



Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation

June, 2015

President's Message

Happy Spring to fruit growers and lovers! The Garden is in bloom and we are very busy pruning, managing our disease and pest control. Much appreciation to all the volunteers who are coming out to help. I hear that one recent volunteer, Ned Garvey, will be taking care of our new nursery bed, which will nurture young plants and newly grafted trees. New trees have been added to replace those that have died. As always volunteering is a great way to meet other members, share your knowledge and experience and also learn from experts.

We are working with a new company, Kellogg's G&B Organics to evaluate organic fertilizers use in the Garden especially with the blueberries. They have given us several bags of organic fertilizers. Garden volunteers are being asked to evaluate the health of the plants, fruit production and quality. This is in response to many members who have asked us to move towards more sustainable practices in the garden. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to work with such a fine company as well.

Are you interested in helping us create a more interactive and educational garden? The intent is to begin incorporating some of the newer technology available, and potentially have audio and video descriptions for each display in the garden. This would allow visitors access (via smart phones and computer tablets) to take a "virtual tour" and learn what we doing in our Fruit Garden. Please reach out to Kristan at fruitgarden@olympus.net if you would like to join our team in helping to develop this long term project.

Sue Williams, President

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
Fruit Thinning for High Quality	2
Donation Form	3
Cherry Day Event Canceled	4
Maggot Barrier and Thinning Workshop	4
A New Type of Maggot Barrier.....	4
New Planting in the Fruit Garden.....	5
Varieties in the Fruit Garden	6
Board Meeting Minutes	8
General Membership Meeting Minutes	9
Death of a Peach Tree	10
WWFRF MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM	11

Fun in the Fruit Garden

Fruit Garden volunteers have many learning opportunities in the Garden. Join the volunteers Thursday mornings at 9:00 am in the Garden for fun, friends, learning, and the opportunity to serve your community.

If you would like to volunteer in the Fruit Garden contact Tom Wake at thomas.wake@att.net

Fruit Thinning for High Quality

By G.A. Moulton and J. King, WSU – Mount Vernon

A fruit tree in spring, covered with flowers, is a beautiful sight. Yet most people don't realize that **if just 5% of all those spring flowers set fruit, it will be enough to provide a full crop**. Too many fruits on a tree means fewer cells for each fruit, which translates into smaller fruit that is often of poor quality. Timely thinning of excess fruit increases the number of cells per fruit and **maximizes the potential fruit size**. Thinning also **improves the tree's productivity** in the year to come.

- **The earlier the better for thinning fruit.** In the 30–40 days immediately after flowers are pollinated, the newly set fruit undergoes rapid cell division and growth. Since the total number of cells determines the potential size to which the fruit can grow, it is important to thin fruit early, so that the ones that remain will have more cells and can grow bigger as they mature.
- **Early thinning promotes the development of fruit buds** for the following spring's bloom. The fruit buds that develop during this summer will determine next year's crop. The presence of seeds, even the immature seeds in the current year's fruit that is just forming, will inhibit the formation of flower buds for next year. By thinning early and heavily, the total amount of hormone produced by immature seeds is greatly reduced.
- **Thinning helps to even out crop load from year to year.** Trees can get into a cycle of alternate bearing, overloaded with fruit one year, and cropping very poorly in the year following. Some varieties such as Gravenstein are very prone to this. In a heavy bearing year, removing half or more of the blossom clusters at bloom time can help reduce the problem in varieties with this tendency.
- **Remove the smaller fruits and leave the larger ones**, because the smaller fruit have fewer cells and will remain relatively smaller even after thinning.
- **Remove fruit with disease spots, hail damage, or other defects.**
- **Aim for an even spacing as much as possible.** Keep in mind the size that fruits will be at maturity and leave enough room so that fruits won't crowd each other along the branch. Some varieties, called tip-bearing, often have fruit clustered at the ends of long shoots. In this case it may be necessary to keep two fruits together in the end cluster if the rest of the branch is bare.

Apples, pears, and Asian pears almost always need heavy thinning. Apple varieties that bear heavily year after year can be thinned at the bloom stage. The king bloom, in the center of the blossom cluster, is the first to open and produces the biggest fruit. Remove all the other flower buds on that spur, then after fruit has set, check back and thin again where spurs are too close together. A good spacing for apples and pears is one fruit per 6" of branch. Asian pears should be spaced at one per 6–8".

Peaches and nectarines should be spaced at one per 6–8" and fruits that are joined together should be

removed.

Plums, especially European plums such as Italian or Stanley, often need thinning when fruit set is heavy. They can be spaced somewhat closer depending on the size of fruit.

Apricots in our area do not need to be thinned in most years.

Cherries don't need thinning

Fruit thinning is the key to producing good sized fruit of high quality, but other factors are also important. Be sure to **provide plenty of water during the season when fruit is ripening**, particularly if it is a dry year, as good watering helps increase fruit size. Serious stress on the tree can adversely affect fruit quality or even cause some to drop. Fruit trees repay good care by providing the gardener with an ample harvest of ripe, tasty fruit – just as beautiful, to the fruit enthusiast, as the flowers of early spring.

PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATION ALONG WITH THIS FORM

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$5000 \$1000 \$500 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$_____ (Make check payable to WWFRF)

To make a donation by credit card go to: NWfruit.org and click on support.

Please designate my monetary gift toward: Where it is needed most!

Fruit Display Garden

Fruit Variety Trials

Sampling and Field Days

I would like to volunteer!

In the Fruit Garden

To help with Summer Fruit Festival

On sampling and field days

By doing work that can be done from my home

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____ Phone # _____

Please make my gift: In Honor of: In Memory of:

(Name of person) _____

Address of person or person's family (So we can notify them)

Thank you.

Please send to: **WWFRF**

C/O John Valentine, Membership

811 North 1 st

Tacoma, WA 98403-2013

Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax accountant for details.

Credit cards accepted through PayPal! Just go to our website and click on *support-donate* to make a donation.

Cherry Day Event is Canceled for 2015

Due to ongoing SWD research the Cherry Day Event is canceled. We do have another exciting event to attend this summer: The maggot barrier workshop on June 13th, see below.

Maggot barrier (footies) and thinning workshop

Saturday, June 13th, 10:00 - 3:30 pm

\$10 for non-members (free to WWFRF members)

Preregistration recommended: contact Kristan Johnson at fruitgarden@olympus.net

Come learn how to reduce pest pressure and maximize your harvest *and* get some hands on experience with thinning and putting maggot barriers on the developing apple fruit to deter apple maggot and codling moth damage. We will also be testing a new biodegradable type of maggot barrier, as seen below. The Board Meeting will take place at the same time and then we will have a combined potluck lunch with the workshop participants and then we will all help thin in the Fruit Garden.

10:30-12:30 WWFRF Board Meeting in Master Gardener's Pavilion

10:00-10:30 Educational introduction to benefits of Thinning and applying Maggot Barriers

10:30-12:30 Thinning & Maggot Barrier demonstration and lecture in Fruit Garden

12:30-1:30 Combined potluck Participants & Board in Fruit Garden

1:30-3:30 Thinning & Maggot Barrier “hands on” in Fruit Garden

Testing a new type of Maggot Barrier

Thank you to Dick Mathes from Custom Bioplastics in Burlington. Custom Bioplastics will be supplying us with a compostable baggie we are planning to test along side of nylon footies to control apple maggot in the Fruit Garden. They are also going to give us a new type of compostable tape that can be used to replace the Green tape commonly used by many but does not degrade and could be of concern to the soil and environment.

Dick has also given us another sample product that is being tested by WSU as a soil cover under blueberries. It is also compostable after the season's use with little harmful effects. Some of our garden volunteers are in the process of determining how we can test in the Fruit Garden to demonstrate to visitors various products and ways weeds can be controlled as well as manage our vole challenge. Weeds compete with the fruit plants for nutrients and water so to have healthy plants which produce quality fruit weeds need to be controlled.

Volunteer opportunities

We are looking for a volunteer who is interested in coordinating the Winter Field Day. Help and advice will be given to the volunteer from former coordinators. The office of Vice President is open. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, contact Sue Williams (info@wwfrf.org).

Fruit Garden Tour (Web Linked) – We need volunteers to work on the content of the points of interest for the Fruit Garden Virtual Tour. For example there will be a sign at the Aronia bushes that gives a small amount of information about Aronia and the sign will also have a QR code that links to a page on our website. We need people to work on the website page which will have more information about, and pictures of Aronia in different seasons. This information can be found by researching on the internet. Each point of interest will need its own page. This will not involve putting the information on the website, which will be done by someone else. Contact (info@wwfrf.org)

New Planting in the Fruit Garden

There have many exciting new plantings in the Fruit Garden this year!

Due to technical difficulties with our spray program we lost several peach trees to peach leaf curl; therefore, we are shifting our focus to **peach leaf curl resistant** varieties. Some of these varieties are also being tested by Bob Norton at Sunrise Orchard on Vashon Island, so we hope to compare and publish the results when they start to bear fruit.

We want to thank our many generous supporters who have again stepped up to help our needs in the Fruit Garden.

Sam Benowitz of *Raintree Nursery* donated one each of the following trees:

Early Golden, Imperial Epineuse, and Obilnaja Asian plums, and *Mount Royal* and *Prune D'Ente* European Plums all on Marianna 2624;

Indian Free, Black Boy, Avalon Pride, and Mary Jane on Lovell; *Blushing Delight, Golden Treat, Tangy Green, Tasty Red* Columnar apples on M26 and the *Breda Giant* Medlar on OHXF97.

As part of our ongoing **Cherry UFO demonstration** (Upright Fruiting Offshoots) project on the West espalier Sam donated 2 *Hartland* cherries on Gisela 3 and 2 *Lapins* cherries on Gisela 3, and the replacements *Hartland* and *Early Burlat* (Tatura trellis)cherries on Gisela 5. Also, we are replacing 4 *Karmijn de Sonnaville* apples on M7 due to anthracnose damage.

Jim Gilbert of *One Green World Nursery* donated a *Landt* and a *Nanaimo* peach on Lovell rootstock.

WWFRF members donated a *Golden Sentinel* and a *Scarlet Sentinel* columnar apple on M26.

In response to our WWFRF member's enthusiastic endorsement of introducing "**Keeper Apples & Pears**" into the Fruit Garden, Bill Davis has top-grafted some existing mature Bosc pears with scionwood from the *Suij* pear and *Saint Remy* pears, both of which are excellent keepers, along with the *Pound* pear, which dates back to Roman Times. Also, we've added the red-fleshed apple *Niedzwetzkyana* from Kyrgyzstan into the antique apple collection.

"No greater service can be rendered any country than to introduce a new plant to its culture" - Thomas Jefferson

A new Fruit Garden volunteer, Ned Garvey, is using his background in plants to help us establish a **new Fruit Garden Nursery**. We had outgrown our old hastily built nursery, and we have many newly grafted replacement trees to replace anthracnose affected trees that need tender care until we are ready to plant them out into the Fruit Garden.

We have moved very quickly on this project due to the desire to transplant mostly dormant trees. We hope to use this new nursery space to begin a program next year for "stooling rootstocks", a form of propagating rootstocks for us to use in the Fruit Garden and in our Winter Field Day rootstock sales.

When you next visit the Fruit Garden you will instantly notice the colorful banding of the fruit trees: apples are red, pears bright green, plums purple, peaches orange, etc. Volunteer Dennis Davenport is applying latex paint "color coding" to help readily identify the various tree

groups to visitors, volunteers, and WSU maintenance personnel (for applying specific sprays).

Varieties in the Fruit Garden

APPLE

Akane
Alkmene
Ananas Reinette
Arkansas Black
Ashmead's Kernel
Belle de Boskoop
Ben Davis
Beni Shogun
Blue Pearmain
Braeburn, Hillwell
Duchess de Oldenburg
Egremont Russet
Elstar, Daliest
Enterprise
Esopus Spitzenberg
Fall Pippin
Fameuse
Golden Russet
Grand Alexander
Gravenstein, black
Gravenstein, blood red
Gravenstein, candy stripe
Gravenstein, chetwood
Gravenstein, green
Gravenstein, common
Gravenstein, east coast
Gravenstein, fall pippin
Gravenstein, fred
Gravenstein, rosebrook
Gravenstein, schwarts
Gravenstein, worthen
Gravenstein, yellow
Gravenstein, sheets
Gravenstein, starr
Gravenstein, washington
Hatsuaki
Honeycrisp
Jonagold, DeCoster

PEAR

Bosc
Clapp's Favorite
Comice
Concorde
Conference
Highland
Honeysweet
Medlar
Orcas
Rescue
Shipova
Spalding
Starkrimson
Taylor's Gold

ASIAN PEAR

Atago
Chojuro
Hamese
Ichiban Nashi
Kosui
Mishirasu
Shinseiki
Yakuma

APRICOT

Puget Gold

NECTARINE

Hardired

CHERRY

Angela
Danube
Early Burlat
Glacier
Hartland
Hudson

QUINCE

Aromatnaya

PERSIMMON

Izu
Ichi Kei Ki Jiro
Jiro
Saijo

PLUMCOT

nJPC-2

PEACH

Allstar
Avalon Pride
Betty
Black Boy
Frost
Indian Free
Landt
Mary Jane
Nanaimo
Pacific Pride
Redstar
Summer Prince
Township

NUT

English Walnut

MULBERRY

Oscar

GOUMI

Sweet Scarlet

GRAPE

Agria
Canadice

Jonagold, standard
Karmijn de Sonnaville
Liberty
McIntosh (marshall)
McIntosh (pioneer)
Melrose
Mother
Newtown Pippin
Northern Spy
Pristine
Red Belle de Boskoop
Roxbury Russet
Rubinette
Silken
Spartan
Tompkins King
Tsugaru, Homei
Twenty Ounce
Winter Banana
Virginia Crab
Wagener
Wealthy
Westfield Seek-No-Further
White Winter Pearmain
Winesap
Wolf River
Yellow Bellflower

COLUMNAR APPLES

Blushing Delight
Golden Sentinel
Golden Treat
Scarlet Sentinel
Tangy Green
Tasty Red

Kristin
Lapins
Montmorency
Olga
Pioneer
Rainier
Sevetok
Surefire
Sweetheart
Tehranivee
White Gold
Yevgenii

PLUM

Beauty (Asian)
Cambridge Gage (Eur)
Coe's Golden Drop (Eur)
Early Golden (Asian)
Early Laxton (Eur)
Ersinger (Eur)
Geneva Mirabelle (Eur)
Gras Ameliorat (Eur)
Imperial Epineuse (Eur)
Jubileum (Eur)
Methley (Asian)
Mount Royal (Eur)
Obilnaja (Asian)
Prune D'Ente 707 (Eur)
Ruth Gerstetter (Eur)
Seneca (Eur)
Shiro (Asian)
Valor (Eur)
Victoria (Eur)
Victory (Eur)

Einset
Interlaken
Lynden Blue
Reliance
Vanessa
Venus

FIG

Brown Turkey
Desert King
Neveralla
Nordland

SMALL FRUIT

Aronia
Blueberry
Currant
Gooseberry
Haskap (20 variety research trial)
Honeyberry (10 variety trial)
Honeysuckle
Kiwi

Board Meeting June 13, 2015

During maggot barrier workshop from 10:30 to 12:30pm in the gazebo. All members welcome. Check website to confirm that the meeting will be held in the Gazebo.

WWFRF Board Meeting

February 17, 2015 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Conference Call

Attending: Sue, Kristan, Kim, Ira, Mike, Mignonne, Sam, Darlene, Jay, Bill P

Winter Field Day - Mike

- lost a speaker but Sam has agreed to step in and give his talk
- Still need some volunteers but plans on getting help from Seattle Tree Fruit Members
- John Valentine, membership chair will not be able to attend but has reached out to Kim to assist at the registration table
- Still need a source of apple cider wood - Sam graciously agreed to provide some

Scion Wood Distribution - Darlene

- Currently Seattle Tree Fruit receives all the left over scion wood.
- Request for scion wood was received by Darlene from the Whatcom Co Master Gardeners for their grafting event later in March
- Sam agreed to contact them if Darlene can send contact information and provide them some scion wood on the day of the Winter Field Day
- Jay reported that Tom has allowed active garden volunteers to take limited scion wood in the past. The suggestion is to write up a process for handling requests in the future that can be approved by the board and communicated in the newsletter in the future
- Kim and Sue will draft the procedure to be presented to the next BOD meeting

Promotion of Speakers - Darlene

- In the past WWFRF has not mentioned speakers in the promotion of events. Darlene believes there is value to draw attendees
- Kristan has sent an email to Darlene to go ahead and mention the keynote speakers now for the Winter Field Day and in the future
- Kristan also mention that Edible Seattle is interested in putting the Winter Field Day on their online calendar. There might be interest as well by Grow Magazine to promote on their web site.

Investigation by County sheriff suspected scion wood theft in the WSU research plot.

- Investigation is now complete though we have not formally heard of the results. It is believed there is not proof of a theft
- It appears that assumptions were incorrectly made as to WWFRF involvement
- Though WWFRF was implicated early on, we do not believe there is any evidence of involvement or wrong doing on the part of a WWFRF member or volunteer, past or present
- Underlying the issue is the concern that WWFRF maintain an good working relationship with WSU and other Fruit Organizations and to that point we will mention at all of our events that participants are not to go into research plots without specific WSU permission and with a WSU person at all times.

Garden Management Plan

- Jay will review some additional changes provided by Kristan then send to Kim

WSU - MOU

- Sue received the revised new MOU that she will sign and deliver to WSU on Friday. The new MOU is through March 2020.

Garden Committee Report - Kristan

- New trees will be planted this spring (4 Karmins, 5 plums, 1 Medlar, Several Peaches, replacement UFO cherries), will top graft Bosc pears with "keeper" pear varieties, Columnar Apple varieties will be increased and another row created.
- Tom and Kristan are excited about a new volunteer who has been recruited to take over the garden nursery to help grow materials that will be later transplanted into the garden.

Donation of Fruit - Bill

- Bill Pierce and Hazel would like to pick fruit for donation to local food banks or charities. They will be responsible for the harvesting and the delivery to the organizations. Non-member/volunteers will not be picking in the garden.
- Sue suggested that there might be value in writing up the guidelines for Board approval and communications to the membership. Bill will help to draft the document.

New June Garden Event- Thinning and placing footies on fruit

- Kristan is proposing a new garden event on June 13th this year to promote pest management with footies. This will be an educational event for which we will charge \$10 to non-members. The event will be followed by a 'potluck' lunch to honor our Garden volunteers.
- Sue will check with WSU and Skagit Co Health to make sure there are no food handling issues

WWFRF General Membership Meeting

March 7, 2015

Held at the Winter Field Day

WWFRF accomplishments for 2014

- Garden Management Plan accepted by WSU so now we can start spraying for diseases in the garden. We lost several trees last year because we couldn't use any chemicals without the Plan. Kristan and Jay are to be thanked for all their efforts
- We had 3 events Winter Field (Mike E as coordinator), Apple/Pear Harvest (Bill Pierce coordinator) and the Espalier training, all were very successful. We also participated in Flower and Garden Show.
- 2015 events Thanks to Mike E for again coordinating this Winter Field Day. Kristan is planning now for a new event in June to demonstrate value of footies for insect control. We are also planning to acknowledge our volunteers and have a potluck as part of this event. Other activities that the board is planning are designing a presentation that can be given at schools or groups in the area (Bob Baines and John Valentine) Publicity and Advertising (Darlene) New Kiosk in the Garden (Kristan), Garden fruit trial date collecting for usability (Sam, Kristan and Gerry)
- Members discussed the need to attract new members through advertising and presentations to

groups.

- Discussion about adding Cider apples to the Garden. There is much interest though Kristan is cautious.
- Board Members; request was made for individuals interested in being on the Board of Directors. Gerry Myers volunteered
- Board members who's term of office is up for renewal are: Kristan, Ira, JoeAnne, Darlene, Bob and Mike.
- A motion was made by Bob to accept this slate of BOD for 2015, Seconded by Kristan unanimous voted in all.
- The general meeting was adjourned by Sue at this time and the BOD meeting call to order

BOD voted to maintain the officers. Next Board Meeting in person will be in June but Sue may call a conference call meeting in late April or early May as needed.



Death of a Peach Tree

By Darlene Granberg

A couple of issues back, I submitted an article about my failing Frost peach tree. I had a couple of clues as to what might have been causing its demise, severe split in the trunk, excessive fruit load that I failed to thin resulting in significant (and permanent) bend in the trunk, shriveling leaves, etc. Well, I have just completed cutting down the tree and digging out the root system in order to replace it with a new tree. Final Diagnosis: the tree had been girdled by the plastic mulch ring that I installed (and forgot about) when I planted it in 2003. Years of mulch had covered it, so I missed it when I removed the other mulch rings I had installed years ago, and the persistent voles had been having a field day under the ring ever since. Live and learn. It's been replaced with a Desert King Fig. No mulch rings this time.

Have you renewed your membership yet? WWFRF membership is valid for 12 months from the date your check is received. Your membership expiration date is printed above your name on the mailing label indicating the month and year that your membership expires. Renew your membership before it expires by completing the Membership Form and mailing it in. You can also renew online. (see credit cards on page 6)

WWFRF would like to thank our commercial members.

Antrim Wool Farm - Montana
Christianson's Nursery - www.christiansonnursery.com/
Western Cascade Fruit Society - www.wcfs.org/
Sonshine Tree Care - www.sonshinetreecare.com



Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation Membership Form

Please check one box ONLY: Renewal New Member

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ 9-DIGIT ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: (_____) _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

- I would prefer to receive email newsletters instead of by regular mail when WWFRF is prepared to send them.
- I allow notice of membership meetings to be given to me by email.

Please check all applicable lines to designate type of membership, extra donation, and/or individual or family open house/field day:

- _____ \$15 FOR **INDIVIDUAL One-Day** OPEN HOUSE/FIELD DAY **ONLY**
- _____ \$25 FOR ANNUAL **INDIVIDUAL** MEMBERSHIP *(One person only)*
- _____ \$40 FOR ANNUAL **FAMILY** MEMBERSHIP *(Parents with their minor children)*
- _____ \$ _____ FOR **GIFT** MEMBERSHIP FOR: *(Please note for Whom Above)*
- _____ \$60 FOR ANNUAL **SUSTAINING** MEMBERSHIP *(Individual or family membership with higher level of financial support)*
- _____ \$125 FOR ANNUAL **COMMERCIAL (List Only)** MEMBERSHIP *(Includes 3 people, and also includes business name on our website)*
- _____ \$200 FOR ANNUAL **COMMERCIAL (Full)** MEMBERSHIP *(Includes 3 people, and also includes a link from our website to the commercial members' website)*
- _____ AN **EXTRA DONATION** of \$ _____ for WWFRF
- _____ \$30 FOR **FAMILY One-Day** OPEN HOUSE/FIELD DAY **ONLY** *(Parents with their minor children)*

SIGN ME UP TO HELP WWFRF AS CHECKED BELOW (please check all applicable lines):

- _____ **FIELD WORK IN THE WWFRF FRUIT DISPLAY GARDEN**
(usually held every Thursday from 9am-12noon; March-Nov.)
- _____ A **FIELD DAY** such as our Winter Field Day , Cherry Day, or the Apple and Pear Day
- _____ **NORTHWEST FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW** in Seattle (usually held in late February every year)
- _____ **FRUITBOOTH EVENTS** (Throughout the year)
- _____ **SELLING APPLES AT VARIOUS FALL FRUIT SHOWS** (Seattle & Port Townsend)
- _____ **BY DOING WORK I CAN DO IN MY OWN HOME USING MY COMPUTER OR TELEPHONE**
- _____ **SERVING AS A BOARD MEMBER** (4 meetings a year)

Please make your check payable to: WWFRF and MAIL your completed membership form and check to:

**WWFRF
C/O John Valentine, Membership
811 North 1 st
Tacoma, WA 98403-2013**

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation (WWFRF)
C/O John Valentine, Membership
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Tacoma, WA 98403-2013

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In This Issue

Fruit Thinning!
Maggot Barrier Workshop in the Fruit Garden!
How a Peach Tree Met a Sad Fate!
New Plantings in the Fruit Garden!

**Check out our website at: Nwfruit.org,
where you can see the color version of this newsletter**

Mission: WWFRF exists to advance fruit horticultural programs for our unique Western Washington maritime climate through advocacy, research, education, and demonstration for the benefit of the general public and the small farmer.