

COMPACT FRUIT TREE

THE INTERNATIONAL DWARF FRUIT TREE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 1

FOUNDED JANUARY 1958

CONFERENCE 2001—GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

This year's IDFTA conference returns to its Michigan roots where it was founded in 1958.

The program features three international experts, Dr. Chris Atkinson from Horticulture Research International, East Malling, England; Dr. Tom Deckers from Belgium and Martin Balmer from Germany. Each has traveled extensively to study fruit growing and has tremendous expertise in intensive orchard management. Dr. Atkinson is a rootstock researcher whose goal has been to understand how rootstocks work. He has studied apple, pear and cherry root systems, including root pruning, root restriction and drought sensitivity. Dr. Tom Deckers, head of the Department of Pomology at the Royal Research Station at Gorseme, has conducted research on fruit set, thinning, flower bud quality and tree training systems of pear and apple, tree nutrition and fire blight control. Martin Balmer is an expert in high density sweet cherry orchard management. He has studied dwarfing rootstocks, planting densities and tree training systems for

sweet cherry. He has traveled extensively to study cherry production systems throughout Europe.

Martin Balmer will be the key speaker for a half-day session on high density sweet cherry orchard management. Complementing his European perspective will be presentations by Drs. Greg Lang and Ron Perry from Michigan, Lynn Long from Oregon and Steve Hoying from New York.

Honeycrisp, the Minnesota apple variety, will be a featured topic at the conference. Eight speakers (researchers, growers and marketers) will take part in a discussion of such topics as thinning, color enhancement, sunburn management, tree training, nutrition, handling, storage and marketing. If you want to learn more about Honeycrisp, this 3-hour session will be a "must attend."

This issue of *Compact Fruit Tree* includes the full program for the conference in Grand Rapids (pages 2-3).

It is time to make your plans to attend the IDFTA conference in Grand Rapids. See you there February 17-21, 2001.

IDFTA CALENDAR

Annual Conference
Feb. 17-21, 2001
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Summer Tour
June 16-19, 2001
Hood River, Oregon

European Tree Fruit Study Tour
South Tyrol, Italy, Bodensee district,
Southern Germany and more (see pgs. 4-5)
July 6-18, 2001

Annual Conference
Feb. 16-22, 2002
Grand Hotel
Kelowna, B.C., Canada

Summer Tour
June 2002
Nova Scotia, Canada

Table of Contents

- 2 44th Annual
Conference Agenda
- 4 IDFTA European
Tree Fruit Study Tour
- 6 Successful Fire Blight
Control is in the Details,
D.I. Breth, M.V. Bhaskara
Reddy, J. Norelli and
H. Aldwinckle
- 12 Fire Blight of Apple
Rootstocks, J. Norelli,
H. Aldwinckle, T. Momol,
B. Johnson, A. DeMarree, and
M.V. Bhaskara Reddy
- 16 The 2000 Fire Blight
Epidemic in Southwest
Michigan Apple Orchards,
M. Longstroth
- 20 Sweet Cherry Orchard
Management with
Dwarfing Rootstocks
in Germany, M.S. Weber
- 23 Intensive Sweet Cherry
Orchard Systems—
Rootstocks, Vigor,
Precocity, Productivity
and Management, G. Lang
- 27 California Apple
Production—Beginning
the 21st Century,
S. Blizzard and K. Kidd
- 29 Apple Production Trends
in Europe, J. Wilton
- 32 Conversion Chart