates on fungicides and early season diseases, and a new grape virus factsheet that will be available this year. We will also discuss early season weed control and share the results of some preliminary weed control trials done last year. A light supper is included in the registration fee. Registration is $15.00./person. Other dates and topics set for 2013 include May 22nd, canopy management, July 10th ground floor management, and August 27th, preharvest meeting. The viticulture field day is set for July 31st at SWMREC. Further details for these meetings will be mailed out soon. Contact Diane Brown rytlews1@msu.edu or 269-944-0157 at the Berrien County Extension office for more information about all meetings except the Viticulture Field Day.

For 2013, Paul Jenkins has arranged a series of online webinars covering a range of topics for grape growers. More information will be on the grapes.msu.edu website and through Paul’s email list as the details are finalized. Scheduled webinar dates and topics are:

- **April 17th, Annemiek Schilder**— Disease Management Webinar
- **May 1st, Dan McCole**— Tasting Room Research Webinar
- **June 26, Rufus Isaacs**— Grape Berry Moth Webinar
- **Fall, 2013, Matt Grieshop**— webinar on cultivation research

### Critical Spring Temperatures (°F) for Concord grapes

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<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Dormant</th>
<th>1st swell</th>
<th>Late swell</th>
<th>Bud burst</th>
<th>1st leaf</th>
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### Critical spring temperatures (°F) for strawberries

- **Buds emerged**: 10
- **Buds closed bloom**: 22-27
- **Small fruit**: 28

### Critical spring temperatures (°F) for blueberries

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Bud burst</th>
<th>Pink bud</th>
<th>Open flower</th>
<th>Petal fall</th>
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### Critical Spring Temperatures (°F) for tree fruit stages compiled by Mark Longstroth, MSUE Horticulture educator

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<tr>
<th>Fruit</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Silver tip</th>
<th>Green tip</th>
<th>Inch green</th>
<th>Tight cluster</th>
<th>First pink</th>
<th>Full pink</th>
<th>First bloom</th>
<th>Full bloom</th>
<th>Post bloom</th>
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MSU Extension online field crop and forage highlights scheduled for March 14th and 21st

Producers and agribusiness professionals who haven’t been able to travel to Michigan State University Extension’s recent winter programs have no need to worry. Participants will receive condensed highlights from winter programs regarding grain and forage production, pest management and drought recovery in 2013. On Thursday evenings, March 14th and 21st MSUE will offer Online Crop and Forage Highlights addressing key production points for 2013 in a condensed virtual format. These programs will run from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm EST and can be viewed independently online at no cost over a high-speed internet connection. Those unable to access the programs online can attend one of several group viewing sites throughout the state for $10 per person. The Benton Harbor Extension office, 1737 Hillandale Rd, is the local viewing site. Other sites are available in Bellaire, Escanaba, Grand Rapids, Monroe, Ontonagon, Rogers City, Sault Ste. Marie, St. Johns, Tustin, and West Branch.

The March 14th program will focus on enhancing corn and small grain systems in the coming season by addressing emerging production and pest management issues. Presentations will include tips for maximizing corn production from Purdue University corn specialist Dr. Bob Nielsen, small grain production pointers from MSUE educators Martin Nagelkirk and Jim Isleib, a weed management report from Dr. Christy Sprague of MSU, and an insect pest update by MSU Extension’s Bruce MacKellar.

The March 21st program will address agronomic, economic and environmental aspects of forage systems. Purdue’s Dr. Bob Nielsen will give a presentation on corn silage production, followed by Dr. Kim Cassida of MSU Extension and her discussion of drought recovery management for forages, a presentation on cost of production by MSU Extension’s Phil Kaatz, and an introduction to MAEAP verification for forage and livestock systems by Josh Appleby.

Central to Dr. Nielsen’s presentations will be a discussion of how growers can increase corn yields in the near term by identifying the unique Yield Influencing Factors (YIFs) that most significantly impact production in their fields. There are countless potential YIFs that affect corn yield, and determining which factors are most important in a particular field is no easy task. For this reason Dr. Nielsen recommends framing your search within the context of corn yield components including plants per acre (population or “stand”), ears per plant (degree of barrenness), kernels per ear (potential vs. actual), and weight per kernel. “Focusing on these yield components will help you narrow your search to specific periods of the growing season simply because the various yield components are “determined” or “set” at different times of the growing season” said Nielsen. If yield in a particular field appears to be limited by insufficient plant population, for example, YIFs that impact seedling emergence and survival such as soil compaction, planting date and starter fertilizer would be likely candidates for improvement.

According to Nielsen the most prevalent YIFs worldwide are those related to water management. Many corn producers are considering ways to conserve soil moisture or provide supplemental water in 2013 following last year’s drought. While these YIFs are certainly important in times of limited precipitation, Nielsen will also remind growers that particular YIFs may not be important every year in a given field. As we move through the 2013 growing season insufficient soil drainage may instead prove to be a key YIF in Michigan fields.

To learn more about YIFs and other production points for 2013 register for MSU Extension’s Online Crop and Forage Highlights at events.anr.msu.edu/GrainAndForageWebinarSeries. Details on viewing site locations are also available there. Once registered, online participants will receive an email containing a link to connect to the programs. Each event will offer MAEAP Phase I and two MDARD Pesticide Recertification credits for application to the Private Core, Commercial Core or Field Crops categories.

For additional information or assistance contact James DeDecker at (989) 734-2168 or dedecke5@msu.edu. Call (989) 734-2168 by March 7th, 2013 to request accommodations for persons with disabilities. Requests received after this date will be fulfilled when possible.
We’re on the web!  www.msue.msu.edu/berrien
We’re happy to send you a print copy by mail or email to let you know when the newsletter has been posted to the web.  If you prefer to be notified by email when this newsletter is posted to the web, send your request and email address to us at: msue.berrien@county.msu.edu or phone us (1-269-944-4126) with your request and email address. Our new fax number is: 269-944-4128

"Piled higher and deeper"—a guide to on-farm composting workshop scheduled for April 10, 2013 from 1 pm until 5 pm at SWMREC (Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center)

Have you been looking for solutions to manage the cull piles and vegetable waste that accumulate at your farm every year?

Would you like to find a method other than burning to dispose of brush generated by pruning operations?

During “Piled Higher and Deeper”, a beginner’s guide to on-farm composting, you will learn how to recycle plant waste and use it to create your own ‘black gold’—a soil amendment that when made properly will increase soil organic matter, provide micronutrients and increase retention of soil moisture.

The workshop, led by MSUE’s Beth Clawson, will cover biology and core principles of composting, site design, management and operations, precautions when making and using compost, the economics of composting and troubleshooting. Handouts and light refreshments are included in the registration cost of $30.00. Deadline to sign up is Friday, April 5th. Reserve your space in this workshop to learn how you can begin creating your own “black gold”.

On-farm composting workshop, April 10, 2013 1-5 pm
Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center, 1791 Hillandale Rd., Benton Harbor, MI 49022 $30/person

Name_______________________________________
Name_______________________________________
Address______________________________________
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Amount enclosed_______________________________
Number attending × $30

Mail to Berrien County MSUE 1737 Hillandale Rd., Benton Harbor, MI 49022 with a check for $40/person payable to: Michigan State University Extension. Questions? Phone Berrien Co. MSUE, 269-944-4126 or email rytlesl1@anr.msu.edu

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