High Density Tart Cherry Orchard in Southwest Michigan

Ed Oxley
Oxley Farms
Lawton, MI
Oxley Farms

Primarily Juice and Wine Grape Growers
Lawton/Marcellus area

As grape growers, Oxley Farms used to utilizing equipment to manage efficiently
Korvan / OXBO self propelled Spindle/tine shaker (commercial blueberry harvester – unmodified)

Top View

Dotted branches are recyclable, maintained within the 2’ - 3’ threshold for O.T.R. harvest. Jamie Burns, Res. Assistant, MSU, BSAE
Horticultural Practices

- Bush form
- Recycling branches
- Avoid branches perpendicular to row

Ed Oxley was presented with a catastrophic problem, April 2010 Hail Damage Event

- 3 yr old Montmorency Orchard, planted 19X19’
- 50 acres south of Lawton
- Trees damaged severely from hail.
- Restarted 20 acres by heading at 1.5 ft height and develop into bush for Over the Row harvesting for the future.
- April 2011 inter-planted tree rows = 6x19’
You think that the damage on the surface, is not too bad, then M. Longstroth peeled back bark!!!

2009 Trial at George Wright’s Orchard, Belding
Ed Oxley traveled from SW Michigan to watch our work with Oxbo 9000
2010 Trial with BE! machine at Cherry Bay Orchard, Hartford; Ed Oxley observed

Return visit 5/26/10, few weeks after making heading cuts

Some response good

Some response poor
Most trees by October forced Adventitious laterals shoots

A small percentage did not respond

Spring 2011, 30 acres removed that were not headed
Spring 2011, 20 acres headed in 2010

April 2011; Inter-planted with Montmorency trees

Bush formed trees in Nursery
Oxbo (Korvan) 9000
Retro-fitting for orchard

Over-The-Row
Grape pruning
Apply to cherries??