



*Barely bearing
Cool June 2022
In the PNW*

*alpine
strawberries*

the Urban Scion Post

a publication of the Seattle Tree Fruit Society,
a chapter of the Western Cascade Fruit Society

Dear STFS members,

On May 14th, we were treated to another excellent presentation from Lori Brakken. Lori began the (zoom) presentation while walking through her finely manicured and productive Belgian Fence orchard, then settled in her office to finish. Lori has ID'd apples (and pears) from California to British Columbia. She discussed the factors involved in her analysis and determination of varieties. "All parts of the fruit" are important, Lori said. Even such features as the stem length and width have merit in making these variety determinations. We did record the presentation and will make it available to anyone interested.

We are planning a field day at the demonstration orchard at Magnuson Park on June 18th (10:00 to 1:00ish). As usual, we will prune, thin fruit, and apply fruit barriers (footies and netting), as well as weed and mulch.

The Board is working to schedule one or two summer home orchard tours this year. Please contact us if you are interested in participating. We also hope to have a Fall Fruit Show, most likely in conjunction with the Snohomish Fruit Club. We'll monitor the public health constraints and determine if such an event is viable.

I'd like to take a bit of time to mention our parent organization, the Western Cascade Fruit Society (WCFS). For those who are not familiar with our organizational structure, WCFS is the "umbrella" organization for nine regional chapters (clubs) throughout the Puget Sound area, of which STFS is one. A portion of each members annual dues are forwarded to WCFS. In return, WCFS provides liability insurance for all the chapters. It publishes the informative quarterly BeeLine publication, although this publication is currently on hiatus. WCFS also awards "mini-grants" for research projects and for other educational purposes. Some of the recent funded projects include Columnar Apple Cultivar Study & Development; Myrobalan Rootstock Compatibility and Growth Response study; Spotted Wing Drosophila Trap Design and Bait Longevity study; Educational Orchard Signage projects; Adara Interstem Compatibility and Vigor study on various stone fruits; Establishing Educational Orchard Blocks for Growers and Students west of the Cascades. All of these funded projects and studies are instrumental in furthering the missions of our related organizations. WCFS selects grant awards twice a year. If you, or anyone you know, has an exciting project in mind, please consider applying for a WCFS grant (www.wcfs.org/grants/). There are many other benefits of being connected to WCFS. However, the main benefit of WCFS, in my mind, is the camaraderie that is fostered among the members of the different chapters. You might have noticed that members of many different clubs come to STFS events, some traveling from quite far to do so. The various clubs share scionwood, knowledge, and other resources. It's a great community.

Last month I promised that I would discuss the status of sawfly larvae damage on my Ribes plants. But I decided that I'd rather not talk about it. Oh...OK...well....I got beaten to the first punch....but I'm fighting back.

Regards, Mike Ewanciw

Urban Scion Post

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On the cover

Many, extra [alpine strawberry plants](#) waiting to be planted as groundcover under pome trees in Port Orchard. Generally, in 2022, June-bearing strawberry plants in the PNW are producing ripe fruit several weeks behind schedule forcing the [2022 Marysville Strawberry Festival](#) (June 16-19) to use frozen instead of fresh berries. Photo taken 6/20/22.

2022 June Gloom By Marilyn Tilbury

It's hard to remember now but the spring of 2021 was the fourth driest spring on record. This year our cool, damp spring weather is predicted to continue into June. Folks not able to work from home are having to scramble to garden during brief dry periods measured by an hour or so, not several days. Turf grass, Himalayan blackberries and other weeds are loving it.

Ironically, we have to be more diligent than usual to move our osmia nest blocks to a safe, warm place now to spend the summer. Why? This was a most difficult spring for them, their reproduction was down and therefore the developing bees in their cocoons are individually and collectively at more risk from predators. Best to store them hole-side-up in your home or in a screened place outside safe from mice and insect predators.

This same strategy also applies to thinning and applying maggot barriers to fruitlets. Last year was a good one for fruit *and* fruit pests, but this year some trees have little or no fruit set. This means that overwintered apple maggot and codling moth populations will be out in force targeting what fruit there is. Try to thin and protect fruit ASAP.

A cheap and effective apple maggot trap is a store bought Red Delicious apple skewered onto coat hanger wire and coated with brush-on Tangle Trap. Apple maggots have fruit preferences just like we do and are especially attracted to Red Delicious. If you grow Melrose and still have some refrigerated, these will be equally effective as traps. Place these sticky apple traps at eye level on the sunny side of the tree where they can easily be seen by the apple maggots. Simply discard when they rot or become covered with maggot flies.

Poor fruit set of some trees means we may need to summer prune them at the end of next month if lack of a fruit load results in vigorous growth. The universal dampness this spring was a boon for apple scab on both leaves and fruit of susceptible cultivars. It is theoretically

possible to spray for this fungal disease but rain quickly washes off protection.

Try to remove the gray powdery mildewed shoots while thinning and bury them or ship out in green cycling, otherwise more powdery mildew spores will emerge with each damp period to infect more shoots. The state wine commission gives out research grants each year. One grant this year is to study whether supplemental ultra violet light in vineyards can control powdery mildew without sprays. Perhaps we should be alert to this disease this year in our grapes—there hasn't been much UV getting thru.

Have you noticed that it seems to be getting harder to successfully grow fruit and veggies? We can adapt by growing small trees and erecting frames around them to support bird, insect, rain or sun screens as needed. Future water concerns argue for installing drip irrigation as well. We hope you haven't encountered the neat 45° cuts in veggie shoots this spring, a hallmark of our growing rabbit population. Fencing, the neighbor's terrier or coyotes are remedies.

WSDA is serious about eradicating murder hornets. Homeowners in Whatcom Co. have told them that the hornets will repeatedly visit paper wasp nests to remove their larvae. Since these nests are a powerful attractant WSDA is asking all of us to keep a beady eye on any paper wasp nests on our property and tell them if we observe any Asian giant hornet activity.

Not sure what a paper wasp nest looks like? WSU has a free online fact sheet on them, [FS152E](#). Interestingly, the paper

wasp now dominant here is a newcomer, the European paper wasp, *Polistes dominulus*. It supplanted our native *P. aurifer* in the late 1990s. They often nest under porch entrances or roof overhangs and are not aggressive unless threatened, but their exposed nests are sitting ducks for the AGH. Unlike an aerial yellow jacket nest, there is no outer shell covering it. Rather, there are just exposed hexagonal cells of developing larvae which you can (carefully) peek into. Paper wasps are considered to be beneficial insects.

Hoping you experience a few nice (non-heat dome) days this month!

Not a Yellowjacket wasp



The European Paper Wasp

?? STFS backyard orchard tours summer 2022 update??

Updating the idea floated in the May 2022 USP newsletter: While several STFS members have emailed that they hope backyard orchard tours resume in summer 2022, no one has emailed offering to host a tour. As of June 26th, no dates and no places have been set. Past years' tours have occurred during June and July, but if you want to host in August or September, that should work.

As recently as summer 2019, STFS members opened up their backyard orchards for other STFS members to tour and get ideas for their own fruitful aspirations. Past tours have occurred on Saturdays in July. Two exceptional backyard orchardists have previously hosted multiple tours of their north Seattle metro (Edmonds & Lake Forest Park) Gardens of Eating.

At the 5/14/22 STFS zoom meeting, multiple attendees expressed interest in tours this summer. Two STFS members, one located near the UW Seattle campus and another in West Seattle near Burien offered to host tours in 2022.

If you're interested in hosting or coordinating backyard orchard tours, please contact Trent (email trelwing@gmail.com phone 206.517.3118) ASAP.

Freeze your male kiwi pollen in 2022 for emergency hand pollination in '23

Apologies again from the STFS editor here if June 2022 USP edition was issued too late to make use of the following info this year. Maybe next year though:

In early June 2022, several STFS members posted on the WCFS forum that their *Anna arguta* (hardy or kiwiberries) female kiwi plants grown in the north Seattle metro were blooming, but their adjacent *arguta* male kiwi plants had no blossoms. An alternate male kiwi pollen resource was being sought.

Almost all kiwi varieties are dioecious. Several online resources follow for growing different cultivars of kiwi plants and potential pollination challenges with dioecious kiwi plants:

[PNW Extension Service Publication "A Guide to Kiwiberries and Fuzzy Kiwifruit for Pacific Northwest Producers"](#) & [How to Tell the Gender of a Kiwi Plant \(sfgate.com\)](#)

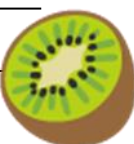
Male kiwi pollen can be harvested then stored/shipped for distant or delayed hand pollination of female kiwi blossoms that most likely won't be visited by an insect pollinator carrying and spilling male kiwi pollen. Kiwibob offered concise instructions for freezing kiwi male pollen to then be hand applied during next year's blossom. Paraphrasing here:

1. Choose the male kiwi pollen to be harvested and stored. Male *deliciosa* (fuzzy) pollen can be used to pollinate both *deliciosa* and *arguta* female blossoms. *Deliciosa* pollen is easier to collect than *arguta* pollen. Warning: *Arguta* male pollen won't pollinate *deliciosa* female blossoms.
2. Pick the male kiwi blossoms soon after they open in spring and definitely before the white petals begin to discolor,
3. Pluck (possibly with tweezers) the male anthers/pollen from remaining blossoms and place in shallow tray to air dry at room temperature several days.
4. Transfer male anthers/pollen into vials with tight fitting lids similar to old plastic 35 mm film canisters.
5. Label container with pollen description and date of harvest.
6. Place multiple containers in sealable Rubbermaid/Tupperware container or ziploc bag along with desiccant (silica gel pak).
7. Place pack of pollen vials into freezer until bloom time next year.

More helpful info from Kiwibob for at least *arguta* kiwi fruit growers in north Seattle metro:



Male *arguta* (hardy) kiwi plant blooming in 2019 Port Orchard



STFS Demo Orchard Update

Summary of June 18th Magnuson Park demo orchard upkeep and suggested future activities for this summer and beyond

STFS members arriving at the demo orchard event on June 18th may have initially been dismayed to find the demo orchard overgrown including the grass/weed alleyways normally mowed regularly in the past by Seattle Parks. Perhaps, Parks had participated in [Bee City USA's No Mow May](#) and forgot to turn the calendar.

Confronted with so much to do, event participants decided to focus on overdue pruning prioritizing the espaliers and free standing pome trees being fruitlet-thinned and draped with netting or covered with maggot barriers. Weeds were also cleared from underneath trees, and one volunteer demonstrated his full-in commitment by driving home and bringing back a weed whacker and mower to start reclaiming the alleyways.

STFS is thankful for work completed and training offered to others on June 18h by Tracey B., Laure J., Mostafa M., Sandy B., Marilyn T., Elaine H., Janet&John R., Naomi J., Melinda M., Mike E., Judy S., Linda S., Alex C., and Trent E. Apologies for any other June 18th volunteers overlooked and left off this list. Your help is greatly appreciated, also.

Please email Trent (trellwing@gmail.com) the number of hours you volunteered and activities completed; Seattle Parks will credit your sweat equity towards reduced room rental rates for STFS when hopefully STFS meetings return to in-person this fall.

Good news: While Seattle's cold damp spring surely has been unhelpful for fruit growing, these conditions probably have lessened the trauma suffered by five mature fruit trees transplanted into the demo orchard earlier this spring from Vagn Jensen's backyard. On June 18th, all five trees continued to not die and appeared to be well-rooted. Both apple trees had set fruit and several pieces were wrapped in maggot barriers.

Lost and Found: green/gray Land's End-brand jacket was left behind June 18th. To reclaim: Email Mike E. (mikewan@aol.com) who brought jacket home to hang onto until owner is found.

Volunteers who grabbed the free fig starts on June 18th: If you have no use for the black plastic square pots please eventually return to Trent. Thanks.



STFS Demo Orchard Update (cont.)

More still needs to be done, but the work completed June 18th is a step on the path to STFS's collective recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Not just wanted but needed: Immediate action plan for STFS demo orchard. For a number of years now, the STFS orchard committee has been an aspiration while orchard upkeep continues to be a challenging reality. On June 18th, several event participants made comments suggesting a willingness to right now do demo orchard maintenance on their own when they have the time. This has been done in the past with the result of a demo orchard more tidy than its current state.

Given all that should be done, what tasks need the most urgent attention? How about careful, deep weeding around the trunks of all fruit trees to a distance of each tree's drip line? Followed by sheet mulching maybe during a future work party? When should the next pruning event occur and what are the separate goals for the apple, pear, plum/gage and quince trees? Would it be worthwhile to paint and/or barrier wrap all or some trunks for protection from bug movement and rabbit gnawing? If Seattle Parks will no longer be mowing the grass/weed alleyways could an ambitious improvement be their elimination allowing fruit trees to grow into this space and fruit bushes, canes, groundcover and pollinator friendly plants (even better than **No Mow May**) grown in the narrowed alleyways?



3 native bumblebees foraging on Bee's Friend green compost crop May 2021 Port Orchard

Even if an orchard committee isn't formed, a STFS member coordinating volunteer demo orchard activities would help ensure important tasks are completed efficiently. If interested in being this STFS member or in need of more details, please email Trent E. (trelwing@gmail.com).

Pigshon in Port Orchard

Earlier this year, a small apple tree tagged as "Pigshon apple" and planted in Vagn Jensen's backyard was dug up by STFS members. Instead of being transplanted directly into the STFS demo orchard where 5 of Vagn's other larger fruit trees were plugged, Vagn's Pigshon is growing up in a pot offsite. Nursery mates include a Granniwinkle cider apple tree convalescing after a mauling by the demo orchard rabbits. Hopefully some scionwood will be available from both in coming years. STFS members: If you have background information on the Pigshon apple variety, please contact Trent E. (email trelwing@gmail.com phone/text 206.517.3118) whose lazy internet search for "Pigshon apple" produced zero related hits.

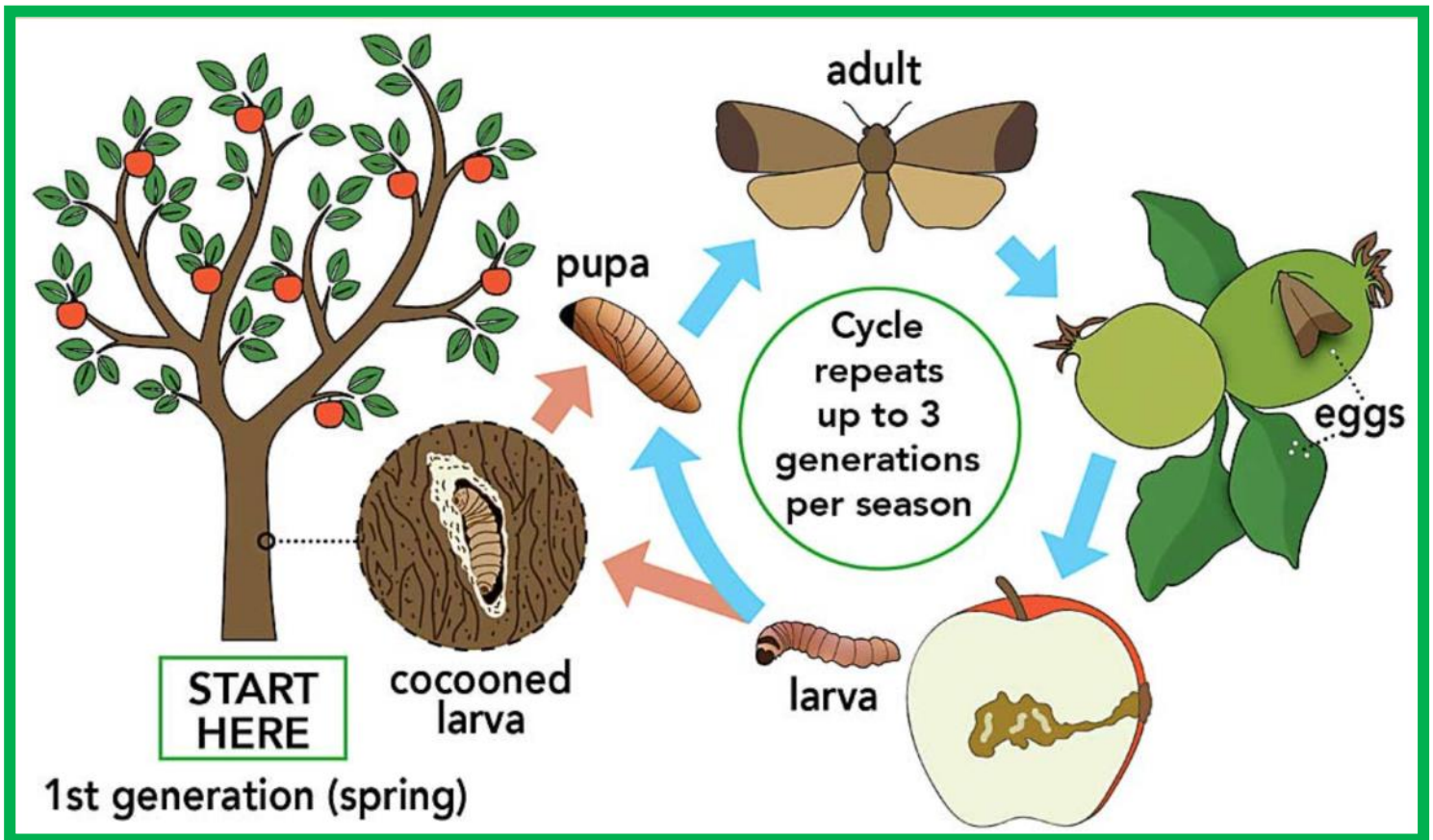


Vagn's Pigshon apple tree

Backyard Orchard Tasks to Finish Soon if not Already:

Thin tree fruitlet and apply protection against codling moth(CM) and apple maggot. Even if you think it's too late, doing both tasks still this year helps ensure consistent production this year and next. And codling moth produces multiple generations each summer in the PNW. Even if you have some damage already from this year's first codling moth generation, **NOT** thinning/removing extra fruitlets and covering/protecting remaining fruitlets allows codling moth populations the opportunity to increase this year with even more codling moth next spring. No related thinning/covering info in this USP edition so check out: [USP newsletter 39 05 2021 May](#) or [STFS maggot barrier webpage](#)

Codling moth life cycle diagram: Tired of reading about the codling moth life cycle? Here's a diagram from the [MAY 1, 2022 GOOD FRUIT GROWER](#) edition created by Rebecca Richter/Montana State University



What does a codling moth look like? Overheard June 18th at the demo orchard & paraphrasing: I'm not sure whether I'd recognize a female codling moth if she landed in my backyard orchard. From same [GFG edition](#): A live codling moth from the U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratory in Wapato, Washington. Photo credit: TJ Mullinax/Good Fruit Grower





the watering dilemma for home orchardists



If anything nowadays can still be predicted from the past, weather in the PNW dries out and heats up by the beginning of July. Along with much longer sunny daytime hours, less precipitation requires vigilant crop water use monitoring by PNW home gardeners and orchardists until rain probably returns this fall.

If 2022's unusually cool damp spring weather in the PNW has finally ended to be followed by long periods of rainless summer days, be wary of soil types that quickly dry out; Well-hydrated fruit plants growing in sandy soil may become parched soon enough even under cloudy skies.

Also be aware that some soil types become quickly saturated with water and too much soil water harms root tissue.

As described in the [WSU Master Gardener Manual](#): "Roots basically need two things: gaseous exchange for respiration and soil water with its dissolved mineral nutrients. If either air and/or water is lacking, the roots will not grow." "Where the soil is saturated with water, air is mostly excluded—as is the oxygen in the soil air. Respiratory carbon dioxide can not be eliminated and therefore accumulates in root tissue with serious side effects. In this case the roots generally grow more toward the surface and sometimes on top of the surface. Common causes for soil saturation include: a high water table; a hard, impenetrable layer somewhere below the surface with a secondary water table above it; very tightly compacted, poorly drained soil, a common occurrence in many developed residential areas; and just plain over watering, especially on poorly drained soils."



Sun/heat damage of under-watered Asian pear still in pot 6/25/22 Port Orchard

Somewhere on the continuum between drowning and dried out lies a soil water content promoting vegetative growth and producing the desired fruit load.

How much is enough but not too much? Home orchardists are often challenged due to limited time and materials available to invest in their small-scale fruit growing operation. Most commercial fruit orchards likely have hard-piped water irrigation/fertigation systems with flowmeters measuring application rates, a robust soil testing program, laser-leveled orchard blocks and other features helping to ensure that every drop of applied water reaches its prescribed destination. The average home orchardist may be able to mimic some of these tools before coming to the next challenge: deciding when and how much irrigation water to apply.



summer H₂Oing PNW home orchards

From **CSU Fact Sheet No. 4.715 Crop Water Use and Growth Stages**: "Crop appearance is considered one of many field indicators that can be used in irrigation scheduling. A crop suffering from water stress tends to have a darker color and exhibits curling or wilting. This is a physiological defense mechanism of the crop that is evident on hot, windy afternoons when the crop cannot transpire fast enough, even if the water is readily available in the soil. If the crop does not recover from these symptoms overnight, the crop is suffering from water stress. Any changes in crop appearance due to water stress may mean a reduction in yield."

Some basics on how fruit plants use water termed "crop water use" follow in this text from CSU Fact Sheet No. 4.715 Crop Water Use and Growth Stages: "Crop water use, also known as evapotranspiration (ET), is the water used by a crop for growth and cooling purposes. This water is extracted from the soil root zone by the root system, which represents transpiration and is no longer available as stored water in the soil. Consequently, the term "ET" is used interchangeably with crop water use. All these terms refer to the same process, ET, in which the plant extracts water from the soil for tissue building and cooling purposes, as well as soil evaporation. The evapotranspiration process is composed of two separate processes: transpiration (T) and evaporation (E). Transpiration is the water transpired or "lost" to the atmosphere from small openings on the leaf surfaces, called stomata. Evaporation is the water evaporated or "lost" from the wet soil and plant surface. Significant evaporation can take place only when the soil's top layer (1 to 2 inches) or when the plant canopy is wet. Crop water use (ET) is influenced by prevailing weather conditions, available water in the soil, crop species and growth stage." Summarizing: "Water stress during critical growth periods reduces yield and quality of crops. Crop water use (ET) at critical growth stages can be used in irrigation scheduling to avoid stressing crops. Crop water use (ET) is weather dependent as well as soil, water and plant dependent. (Do this:) Periodically check soil water at different depths within the root zone and at different growth stages to avoid stressing the crop during critical growth stages."

GROWING FRUIT TREES THAT THRIVE recommends "newly planted fruit trees should be watered deeply at least twice a week during the growing season for the first year or two after they are planted in the ground. Watering is essential to keep your tree hydrated. But it's also key in keeping your tree well nourished. That's because fruit trees can only absorb the nutrients in the soil if they are in liquid form. So dry soil will lead to a malnourished tree. While watering your tree regularly is important, how you water your fruit tree matters too! That's because fruit trees are vulnerable to fungal diseases, and excess moisture on the bark, branches and leaves can make those problems worse.

HINTS ABOUT HOW TO WATER YOUR TREE:

1. Water the roots, not the branches, leaves or bark! The roots are the only part of the tree that can absorb water.
2. Avoid sprinkler systems that will water the entire tree as the excess moisture on the branches and leaves can encourage fungal diseases.
3. Water all around the tree's roots on all sides of the tree to ensure all the roots are hydrated.
4. Fruit trees need to be watered deeply and slowly - try using soaker hoses looped around the base of your tree so that the water can slowly soak into the ground.

With 2+ years of COVID-19 pandemic limiting in-person events, newer STFS members may have not yet met Laure Jansen who was the main editor of the USP newsletter for 12 years up to the beginning of 2021. Along with editor duties, Laure wrote numerous articles chockful full of helpful advice and informative/entertaining content. Thanks, Laure for all your efforts towards educating STFS members and carrying out STFS's mission.

Below is Laure's advice on watering (aka irrigation scheduling) your young fruit trees reprinted from the June 2015 USP draft edition not included in the final edition:

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE.... By Laure Jansen

Newly-grafted fruit trees do not require much additional water until the weather turns warm and the new growth is between 2 and 12 inches. When the leaf canopy begins to increase significantly in the summer, you may need to begin watering several times a week. Estimates of water use vary but fall between one and five gallons per week if the tree is not mulched.

Check the soil in the root zone by poking a finger down into the soil. The root zone (4-6 inches down) should be moist but well-drained. If the top two inches are completely dry and dusty or hard, you will need to water. Use your best judgement, depending on the soil type and precipitation which will effect how much additional water you will need.

It has been suggested that 5 gallons equals about 1" of rainfall. If you don't have a soaker hose with a flow meter, you can drill a couple 3/16" holes in the bottom of a 5-gallon bucket and set it next to the tree (or between trees in a nursery row).

A newly planted nursery tree (a two-year or three-year old) needs lots of water as they establish themselves in the soil. Immediately after planting, water thoroughly to help the soil settle around the fruit tree's root-ball. Shallow soakings on a regular basis tend to stimulate the development of shallow root systems, which may not be sturdy or healthy enough to support fruit trees once they reach maturity. Thoroughly soaking the soil around your fruit trees every other week is a much smarter plan.



If handwatering by wand & long hose, make every drop (and moment spent) count by using water retention features

As a tree grows older, after the first few years, its roots become established, and tree's water use changes from "survival and growth" to "fruit size and quality". Timely waterings, especially during droughts and dry summer weather, become more critical. Trees in this age range can use up to 25 gallons a week.

Mature fruit trees that are semi-standard or standard trees will develop a roots system deep enough to take advantage of some groundwater, unless you live in a particularly sandy area or an area with a very low water table. These trees may still need a thorough soaking on a regular basis - either from gardeners or from natural rainfall - to bear juicy fruit.

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE.... (cont.)

Mulching around fruit trees helps the soil retain moisture, while drip irrigation systems can encourage fruit trees to produce dense, healthy roots and drink enough water for juicy fruit production.

Note that mature trees that are on very dwarfing rootstock may need weekly watering as their root system can be quite small compared to standard trees. The exact amount of water a fruit tree needs depends on the type of tree, its size and the temperature outdoors or in the greenhouse.

Although estimates vary, on the average a semi-dwarf fruit tree of medium size consumes about 16 gallons of water per day. To keep track of how much water you're giving your fruit trees, you can measure with carefully-controlled drip irrigation or a flow meter.

Water thoroughly, but infrequently, for best results. Water-related stress occurs at both ends of the spectrum. Overwatering can cause yellowed leaves and defoliation. Underwatering can cause curled leaves and defoliation. Try to keep things at a happy medium: your trees will tell you what they need if they are unhappy!

References: <https://cesonoma.ucanr.edu/files/27167.pdf>

& <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8048.pdf>

The WSU Master Gardener Manual offers water irrigation advice for your backyard garden and orchard: "Most gardens in the Northwest require summer irrigation. The need for irrigation varies, depending on soil water-holding capacity, weather, site aspect, the plants grown, and their growth stage. In most cases, the goal of irrigation is to recharge the available water in the top foot or so of soil. For sandy soil, 1 inch of irrigation water is all you need. Any more will leach (move downward) through the root zone, carrying nutrients with it. A silt loam or clay soil can hold more than 2 inches of water, but you may need to irrigate more slowly to prevent runoff."

The WSU Master Gardener Manual includes additional instructions for home orchardists in eastern Washington which are likely applicable to hot, dry summer conditions in western Washington: "Proper irrigation is of great concern to home orchardists in eastern Washington where rainfall is normally well short of the amount needed to sustain fruit or nut tree growth. The amount of irrigation or drainage needed by fruit trees is highly dependent on soil type and soil profile. The best way to determine whether your irrigation set or the existing soil moisture is adequate is to manually dig down into the soil to the region occupied by the tree roots: 12 to 24 inches deep. Remove a sample of soil with a soil probe or a shovel. Squeeze a handful of soil into a ball.



Ground leveled underneath; Perforated plastic pan with lip surrounding plum tree trunk. Fill with mulch then water thoroughly, but infrequently.

summer H₂Oing PNW home orchards

If this soil ball crumbles when released, the soil is too dry and you need to provide more water. If the ball drips water when squeezed, there is more than enough water. The amount of water needed by a fruit tree will vary over the year.

In general, fruit trees will take up water from the onset of growth in the early spring to mid- to late September. Water needs are generally greatest during the summer months when daytime temperatures are highest and tree transpiration rates are the highest. Home orchardists may have to compensate for this greater demand for water by shortening their irrigation set or by supplying supplemental water.

During the summer months, even in western Washington, home orchardists should keep an eye out for leaf curling, wilting, or premature leaf drop over the entire tree canopy. These signs of tree stress can indicate either too little or too much soil moisture. Again, the best way to determine soil moisture is to dig down to the tree's root zone and physically assess the moisture in a handful of soil.

Remember that young, newly planted trees typically have an underdeveloped root system and a reduced ability to take up water. Thus watering young trees regularly and frequently in warm weather will help them get off to a better start; however, frequent and light watering will encourage the tree to develop a shallow root system. So as the fruit trees mature, less frequent and deeper watering is preferable.

In general, mature fruit trees can use a deep soaking from irrigation or rainfall every 7 to 15 days, depending on the season. Under-tree or drip irrigation is the preferred means to apply water to fruit trees.

Try to keep or minimize water from contacting the tree foliage, flowers at bloom, and fruit. This will reduce the incidence of many tree fruit disease problems. At the same time, avoid over-watering or excessive moisture near the base of the tree trunk as this can lead to crown and root rots."



Nursery black plastic pots partially buried around tree's root-ball. Drain holes partially plugged with fir cones. When watering, fill pots. By knowing pot volumes, water application rate can be estimated.



Old terra cotta tile or chimney flue used in lieu of plastic pots.

Honeyberry Orange Oat Scones

Contributed by Tracey Bernal

Honeyberry, or *Lonicera caerulea*/Blue Honeysuckle is one of the earliest fruits to ripen in the Pacific Northwest. Its mid-winter pale yellow blooms are beloved by the hummingbirds in our garden - our four different cultivars are conveniently located outside our picture window for optimum hummingbird viewing. The berries then typically ripen in late May- in this year of a near record cold spring, they are just ripening as I write this on June 6, 2022.

Honeyberry seems to be more widely known in Canada, where the fruit is grown as a small-scale commercial crop called haskap or haskap berry. [Edible Ottawa has an interesting article about a small farm that has begun growing haskap](#), along with some intriguing recipes using the fruit.

I discovered a number of other interesting recipes online, but decided to use an old favorite of mine for orange-oat scones, using only 1/2 Cup of the berries, which can be time consuming to harvest.

This is a simple and quick treat to prepare, but you may feel, as I did, that you are doing it wrong when you get to the part where you incorporate the berries into the dough. It is not a very tidy operation- the berries squish and smear until you finally get the dough into a purplish slippery round flat shape ready to cut into 6 scones before baking.



- 1 1/2 Cups flour**
- 1/4 Cup turbinado sugar**
- 1 teaspoon baking powder**
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda**
- 1 stick butter (1/2 Cup) cut up into small pieces**
- 1 cup whole rolled oats**
- Zest of 1/2 orange**
- Scant 1/2 Cup heavy cream or buttermilk**
- 2 Tablespoons coarse sugar or turbinado sugar for sprinkling (don't omit this because the berries are very tart)**

INGREDIENTS



Honeyberry Orange Oat Scones (cont.)

TASKS

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.
2. Combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, and baking soda in the bowl of a food processor and pulse until butter is pea sized (if doing by hand, cut the butter into the flour mixture using a pastry cutter/dough blending tool).
3. Transfer the dough to a medium bowl and stir in the oats, and orange zest, then stir in the cream until just moistened.
4. Gather the dough together into a flat squarish shape and sprinkle the berries over it, then press them into the dough, folding the dough if necessary to get them to stick. They will become very messy and slippery. Form the dough into a flattened round, pressing the berries in that have fallen off.
5. Sprinkle with the additional 2 tablespoons of sugar and then cut into six wedges.
6. Transfer to a baking sheet lined with parchment and then bake for about 15 minutes, or until lightly browned.



Note: my husband, who helped with the honeyberry harvest, proclaimed the scones a success; I was more critical of the results. I will probably use a good blueberry or huckleberry muffin recipe for the next honeyberry baking project. The berries' flavor is intense enough that you would need only one cup for a standard 12-muffin batch.

Still Needed NOW: WCFS BeeLine Editor



BeeLine editor assembles the quarterly newsletter from other authors' articles. The 9 WCFS chapters are expected to provide content. BeeLine editor also needs to find additional content from other publications like Good Fruit Grower. Ideally, the new BeeLine editor is proficient with Microsoft Publisher which is similar to PowerPoint and other Office software. Past BeeLine editions are available for review at the WCFS website (www.WCFS.org) under the "Resources" tab. Marilyn Couture, former BeeLine editor, emailed on 6/12/21 that BeeLine editor activities are rewarding and educational to all. Marilyn offered some initial mentoring for the new editor. Interested? Contact Ron (email ronweston09@comcast.net) or Marilyn(email marilyncouture1@gmail.com) directly. Past editors have volunteered their time, but with the position still open now for many months, WCFS representatives may realize that a nominal stipend may be necessary to fill this position. You won't know if you don't ask.

And Needed Soon (Jan 2023): WCFS Treasurer

Summarizing the 5/8/22 email from Ron Weston, WCFS President, to chapter presidents: Long-time WCFS Treasurer, Jerry Gehrke, is retiring from this volunteer position at the beginning of calendar 2023. Ron asks to please consider who amongst WCFS chapter members might make a good fit to pick up Jerry's duties in 2023. WCFS doesn't have the luxury of going without a WCFS Treasurer. Ron is confident that Jerry will coach any potential replacement candidate on what the job entails and see that she or he is equipped with the knowledge to succeed. For now, it is imperative that WCFS find the person for Jerry to mentor. Interested? Or know of someone who might be? Please contact Ron Weston, WCFS President, directly via email (ronweston09@comcast.net) ASAP.

Reminder: WCFS Forum is for All STFS Members.

STFS members are also automatically Western Cascade Fruit Society (WCFS) members and can join the WCFS digest/forum/list-serve. New STFS members are informed of this tool when they join, but longtime renewing members may not have been told recently. Apologies for this oversight. Mike Geiser (email oldfaithfulgeiser@gmail.com) manages the WCFS forum/list-serve. Thank you, Mike G. STFS members who belong to the WCFS forum receive around 50 emails per year From: main@wcfs.groips.io. **Too many emails or too little content of interest?** Each WCFS digest/forum email has instructions for dropping out. Some users' email accounts (possibly yahoo) may filter out WCFS forum emails as spam. Mike G. can answer other questions about WCFS forum logistics. **If you want to join the WCFS forum, please email Mike Geiser (email oldfaithfulgeiser@gmail.com) and request to be added to the distribution list.** Mike G. will send interested STFS members an email from main@wcfs.groips.io inviting them to accept participation in the WCFS forum.

At the risk of offending other STFS members by thinking all of us might not already know ...

Internet resources are linked to text and images contained in electronic USP newsletters. When connected to the internet with a USP newsletter pdf file open, readers clicking or ctrl clicking on linked text (usually a different color of font) and images should be immediately connected to related internet resources. But we probably already all know that.

STFS: Who Are We & What We Do

Western Cascade Fruit Society (WCFS), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded in 1980 & is made up of nine Western Washington chapters, including STFS, full of helpful hobby orchardists & backyard fruit growers.

STFS members receive automatic membership in WCFS. WCFS publishes a quarterly BeeLine electronic newsletter to inform members of events, tours, articles & reports. WCFS provides other member services, including an online member forum, an online chapter-wide event calendar & an online home for chapter sites. See www.wcfs.org.

Seattle Tree Fruit Society (STFS) is a chapter of WCFS. The purposes of STFS are listed in Article II of STFS By-laws amended & restated as of 18 January 2014:

STFS will bring together people ...

- 1) to promote & stimulate interest in growing fruit bearing trees, shrubs & vines in urban areas,
- 2) to encourage propagation of desirable fruit varieties suited to the local climate,
- 3) to disseminate pertinent horticultural information to its members & the general public through the use of fruit shows, orchard tours, meetings, seminars, workshops, publications & other media,
- 4) to provide financial & other support to our area's fruit research and/or projects, &
- 5) to join with other organizations in promoting tree fruit in the Western Cascade region.

STFS members share an interest in growing fruit & nut trees, berries, kiwis, grapes & other fruit. We offer information on adapted varieties, current growing techniques & share our own experiences growing fruit.

STFS members meet monthly from Sept to May usually in-person on a Saturday morning in Seattle's Magnuson Park. In-person meetings typically include speakers presenting on topics such as grafting, pruning, pest control, plant health & fruit preservation tailored to Western Washington growers. STFS members receive both the STFS online monthly newsletter Urban Scion Post (USP) & the WCFS online quarterly BeeLine. STFS is online at www.seattletreefruitsociety.com and www.facebook.com/SeattleTreeFruitSociety/

The STFS membership is Seattle Tree Fruit Society. The goals of STFS are achieved by STFS members. Please contact STFS representatives listed in this newsletter and communicate what STFS can do for you and what you can do for STFS. When more STFS members get involved, STFS does more & attracts more STFS members who get involved.

Background: Leaves of BB blood peach tree decimated by peach leaf curl when in more normal years very few leaves are infected. Photo taken 14 Jun 2022 in Port Orchard

Seattle Tree Fruit Society

seattletreefruitsociety@gmail.com

www.seattletreefruitsociety.com

www.facebook.com/SeattleTreeFruitSociety/

PRESIDENT Mike Ewanciw 206.683.9665

(2-year term expires Jan 2023)

VICE PRES. Tracey Bernal 206.913.3778

(2-year term expires Jan 2023)

SECRETARY Vacant—please volunteer

(2-year term expires Jan 20??)

TREASURER Trent Elwing 206.517.3118

(2-year term expires Jan 2023)

MEMBERSHIP Trent Elwing 206.517.3118

HOSPITALITY Judy Scheinuk 206.200.1483

scheinukj@gmail.com

STFS DIRECTORS

#1 - Laure Jansen

(3-year term expires Jan 2024)

#2 - Linda Sartnurak 425.271.6264

oilinda@yahoo.com

(3-year term expires Jan 2024)

#3 - Ed Scullywest 425.286.4030

(3-year term expires Jan 2024)

#4 - Rick Shultz rshultz@highline.edu

(3-year term expires Jan 2024)

#5 - John Roach

(3-year term expires Jan 2025)

#6 - Vacant—please volunteer

(3-year term expires Jan 20??)

#7 - Vacant—please volunteer

(3-year term expires Jan 20??)

USP NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Trent Elwing treling@gmail.com

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Orchard - Vacant—please volunteer

Events - Vacant—please volunteer

Programs - Vacant—please volunteer

Protect your Fruit with *Apple Maggot Barriers*

Seattle Tree Fruit Society (STFS), a Chapter of the Western Cascade Fruit Society, offers Maggot Barriers (MBs) as part of our educational mission promoting interest in growing fruit bearing trees, shrubs & vines in urban areas & disseminating pertinent horticultural information to the public.

Past versions of MBs have proven effective against apple maggot damage to fruit.

New Extreme MBs with heaviest thread count & squared-off stitched ends are expected to continue preventing apple maggot damage & also greatly reduce codling moth damage in home orchards of the Puget Sound area when used according to package instructions.

To order Extreme MBs, complete this form. **Become a \$TF\$ member & save \$6/pk.**
Visit www.seattletreefruitsociety.com for membership & other information.

APPLE MAGGOT BARRIER ORDER FORM

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|
| Name: | Phone: | Date Rec'd _____ Date Mailed _____ Processed by _____ |
| Address: | | |
| City, State, ZIP: | | |
| Email address: | | |

| | |
|--|--|
| 100 Extreme MBs per package | Enter quantity of packages ordered: Qty _____ |
| Are you a STFS member? | YES _____ or NO _____ |
| YES: \$12.00 per package of 100 MBs for STFS members | Qty X \$12 \$ _____ |
| NO: \$18.00 per package of 100 MBs for Nonmembers | Qty X \$18 \$ _____ |
| Shipping & Handling for first 1 or 2 pkgs | \$ 8.00 |
| Add \$8 S&H for each additional package after first 2 pkgs. | \$ _____ |
| US FUNDS ONLY <u>Please make checks payable to "STFS"</u> | TOTAL \$ _____ |

**Please US mail completed order form with payment to:
STFS c/o Linda Sartnurak, 17504 – 155th Ave SE, Renton WA 98058-9064**

Please complete the Shipping Label below:

**From: Maggot Barriers – STFS
c/o Linda Sartnurak
17504 – 155th Ave SE
Renton WA 98058-9064**

To:

| |
|--------------------------|
| Name: |
| Address: |
| City, State, ZIP: |

NEW MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL FORM

Seattle Tree Fruit Society

www.seattletreefruitsociety.com

A Chapter of the Western Cascade Fruit Society

www.wcfs.org

Name:

Phone:

Address:

City, State, ZIP:

Email address:

DUES (includes STFS and Western Cascade Fruit Society)

New Member – Regular Rate – \$25 _____

New Member – Limited Income or Student Rate – \$15 _____

Renewing – Regular Rate – \$25 _____

Renewing – Limited Income or Student Rate – \$15 _____

Optional: Donation to support fruit research (\$5 min) + _____

Optional: Donation (other purpose) (\$5 min) + _____

TOTAL _____

make checks payable to STFS., and mail with this form to:

STFS, c/o Trent Elwing,
1035 Alaska Ave E, Port Orchard, WA 98366

Our STFS club is run by and for our members - volunteers make things happen. If you would like to help, contact any Officer or Board member (see your newsletter) or email seattletreefruitsociety@gmail.com

How do I know when my annual STFS membership will expire?

Back in March 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic took hold, printed USP newsletters were USPS-mailed, and the STFS membership renewal date was printed above the mailing address of each member's hardcopy printed newsletter.

To minimize spread of the coronavirus causing COVID-19, USP newsletters are now electronic and emailed. A reminder to renew your STFS membership no longer is printed above the mailing address.

Depending upon when a STFS member joins, annual memberships expire at the end of March, June, September or December each year.

Trent Elwing, STFS membership coordinator, will email STFS members one month prior to an expiring STFS membership reminding of the need to renew shortly and how to renew.

**Need to know now? Contact Trent
(phone/text: 206.517.3118 email: trelwing@gmail.com)**