

Department of  
Horticulture  
  
MICHIGAN  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# COMPACT FRUIT TREE

ROOTSTOCK BEHAVIOR

SPUR TYPES

INDUCED DWARFING

CULTURAL PRACTICES

THE INTERNATIONAL DWARF FRUIT TREE ASSOCIATION

No. 6 December - 1985. Prepared by Robert F. Carlson

The IDFTA Conference in Cleveland  
Sunday, March 2 to Wednesday March 5, 1986

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Registration for the meetings will begin Sunday, March 2 at 2 pm and continue until 8:00 pm. Sunday evening (8:00-10:00) an interesting session on fruit culture in Europe will be explained by researchers, showing with color slides, cultural methods of peach, apple, pear and cherry. Ample time is allowed for questions.

The detailed rootstock - cultural program will begin at 9:00 am Monday and Tuesday and continue until 5:00 pm each day. During the 2 days 30 speakers (growers and researchers) from many fruit areas will discuss subjects from burr knots to budding to rootstock performance with cultivars, and responses to varied climatic conditions.

The split sessions Monday evening from 8:00 to 10:00 will cover specialty topics not included in the 2-day educational program. In the stone fruit session, Dr. Layne from Harrow, Canada will tell us of new peach and apricot introductions at that station; Stuart Constable, grower from Pennsylvania will discuss important basic principles of growing quality peaches; Dr. Ridley of Clemson, South Carolina will explain peach production in that state; Dr. Crassweller, Pennsylvania State University, will discuss new cherry strains on different rootstocks; and, Dr. Flore, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, will talk about tolerance of sour cherry to wet conditions.

Session II Monday evening is devoted to rootstocks and varied cultural techniques. The topics in this session are varied and will cover subjects of winter injury on interstems; indoor fruit culture; the "axe" tree training system (a film); bringing trees into bearing; and fire blight in pears. The speakers in this session come from Quebec, Canada, Iowa, Michigan, New York and Ohio.

Our guest speakers from Europe come to us with much knowledge about rootstocks, growing practices, new cultivars for fruit crops and descriptions of fundamental difference in tree training and orchard management in the countries they represent.

For example Gerry White from East Malling, England, joined the research station in 1954 where he has researched fruit tree nutrition, soil management, weed control, replant problems, orchard systems, integrated research orchard and related subjects. He comes to Cleveland with practical information for the fruit industry.

Viktor Trajkovsky comes with a knowledge of plant breeding which he has applied in the development of hardy useful fruit tree rootstocks and cultivars. He is director of the fruit breeding station at Balsgard, Sweden. One of his aims is developing dwarfing rootstock clones for cherries and plums. In this connection he also had several new cultivar selections of spur type nature as well as dwarfing forms.

Jef De Coster, Sint Truiden, Belgium is director of the National Fruit Research Station. Some of his past activities include: working with farmers organizations; director of Hageland fruit auction; advisor (extension) in Horticulture; and manager of the Glabbeek research testing farm. He also has worked closely with the development of the new cherry rootstock trials at the Gembloux station. Jef will update these developments during the conference. Each of these guests will speak twice during the 3 day program.

At the Tuesday night banquet, Paul Larsen, current director of extension at Utah State University will talk of changes and needs in research and extension for a healthy fruit industry in the future. His title is: "Greening to Granny--what comes next? Some thoughts on the past and signs of the future." Paul is a friend of the fruit industry--past, current and future. So come and get re-acquainted with our good "co-hort-grower" friend.

An interesting ladies program is planned for Tuesday. There will be a luncheon as well as learning more about unique downtown Cleveland. See the program for details.

The orchard tour Wednesday March 5 will leave the hotel at 8:00 am and return there at 3:00 pm. Three orchards will be visited where anyone will be given a chance to demonstrate latest pruning techniques. A delicious lunch at one of these 3 stops will be part of the orchard tour package. A detailed descriptive handout of each orchard will be available at the registration desk.

Acknowledgement: As members of this Association we extend a sincere thanks to the speakers who come from far and near to be an integral part of this 29th annual educational meeting. All of us are eager to be in Cleveland, Ohio to learn from, and of, your experiences presented during the 3-day conference.

#### THE PASSING YEARS

The Dwarf Fruit Tree Association in 1959 evolved from a fruit industry need. It was not known at that time whether or not the dwarf or semi-dwarf tree would fit into commercial use. Hence, the need for more information about their use was sorely required prior to adaptation in the orchard.

The DFTA was organized to assemble available information, and met to spread the word of the possible use of "smaller than standard trees" in the commercial orchard. The seed sown grew to NDFTA and later to the current IDFTA.

Those of us around during the first years until now, know well the early years of this unique Growers Association. It has solved many needs of transferring from the use of large trees to the efficient smaller compact trees. True, but there is much yet to do in this evolution of a changing industry, such as, evaluations of new rootstocks, cultivars, tree training techniques, and orchard efficiency and management.

Personally, I am proud to be a member and to have been of service to this Association. This is my last Newsletter and with it goes best wishes for future success...Robert F. Carlson.

1986 MSU FRUIT SCHOOL;  
Orchard Cost Analysis and Orchard  
Floor Management

A one week fruit school is planned for January 27-31, 1986 at the Kellogg Biological Station near Battle Creek, Michigan. One and one-half days will be devoted to orchard cost analysis by Dr. Mike Kelsey of Michigan State University and Mr. Bill Gerling, Manager, LaMott Fruit Farms, NY. Dr. David Atkinson of Aberdeen, Scotland will cover orchard floor management during the remaining two and one-half days. The enrollment fees covering rooms, board and a notebook are \$240.00 for Michigan residents and \$270.00 U.S. for non-residents. The enrollment is limited to the first 110 people. Contact Dr. Ron Perry, coordinator, Horticulture Department, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824, (517) 353-6789.

THE 1986 ORCHARD SUMMER TOUR

The 1986 IDFTA Orchard Summer Tour will be held in western Michigan from Monday to Thursday, June 16-19. Dr. Ron Perry, Horticulture Department, Michigan State University, and Dr. Paul Rood, IDFTA board member from Michigan are co-chairpersons for the tour which will be headquartered with dormitory facilities at Western Michigan University.

Tour participants will be treated to seeing a wide array of fruit crops and culture which represents Michigan's diverse fruit industry. The program will begin Monday evening, June 16, with registration and a Michigan welcoming at Western Michigan University. The tour will start Tuesday with a visit to medium and high density apple plantings and a packing plant in the Grand Rapids area. Lunch will be followed by a tour of fruit research plantings at the 400 acre Clarksville Hort. Research Station. Apple, peach, and cherry orchards will be highlighted on the second day in the Paw Paw and Eau Claire (southwestern) area and concluded with a Michigan "Fish Boil" at Van Buren State Park. An additional day is being planned for an optional tour of the Michigan small fruit industry, followed by an afternoon visit to one of the midwest's largest orchard equipment shows, annually held at the Michigan State University Trevor Nichols Experimental Farm. A descriptive handout with

details of the orchard tour will be available at the IDFTA meeting in Cleveland, Ohio in March. Registration forms and details will also be included in the upcoming issues of Compact Fruit Tree.

#### Uniform Rootstock Trials

Have you ever asked the question; does rootstock 'A' adapt and perform well in my area of a different climate and soil? In the past, we have had only limited information about the adaptability of a particular rootstock to a specific area. Now, however, there are "vehicles" and their "drivers" which are developing projects that allow the evaluation of numerous rootstocks in different geographical areas, simultaneously. The "vehicle" in North America is the NC 140 regional pome and stone fruit project. The "drivers" are researchers in various states in the U.S. and Canadian provinces. Apple and peach plantings are currently under evaluation and cherry and pear plantings are slated for 1987 and 1988, respectively.

The cherry planting is taking on international enthusiasm. The clones planned for test is NC 140 are the revolutionary interspecific hybrids originating from breeding programs in Belgium and West Germany. Several of these clones can dwarf sweet cherries by 30-70% of standard. Researchers in several countries in Europe also are planning a similar project for planting in 1988. Dr. S.J. Wertheim, a featured speaker at the 1985 IDFTA meeting in Washington is organizing a uniform rootstock trial which will be established in Norway, Denmark, West Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, France and England. Five sweet cherry cultivars will be propagated on three Belgium clones, four clones from Giessen, West Germany and two "Weihroot" clones from West Germany. Schattenmorelle' sour cherry will be propagated on a similar set of rootstocks for a separate planting. Mazzard clone F12/1 will be the standard rootstock. While these plantings are limited in scope and size they remain beneficial. These cooperative tests will determine the geographical limitations and environmental constraints of each rootstock. Annual progress reports and meetings will keep growers informed of results from these collaborative research projects related to the use of various clones....Ron Perry, MSU.

#### EUROPE 1986--FRUIT TREE STUDY TOUR

Dates: June 29 - July 20

The tour will start in Bulgaria and continue to Hungary, Germany and France. The main purpose is to get acquainted with fruit growing trends and new culture techniques in these countries. Also, it involves a free exchange of ideas between those traveling and growers and researchers contacted in the four countries. For more information contact: Ann Allen, College Travel, 130 West Grand River, East Lansing, MI 48823, telephone: 517-351-6010 or R.F. Carlson, Horticulture, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824, telephone: 517-355-5200.

## SPECIAL IDFTA Fares on United Airlines

### Offer Savings on Travel to CLEVELAND

United has joined with the International Dwarf Fruit Tree Association to offer special air fares (not available to the general public) when you attend the conference in Cleveland and travel between Feb. 28 and March 9, 1986.

To obtain a 30 per cent discount from the applicable standard coach (Y class) fare with no minimum stay restrictions, or (for those staying over a Saturday night, even greater savings) a 45% discount off United's standard coach fare, simply follow these easy steps:

1. Either you or your preferred travel agent phone United's toll free number at (800) 521-4041 (48 contiguous states) or (800) 722-5243 ext. 6608 for Alaska and Hawaii. Call daily between 8:30 AM and 8:00 PM.
2. Immediately reference the special IDFTA account number 665M.
3. United's specialists will provide information and make reservations for all flights and fares, including the special IDFTA fare is available on United flights within the United States.
4. You may purchase your tickets from a local travel agent, or United will mail them to your home or office. Which ever means of ticketing you choose, the special IDFTA fare can only be obtained when the reservation is initiated by telephone through your special United 800 number, and ticketed in the U.S.

In addition, IDFTA attendees who obtain their flights on United (as outlined above) will be eligible for a special drawing. The prize: two complimentary roundtrip tickets good for travel before May 31, 1987 (holiday periods excluded).

Seats are limited, so call early for best availability. Fares are guaranteed at time of ticket purchase. Why not call today?