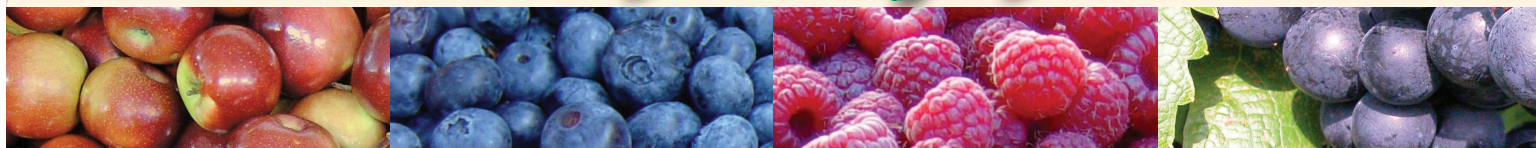


FACTS FOR *Fancy Fruit*



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2013 Season Overview

Weather

Winter: Winter was slightly warmer and wetter than normal. There were some temperature fluctuations throughout winter, but nothing severe enough to hurt fruit crops. December was on average warmer than normal with about normal precipitation. But there was a major blizzard during the last week of the month. January ended up warmer and wetter than normal. February was normal for both temperature and precipitation.

Spring: March averaged 20° F colder than 2012 and ranks 14th coldest on record. Precipitation was below average. April was slightly cooler than normal, but with much higher than normal precipitation, 7th wettest on record. There was considerable fluctuation in temperatures, keeping fruit crops mostly dormant. May was generally warmer and slightly drier than normal. Bud break for most crops was about normal. There were a couple of close calls on frost, but no significant damage.

Summer: June had normal temps and much above normal precipitation, 11th wettest on record. July was cooler than normal, though the third week was very hot and humid. July precipitation was below normal. August was a repeat of July with mild temperatures for three of the four weeks and one week of heat and humidity. Rainfall was below average and the cool temps greatly reduced severe weather events. That really helped improve quality in fruit crops.

Fall: September has been warm and dry, very good conditions for harvest of apples and grapes. Even fall bearing raspberries have done well, despite SWD.

Tree fruit (Peter Hirst)

Trees flowered heavily this spring as expected after very light crops last year (due to severe freeze damage). We advised growers to be aggressive with their thinning but many crops were under-thinned and cropped a little too heavily. Fruit size was down, and so were prices. Fruit quality has generally been good, except for being a little on the small side.

Diseases (Janna Beckerman and Bruce Bordelon)

There were thankfully no big stories in plant pathology in Indiana this year. Despite a very wet spring, growers were extremely conscientious with their fungicide applications to protect their crop. As a result, we had no reports of fungicide failures for apple scab. Powdery mildew, the big story last year, was much less of a problem this year, and is expected to continue to decline with wet weather and normal fungicide applications for crop protection. Fire blight continues to be a problem, a hangover of last year's freeze damage. Other diseases of note include the first confirmed introduction of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* on blueberry in Indiana; a first report of white pine blister rust on clove current 'Crandall', which is supposed to be resistant/immune; and the identification of *Monilinia fructicola* on Cornelian cherry, an edible dogwood.

Grape Diseases: Downy mildew problems showed up early (July) on susceptible varieties and continued through fall despite low rainfall. There were almost no fruit rots, except where SWD invaded berries. Some growers reported black rot, but none of the serious growers have this problem.

Blackberries: Unusual leaf spot prevalent early. Caused brown drupelets on berries during early harvest.

Gooseberries: Complete defoliation due to leaf spot.

Insects (Rick Foster)

The biggest insect story of 2013 was the emergence of spotted wing drosophila as a very serious pest throughout the state. In 2012, there were a few reports of damage but in 2013 we found SWD everywhere we looked. Male SWD can be identified by the distinctive spot on their wings and females have a very large ovipositor that they use to slice open developing fruit so they can insert their eggs inside. A trapping program funded



Figure 1. Male and female spotted wing drosophila. Photo: J. Obermeyer

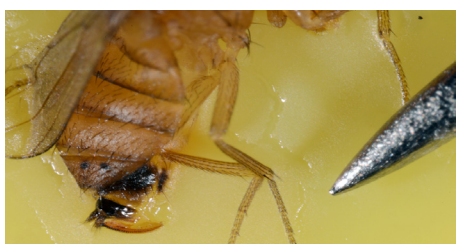


Figure 2. Female spotted wing drosophila ovipositor. Photo: J. Obermeyer



Figure 3. SWD trap. Photo: J. Obermeyer

by the NCIPM Center found low numbers of flies in traps until mid-July, then populations skyrocketed rapidly and remained high until cold weather began. See the graph which summarizes our trap catches from one location in 2013 that is typical of the catches we had around the state. Strawberries seemed to escape damage. We are unsure if that was because the flies don't become active soon enough to cause a problem or if the flies arrived in strawberry producing areas too late to cause problems this year but may be a problem next year. We will again have traps out early next season to see if strawberries are affected. Serious damage was found in raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, grapes, and peaches.

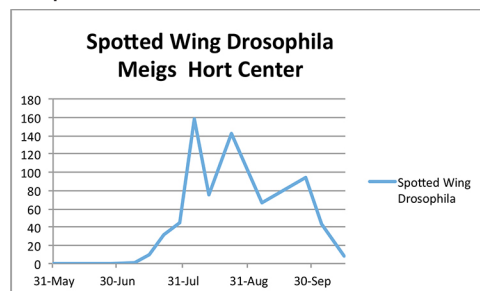


Figure 4. Mean weekly spotted wing drosophila (SWD) trap catches during 2013 at the Meigs Farm near Lafayette, IN. Means are derived from four traps.



Figure 5. SWD maggots in raspberries. Photo: J. Obermeyer

2013 was the first year that we saw actual crop damage from brown marmorated stink bugs. They have been present in Indiana but this is the first time we saw damage. We confirmed damage to sweet corn in Clark County and soybeans in Elkhart County. Even though we have only confirmed the presence of BMSB in about 14 counties, we are assuming that they are present just about everywhere. Based on reports from our colleagues on the East Coast, I would predict



Figure 6. Brown marmorated stink bug life stages. Photo: J. Obermeyer



Figure 7. Brown marmorated stink bug damage to soybeans. Photo: J. Obermeyer



Figure 8. Brown marmorated stink bug damage to sweet corn. Photo: D. Hynes

Facts for Fancy Fruit is a newsletter for commercial and advanced amateur fruit growers. It provides timely information on pest control, production practices, and other topics likely to be of interest to fruit growers. All growers and interested persons are welcome to subscribe.

Subscriptions are \$15 per year. Subscribers will receive 12-15 issues biweekly during the growing season and monthly otherwise.

To subscribe, send your name, mailing address, and check for \$15 (payable to Purdue University) to:

Facts for Fancy Fruit
Attn: Tammy Goodale
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Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture
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West Lafayette, IN 47907-2010

This newsletter can be accessed free at www.hort.purdue.edu/fff/.

that we will see damage to fruit crops in 2014. Again, we will have to monitor the situation to see what happens.

A number of different species of aphids were more serious than normal in 2013, on a variety of crops. We saw devastating populations of wooly apple aphids late in the season. Casual observations indicated that growers who lost their entire crops in 2012 due to the freeze had reduced populations of plum curculios in 2013. I would be interested to hear from more growers if they observed this phenomenon as well. Most other pests were found at normal or below normal levels this year.

Bottom line for Indiana fruit crops in 2013

Peaches: good crop, excellent size

Apples: very large crop, but small fruit size

Blueberries: Excellent crop

Strawberries: long season with normal start and mild temps through June

Brambles: Excellent crop, but significant leaf spot in some areas

Grapes: Great crop, excellent quality, long, extended harvest (still on-going)

Aronia: Huge crop, rain near harvest caused fruit cracking

Indiana Hort Congress

Planning is almost complete for the 2014 Indiana Hort. Congress to be held January 21-23, 2014 at the Wyndham Hotel in Indianapolis. We'll have workshops on hot topics such as Spotted Wing Drosophila, food safety, and new marketing opportunities. We'll also be discussing tree branching patterns and how they relate to improved methods of pruning. The Trade Show is filling up and we anticipate that once again booth spaces will be sold out. You are invited to join us and your fellow growers for the Congress.

Register at:

<http://www.inhortcongress.org>

Indiana cider contest

The contest to find the best cider in Indiana will again be held in conjunction with the Hort Congress. Advance registration for this is not required. Simply bring 2 gallons of cider to the Congress registration desk and check it in with the folks there before noon on Wednesday Jan 22. If you are not planning to make cider in January, cider can be frozen and thawed before bringing it to the contest. Awards for the top 3 ciders will be presented at the Hort Congress luncheon on Thursday January 23.

(Hirst)

New Zealand Fruit Tour filling up

Registrations are rolling in for the New Zealand fruit tour, scheduled for Feb 6-20. With registrations closing in less than a week, there are still some spots open. Rick Foster and Peter Hirst invite you to join us on this 2 week tour of the New Zealand fruit industry, country and culture. Interested growers should register ASAP or contact Peter Hirst if they have any questions.

The basic tour schedule is:

Feb. 6 Depart USA

Feb. 7 Lost over international date line

Feb. 8 Arrive Auckland, New Zealand

Feb. 9-20 New Zealand fruit tour

Feb. 20 Depart New Zealand to return to USA
OR depart for optional 3 day Sydney, Australia tour

Feb. 20-23. Sydney Australia tour

Feb. 23 Depart Sydney to return to USA

We will have a group of growers from both Indiana and other states to tour orchards and gain a good overview of the fruit industry in New Zealand. Of course we'll also see a lot of the country along the way and experience the culture and the people.

The cost is \$3,800 (NZ only) or \$4,800 (NZ + Australia). This includes ground transportation by luxury coach, all accommodation and admissions, flight within New Zealand, cruises and some meals. International airfare, a few meals and spending money are not included.

More details can be found at:

<https://spa2010.itap.purdue.edu/extended/pdf/Documents/13878brochure.pdf>

To register for the tour, go to:

<http://www.distance.purdue.edu/fruit>

If you're interested in joining us, please register then I'll send out information on international flights so we can coordinate to be on the same flights. Alternatively folks may book their own flights to go early, stay later, visit Fiji or whatever they choose. Remember, registration closes on November 30 so sign up now.

Any questions or if you want the daily itinerary, please contact Peter Hirst (hirst@purdue.edu)

Trees of cider apples available

Hostetler Farms have trees available of a range of cider apple cultivars that we don't often see. While some of us may have heard of cultivars such as Asmead's Kernel and Roxbury Russet, they have trees of about 40 other unusual cider apples. They have propagated these trees themselves and are offering additional trees for sale. They are all 2 year-old trees. If interested contact Hostetler Farms at hostetlerfarmsLLC@gmail.com or 317-539-4067.

Vendors sought for Hoosier Harvest Market Winter Program

Now with over 200 registered shoppers and 24 vendors the Hoosier Harvest Market (HHM) is a new virtual farmers market that has enjoyed a good initial growing season of operation.

With the end of the traditional peak growing season the HHM is seeking ways to ³winterize² the market to allow consumers the ability to continue to make selections throughout the winter months and to make sure we begin the new growing season with a full complement of shoppers.

The HHM is currently seeking vendors who will have products available during some part of the coming months—these could be storage vegetables, crops grown under season extending row covers, high tunnels or greenhouses, value added products such as baked goods, breads, jellies, jams, apple butter, salsa etc (produced in a certified kitchen—sorry no home based vendor products), ornamentals, or other suitable products.

We are seeking vendors who are willing to think outside the box and willing to go the extra mile to engage the consumer in a positive manner with consistently high quality products and great customer service. Vendors may have one product or dozens to offer.

If you are interested in joining our farmer membership and trying out a new on line marketing opportunity to add to your other ways that you engage the consumer please feel free to contact Market Coordinator, Michael Morrow at michael.morrow@hoosierharvestmarket.com or Roy Ballard, Purdue Extension Educator, ANR, Hancock County at rballard@purdue.edu

Those who are interested may wish to visit the Hoosier Harvest Market website at www.hoosierharvestmarket.com or follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HoosierHarvestMarket>

How the market operates:

Farmers input and weekly update their inventories of product availability by Friday at noon when customers gain access to the shopping site and are able to make their selections and purchases. Consumers pay for their products electronically in advance to the Market and farmers deliver the product to the aggregation point (the Purdue Extension Office in Hancock County) on Thursday for delivery by the market to the consumers at one of 6 pick-up points. Farmers receive payment electronically for their products within 2 weeks of delivery (typically one week).

The HHM is organized as a mutual benefit farmer cooperative with the State of Indiana. Vendors are members of the cooperative. The HHM is currently funded in part through a USDA Specialty crop Block Grant which is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

(Roy Ballard)

Illiana vegetable growers symposium to feature aronia berries

Purdue University and University of Illinois Extension will host John Pilcher, president of Coldbrook Farm Inc. in Crete, Ill. (www.ColdbrookFarm.net), at its annual Illiana Vegetable Growers Symposium on Tuesday, January 7, 2014. Pilcher, Illinois' largest aronia berry producer, will speak about "Aronia: A New Alternative." The all-day program will be held from 8:00 a.m. CST to 4:00 p.m. CST at Teibel's Restaurant in Schererville, Ind.

"We expect about 80 participants and 100 people total with Extension organizers and speakers," reports Liz Maynard, Ph.D., Purdue University extension specialist, department of horticulture and landscape architecture. Past attendees have come from Illinois, Indiana and Michigan, according to James Theuri,

Ph.D., University of Illinois Extension local food systems and small farms educator.

Pilcher will talk about how blueberry growers phasing out mature stands can make a gradual transition into aronia production for diversification. To accelerate their return on investment, he recommends planting plugs rather than slips, which shouldn't affect cost. With irrigation and established rows, the transition is relatively easy. Some crop will appear in the second year and by the third year, a stand may be profitable.

Pilcher works with growers who want to diversify and he markets aronia berries wholesale. Schnuck's and Hy-Vee are two large Midwestern grocery chains that carry Coldbrook Farm's dried sweetened aronia berries.

For more information, contact John Pilcher at 708-227-2807 or aronia.us@att.net.

Food stamps, subsidies knotty issues as U.S. farm talks drag on

Time is quickly running out to write a new \$500 billion U.S. farm policy this year and one of the biggest problems facing the four key negotiators on the project is how much to cut spending on food stamps for the poor.

Without an agreement by the end of this week it may be impossible to enact a new farm law this year. Congress is more than a year behind schedule in replacing the now-expired 2008 law; it adjourns for the year in mid-December.

The make-or-break issue for negotiators continues to be the size of cuts in food stamps.

The Republican-controlled House of Representatives proposed \$39 billion in savings over a decade by tightening eligibility rules. That is nearly 10 times the savings backed by the Democrat-run Senate.

"We talked about it some," Colin Peterson,

the top Democrat on the House Agriculture Committee, told reporters as the “big four” negotiators – the leaders of the Senate and House Agriculture committees – took a midday break.

There are disputes over crop and dairy subsidies as well. The Senate says the House would set target prices so high they would override the marketplace and the House says the new revenue protection system supported by the Senate is skewed toward the corn and soybean growers in the Midwest while disadvantaging those who grow wheat, rice and peanuts.

“The commodity title and SNAP (food stamps) are the two issues,” said Peterson.

House Agriculture Chairman Frank Lucas brushed past reporters, responding only, “Having fun, having fun” when asked about progress. Late Wednesday, Lucas and the other negotiators said talks were moving in the right direction.

Peterson said the new bill would not repeal a U.S. law that requires packages of beef, pork, lamb and poultry to carry a label listing the country where the animals were born, raised and slaughtered.

Canada and Mexico won a World Trade Organization decision against the first set of U.S. rules on “country of origin” labeling for meat. They are now challenging the current set, unveiled earlier this year.

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor spearheaded the plan for sweeping change to food stamps, formally named the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). With nearly one in seven Americans currently receiving aid, Cantor said the program was an unaffordable burden on middle-class Americans.

Democrats voted en bloc against the Republican cuts and the White House has threatened to veto a farm bill that contains

“unfair” cuts.

On Nov. 1 SNAP recipients saw a \$5 billion cut in benefits, or roughly 7 percent per person, when part of the 2009 economic stimulus package expired.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a think tank, said this week that SNAP enrollment rose because of the 2008-09 recession and high jobless rates.

It said food stamp costs are certain to fall during 2014 and warned that additional large cuts “would make life harder for tens of millions of Americans.”

(<http://www.reuters.com>)

Why Indiana Agriculture needs a farm bill now

This fall, Congress has an important opportunity to create jobs and grow the economy by passing a long-term, comprehensive Food, Farm and Jobs Bill. The Farm Bill impacts every American, every day by providing a wide range of programs that strengthen our nation.

The Farm Bill is crucial to maintaining a strong agriculture sector and an abundant food supply that benefits all Americans. Over the past two years, producers have faced a multitude of disasters – from drought, to flooding, to blizzards. These events demonstrate how important the safety net is to keeping producers going strong. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, the Farm Service Agency was able to provide \$153.9 million in disaster assistance in Indiana using Farm Bill programs.

A new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill would provide a strong crop insurance program, reauthorize the now-expired disaster assistance programs, and provide retroactive assistance for livestock producers. By reforming the safety net to eliminate the direct payment program – which pays producers whether or not they are in need of assistance – the Food, Farm and

Jobs Bill would also save billions of dollars in the next decade. It would enable USDA to continue our work with more than 500,000 producers and landowners to conserve the soil and water resources.

In addition, it would allow USDA to continue export promotion efforts that have led to the best five-year period in agricultural trade in American history, and provide FSA with the tools to extend additional farm credit in Indiana.

The Farm Bill is also a job creation bill that would empower USDA to partner with rural communities to grow, expand and support new businesses.

A new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill would help Main Street businesses grow and hire more employees, strengthen infrastructure in our small towns and provide new opportunities in bio-based product manufacturing and renewable energy. For example, in Indiana, USDA Rural Development has provided funding for 354 projects since 2009 to help farmers and rural businesses save energy through the Rural Energy for America Program. This and many other efforts could continue with a new Farm Bill.

A new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill would make important investments in nutrition programs that provide critical assistance to vulnerable Americans, including children, seniors, people with disabilities who are unable to work, and returning veterans. It would undertake new strategies to improve agricultural research, and it would ensure a safe food supply.

All of these efforts strengthen our nation. A new Food, Farm and Jobs Bill would continue the job growth we’ve seen in recent years and help grow the rural economy.

This is a prime opportunity to give America’s farmers the certainty they need about the next five years of U.S. farm policy, while investing in the rural communities that stand at the heart of our values. The Farm Bill has

stood as a model of bipartisan consensus for decades and it is high time that both Democrats and Republicans come to a compromise on this new Farm Bill. It is our hope that Senate and House conferees will reach a consensus quickly and move a Farm Bill forward as soon as possible.

(Julia Wickard, Indiana Farm Service Agency, and Phil Lehmkuhler, Indiana Rural Development)

US Senate committee proposes changing tax rules for agriculture

On Nov. 22, the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance issued a proposed set of tax code changes that would negatively and significantly affect many agricultural producers, both crop and livestock.

The proposed rule change would limit the number of agricultural businesses that can use cash accounting, requiring many to shift to the accrual method of accounting. This move is opposed by many agricultural groups including the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Farm Financial Standards Council.

"We are concerned that this change would force many agricultural businesses to pay a significant up-front tax payment and limit their ability to weather price volatility," says Brian Kuehl, director of federal affairs for Kennedy and Coe LLC. "Under this proposal, farmers could be required to pay taxes on products for which they have not yet received payment."

Kennedy and Coe, a national agricultural accounting and consulting firm, says the impact of the proposed rule could limit the growth and stability of some agricultural businesses and is actively opposing it.

"These changes could affect the economic viability of many operations," adds Jeff Wald, CEO of Kennedy and Coe. "Agriculture works very differently than other types of

American business. We hope members of Congress remember that farmers, ranchers and feeders operate in a high-risk commodity environment unique to agriculture."

The proposal released by the majority staff from the Senate Finance Committee follows on the heels of a similar proposal released by the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee in March of 2013. Both proposals would require businesses with more than \$10 million in gross receipts to use accrual accounting. Both proposals would affect smaller operations by aggregating related businesses to determine whether the businesses collectively have more than \$10 million in gross receipts. If they do, each related business would be required to use accrual accounting.

"This proposal impacts many feed yards, hog farms, dairies, and row crop operations," Kuehl says. "Agriculture is a capital intensive business. Many companies have more than \$10 million in gross receipts but have very thin profit margins or even operate at a loss. Further, family businesses much smaller than \$10 million in gross receipts could be impacted since the proposal would group related businesses together."

Last month, the Farm Financial Standards Council issued a statement criticizing this proposed accounting change: "for income tax purposes, the Council believes that the cash method currently allowed for farmers and ranchers should be retained. Switching to the farm accrual method could subject agricultural producers to much larger swings in income due to dramatic market changes that might occur at year-end."

(<http://www.agweek.com>)

Upcoming events

January 7, 2014.

Illiana Vegetable Growers Symposium. The meeting will be held from 8:00 - 4:00 Central time at Teibel's Restaurant in Schererville, IN. Registration and additional info will be available in early December at <https://www2.ag.purdue.edu/hla/fruitveg> under "Events" or by phoning, 219-531-4200 x4201.

January, 21-23, 2014.

Indiana Horticultural Congress and Trade Show, Wyndham Indianapolis West, Indianapolis, IN.
<http://www.inhortcongress.org>



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