



Healthy Fruit

Volume 12, 2004

Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

Issue 1, March 22

Material Included in this Mailing

This brief issue of *Healthy Fruit* includes the 2004 subscription information (for individuals who have not already subscribed). Please note the changes outlined on the form. Secondly, the *2004 March Message* is included, as well as the update of the *New England Apple Pest Management Guide*. The next issue of *Healthy Fruit* will be the first of the growing season, including timely horticultural and pest-management topics.

IDFTA Conference/South Tyrol Photo Album – J. Clements

The 2004 International Dwarf Fruit Tree Association Annual Conference was held March 1-4, 2004 in Bolzano, Italy. I first visited the South Tyrol in 2001 on an IDFTA Study Tour. I was so impressed I had to go back -- and I did. I posted a photo album and some comments on the Fruit Advisor -- <http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/clements/2004idftaitaly/2004idftaitaly.html>. The South Tyrol is an impressive apple growing region, although quite unlike our fruit industry. Is it better? Yes, in many ways, but because of its top-down management structure and government controls, it is far less independent and could never be duplicated here. (Nor would we necessarily want to!) Still, there was a lot to learn. If you ever have the opportunity to go, you should.

Wildlife Damage Management

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services Program is available to assist tree-fruit growers with wildlife damage management throughout Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Wildlife Services may provide assistance obtaining permits and the development of a management plan specific to most fruit growers' needs. For more information, please contact Don Wilda at (413)253-2403 or email at Donald.J.Wilda@aphis.usda.gov.

Orchard Available

THE NATIONAL YIDDISH BOOK CENTER seeks assistance in maintaining an orchard of approximately 130 apple trees on its property located at 1021 West Street, Amherst Massachusetts, adjacent to Hampshire College. The Center is flexible as to an arrangement that will retain the beauty and accessibility of its grounds while achieving maximum production and utilization of the apple crop. Interested parties should contact Paul Page at (413) 256-4900, ext. 132.

Picture Phones – A Diagnostic Tool? – J. Clements

This winter Wes Autio and I both acquired LG VX6000 picture phones from Verizon Wireless. The thought was this technology has diagnostic potential -- you can snap a picture of a problem with the phone, and wirelessly from the field, "beam" the picture to another phone or send it via e-mail. Cool. Well, the picture quality is dubious, however, we can't imagine it won't get better in the near future. (Have you never heard of "upgrade?") In the meantime, if you are contemplating a new mobile phone, you might want to consider one of these. (Currently \$79.99 after rebate from Verizon.) If you do, send us a picture! J. Clements, 413-478-7219; W. Autio, 413-348-8557. For samples of some pictures taken by my phone, see <http://www.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/clements/lgvx6000/>.

Twilight Meetings

It is very difficult to believe that we are nearing the beginning of the 2004 growing season! Along with that comes the first round of Twilight Meetings. Although the locations are not yet finalized, you should put the following dates in your calendar: April 13 for the Western Massachusetts Twilight Meeting, April 14 for the Central/Northeastern Massachusetts Twilight Meeting, and April 15 for the Southeastern Massachusetts/Rhode Island Twilight Meeting (to be held in Rhode Island). Locations and other details will be distributed in *Healthy Fruit* in the next couple of weeks.