President's Message

Fall Greetings to fellow NWFruit.org orchardists. After an extraordinarily hot summer, the fall harvest is upon us! In the Fruit Garden we are noting a heavy fruit drop yet there is plenty still on the trees. Irrigation has been extended to the north row of plants. We have an infestation of Apple Maggot that is worrisome and consequently less fruit will be available for Bill Davis to sell this fall. We have completed some of the projects we started such as trials on new biodegradable products. Other projects such as use of organic fertilizers on a section of the blueberries will continue next year.

A Fruit Garden Management meeting is being planned for mid-October to review recommendations for the 2016 season. All the recommendations for pest control and projects our volunteers would like to see in this next year will be reviewed. This will help to insure that the pest management can happen in a timely manner as well as be documented in our Garden Management Plan (a requirement of WSU). If you have recommendations and are an active volunteer, you are welcomed to present them to the Committee. Please submit to Tom Wake or Kristan Johnson in writing before October so that enough time is allowed to research and review.

Please join us in the Fruit Garden on Saturday October 10th for our Apple and Pear Harvest Day. Besides picking fruit, we will have informative sessions.

Planning for our 2016 Winter Field Day has begun. Is there particular subject or area of fruit growing you wish we would present or someone you think might be a good presenter? Let Kristan Johnson Mike Ewanciw know so that we can make this the best Winter Field Day ever.

As always, volunteers are needed to continue our mission. Do you have web experience and are you willing to work on our internet presence? Please let me know. Are you interested in particular subjects, let us know that so that we can include them in our events and newsletter.

See you in October!

Sue Williams, President

Apple and Pear Day changed to September 26th!

Due to unusually warm weather this year the Apple and Pear day has been moved up 2 weeks to September 26th. Please take note of this.

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Growing Backyard Grapes in the Puget Sound Region

By Jim Taylor

The following is Jim Taylor's answer to questions asked him while working in the WWFRF Fruit Garden and ideas from his work in Oregon where he established approximately 60 acres of wine grapes.

Are you going to grow wine grapes, vitis vinifera, or table grapes, vitis labrusca? If you want to grow wine grapes, only the earliest ripening cultivars are suitable. For best results vinifera plants should be grafted to a root stock that will encourage earlier ripening than if planted on its own roots. See the referenced literature for more specifics. Purchase only certified disease free vines. A plant with a virus cannot be cured

Where on your property is the best place to plant your vines? The warmest full sun spot with good soil drainage available is the best place. Heavy clay soil is not desirable. South and west slopes will gather the most heat. A warm area can be created with a concrete wall. Planting on a mound, and surrounding the plant with stones will increase the temperature near the plant roots. Black plastic on the ground will also serve as a heat gathering method as well as help with weed control, but take care because if there are voles in the area, they will like the plastic shelter. Deer will also eat the plants. A seven to eight foot fence will be required if deer are in the neighborhood. Wind breaks that do not shade the vines are also helpful. Ideally the ground for your vines will be cultivated the year before planting and be weed free. You will have corrected any soil nutritional deficiencies.

Plan your spacing and your trellising. Plants can be 4 to 6 feet apart. A north-south row is best, or if your hill side is steep, plant up and down the hill. On a hill, tractors love to slide down between the plants in the row. Leave enough space between rows to accommodate equipment if you will be using equipment. In any case rows should be far enough apart, 8 or 9 feet, so that the 6 foot high vegetation will not shade the adjacent row except early and late in the day.

How should I plant the vines? Trim roots back to 4 to 6 inches and be sure the roots point downwards in the hole you have dug. If the vine is grafted, be sure the graft is above the ground level so that it can not grow roots. Prune the plant back to the largest cane, which in turn should be pruned back to two or three buds. A shield, like an opened cardboard two quart milk

Volunteer in the Fruit Garden!

Thursdays at 9:00 am

Volunteering in the Fruit
Garden is a great way to
learn more about how to
grow fruit and get to know
other fruit loving volunteers!
Contact Tom Wake:
thomas.wake@att.net

carton, will protect the plant from wind, small animals and keep the new growth off the ground making weeding easier. During the first season do not prune of any growing branches; let everything grow. Mildew is not a problem.

NO GRASS. Weed competition, especially grass, is the worst thing to allow to happen in the first growing season. Irrigate, if possible, as the season demands.

First winter. Place stakes for the trellising. The ground is soft. In late winter, after the likelihood of a hard freeze is past, remove the weakest canes from the plant. Cut back to two buds on the strongest cane. From one of these buds a shoot will grow to become the trunk.

Second year training. The objective for the second season is to create a straight trunk to what will become the head of the plant. After the shoots have grown a foot or more, remove all but the longest, straightest shoot. If the plant is by a stake, loosely tie the selected shoot to the stake. If the plant is not already next to a stake, use a 4 foot bamboo stake to loosely tie the selected shoot, which will become the future trunk.

Remove any fruit clusters but do not remove the leaves and laterals (side branches) on the shoot. By this time you should have decided how you wish to train your plant. Shoots want to grow upward, they are difficult to train downward. Eventually you will want a vertical curtain of shoots above the wire. For easier pruning and harvesting the lowest wire should be near waist height. When and if the shoot reaches pencil size at the wire, cut the shoot above the first bud below the wire. This will promote new shoot lateral growth at the height of the wire. Mildew is still not a problem this year.

Second winter. If the shoot for the trunk did not grow to pencil diameter the previous year, cut the cane back to two buds. If the plant grew lateral canes the previous year and the lateral canes have grown to pencil size, cut off the weaker growth at the point where it becomes less than pencil sized and and cut off the laterals from the laterals.

Cane pruning verses cordon pruning. The backyard grower, with few plants to tend, can choose cane pruning, as he is not dependent on unskilled labor for pruning. To create fruiting shoots, each year the cane pruner selects a cane growing from each side of the head of the plant and cuts off all other canes. On mature plants the selected cane is cut at the distance from the head so as to meet the cane from the adjacent plant. Younger or weaker plants can have canes pruned back to where they are pencil size. These are judgment calls. With cordon pruning permanent "arms", or cordons, are developed.

Advantages of cane pruning are: First, there are buds on the cane that are not close to the head. In cordon pruning the shoots originate from a few buds close to the cordon. These buds, formed early in a sunless growing season, may not have had the warmth needed to develop fruitful buds. Also American grape plants may not have fruitful buds close to the cordon. Second, the cordon may not have the proper spacing of buds for optimum distance between shoots. This condition persists until the cordon is replaced. Third, there is the tendency for a strong shoot to grow at the end of the cordon, called apical dominance; this growth is not much good for anything. With cane pruning, dominance is transferred from the tip (or apex) by arching the cane over a wire perhaps 12 to 18 inches higher than the wire at the head of the plant allowing the middle part to be higher than the tip. This causes shoot growth to be more evenly distributed along the cane.

When the shoots are long enough to reach a wire another 18 inches above the arching wire move the shoots behind the wire to create a narrow vertical wall of foliage with the shoots weaving upwards back and forth through the wires of the trellis. A leaf without full exposure to the sun is 90 percent less efficient than one fully exposed. A wire 6 feet above the ground, at the top of the trellis, will be the next

training wire (a total of 4 wires). Growth above this wire can be removed. A rule of thumb is that each shoot should support about 14 leaves.

Get used to heavy pruning; as the plants mature, you may be removing up to 90 percent of the previous year's growth.

Pests If you decide to grow your plants organically, you will have a difficult time controlling botrytis and powdery mildew. Sunshine and air circulation are two helpful non-spray methods. A curtain where most leaves are exposed to sun and leaf pulling around the fruit in late summer are good deterrents. Sulfur spray applied before powdery mildew attacks is somewhat effective. After infection it is of little use. See Washington State Extension Integrated Pest Management Program for details.

RESOURCES

GROWING WINEGRAPES IN MARITIME WESTERN WASHINGTON, WSU, EM068E, free, 31 page pdf document available only on line. A must read.

GROWING TABLE GRAPES, Oregon state extension service, EC 1639, May 2011, very helpful

GROWING GRAPES FOR WINE AND TABLE IN THE PUGET SOUND REGION, 10 page pdf, spread sheets of cultivar and climate information

GROWING TABLE GRAPES, Oregon state extension service, EC 1639, May 2011

GENERAL VITICULTURE, AJ Winkler et all, 1974, dated classic.

SUCCESSFUL GRAPE GROWING IN COOLER CLIMATES, Cloud Mountain Farm, 4 page pdf. Good source for plants with guide for choosing cultivar for your site characteristics, including directions for establishing planting.

A QUICK START GUIDE TO ESTABLISHING A VINEYARD IN OREGON, EM8973-E, 2009, A six page pdf slanted towards commercial vineyards.

WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF WINE GRAPE GROWERS, VINEWISE, A self help guide to growing wine grapes

Self-guided Fruit Garden Tour

Wow! As part of our effort to share the amazing wonders of our unique 6 acre Fruit Garden we are greatly enhancing the educational outreach potential to visitors.

When wandering the Fruit Garden have you wished you could know more about the plant collections you were passing by? We are in the process of creating a <u>Self-guided Fruit Garden Tour</u> highlighting 40 "Points of Interest". Using a color map handout a visitor will stroll in a wide clockwise loop following the numbered signs around the general perimeter of the garden.

When we finally found a quality sign maker at an affordable price, we optimized the layout details and construction methods. These full-color all weather signs have "QR" codes (those curious squares of grey squiggles you often see on advertisements) which allow a viewer to scan them using a free app on their mobile device, which links them to more



The first sign is up!
Sue Williams shows off our first sign.
Photo by Tom Wake

information.

The "mobile device friendly pages" information can also be accessed by manually typing in a URL code listed on the sign, and will have information such as detailed descriptions of planted varieties and cultural specifications for best planting, pruning, and processing. All of these pages will be accessible on our <NWFruit.org> website as the "Home Fruit Garden Tour" so you can take the Tour from the comfort of your own home or in person at the Fruit Garden.

We have created a color coded Tour map handout detailing general fruit types which corresponds to bands of paint applied to the base of the trees; differentiating apples, pears, cherries, plums, peaches, etc.

So much shared effort by so many volunteers has allowed us to move relatively quickly on the project, and we hope to have it in place by the Winter Field Day in March. The sign posts are close to being in place, and the numbers should be attached very soon. Completing the actual signs and the website text still remains.

Thanks to the following volunteers and their roles in helping this Fruit Garden Signage project:

Kristan Johnson (original concept. sign construction, graphic design)

Kim Siebert (concept help, graphic design, website)

Bill Pierce (concept help, installation support, post hole digger)

Ira Collins (QR support)

Tom Wake (building signs)

Bill Davis (advice on building signs)

Sue Williams (transported signs, numerals)

Tom Ward (post hole digger)

Jim Wagner (screwing in sign placards)

Mary Clark (helping and measuring)

Becky Stinson (helper)

James Wiss (set sign posts, placards, numerals)

Dennis and Betty Davenport (painted trees)

There are also a number of people who are

helping to research and write the text for the signs and web pages (some of whom are already on the above list). A list of these helpers will appear in the February newsletter.

WWFRF Board Meeting
June 13, 2015 10:30 pm – 12:00 pm
Held at the NWREC Gazebo

Board members present: Sue Williams, Kristan Johnson, Kim Siebert, Bob Baines, Jay Scott, Mignonne Bivin, Ira Collins, John Valentine, Bill Pierce, Mike Ewanciw

Other members present – Tom Wake

New Board Member – Adam Wargacki is interested in becoming a board member. Sue asked John to send contact information so that Sue and contact him to formally invite to the BOD

Fruit Garden Signage Project – Purpose is to provide accurate and appropriate information for self tours of the

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation (WWFRF) September, 2015 Newsletter

Page 5

Volunteer position available Winter Field Day Coordinator!

Do you have administrative skills? We need a coordinator for the Winter Field Day, which is held the first Saturday of March each year. The theme for 2016 is cherries and the speakers have already been arranged. We need someone to organize the volunteers, most of whom are already experienced in thier positions. The new coordinator will have the help and advice of the past Winter Field Day coordinator.

Garden. The projected budget is \$2000 to build and install approximately 40 signs in the Garden. The signs will have links to web pages with a QR code and a URL on the sign leading to a page suitable for viewing on a mobile device. The mobile device page will have a link to a more comprehensive page suitable for viewing on a PC. Each sign will be located at a point of interest in the Fruit Garden and the project will greatly increase the educational value of the Fruit Garden.

Process:

- 1. Sign design is complete
- 2. Kristan will plan a work party in the garden to put the sign posts together and install within the next couple of weeks
- 3. Finalize the script/paragraphs for the signs with QR codes. Kim and John
- 4. Research information (content, decide on the amount of information and what URL is to be included) for each sign from the web. Kim to lead with Bill Pierce, Mignonne, and John.
- 5. Jackie King will be asked to provide content approval.

Adam Wargacki will be asked to help with editing. Ira will help with formatting the mobile pages.

Phase 1: A map of the tour for the Kiosk and the first 11 completed signs – projected for early October, 2015.

After the main project is completed, sub tours, or small signs with QR codes and URL's leading to web pages can continue the project.

The team is encouraged to use conference calls to increase communication between participants.

Sue asked that in the future projects of this scope be reviewed and approved by the BOD before work moves forward in keeping with the spirit and intent of the WWFRF Bylaws.

Fruit Garden Volunteer Documentation - The Fruit Garden Volunteers need to document research projects that are being done in the Garden, both for educational purposes and to prevent accidental interference with other projects. The Fruit Garden web page should keep a running documentation of these projects, for instance the pear top grafting project. Sue has taken the lead to help document the current research projects and show the value to the volunteers. Sue will send the proposals and template to info@wwfrf.org and Kim Siebert will put the update on the website. There will also be temporary signage at the place of each project. Currently 4 research efforts are ongoing. Both the website and the temporary signage will include a documentation of the goals and

Apple and Pear Day

Saturday, September 26th

Sample apples and pears!
Sample ciders!
Pruning demonstration!



Jacky King teaches about cider

objectives of the project. So far the volunteers are seeing the value of the documents being posted in the garden. WSU is also very supportive of the effort.

Fruit Garden Overall Health of Trees – De Arbogast is making a map of the irrigation pipes. We have problems with anthracnose and mildew. Trunks of trees have been painted to help Dan in spraying the correct trees. (green = pears, red = apples, purple = plums, yellow = cherries). Sue has asked WSU for help with anthracnose.

New Director – Steve Jones has moved on in order to be able to focus on certain projects he has been working on so we have a new interim director for about 3 months before a permanent director is appointed.

MOU – Our new MOU has been updated and signed by WSU. It is updated every 5 years.

Product testing in the Fruit Garden – We will be testing several products: biodegradable protective sheeting for blueberries, maggot barriers and tape, plus organic fertilizer. We need to report the results in the newsletter. Please send reports to to info@wwfrf.org so that Kim Siebert can put them into the newsletter.

Apple and Pear Day – To be coordinated by Bill Pierce and Ira Collins. Mike, Kristan and Bob are on the speaker committee.

Winter Field Day for 2016 – We need a chair or at least a co-chair for this event. Mike will co chair but this event takes considerable time and effort to coordinate. We need to advertise for a Winter Field Day coordinator in the next newsletter. We also need more volunteers to work the event.

Bob is to keep track of which rootstocks sell out quickly so that we can make arrangements for more of those rootstocks to be available the next year. The protocol and methods for selling rootstocks and scionwood need to be fine tuned to avoid theft. The newsletter editor will put a notice in the February newsletter calling for more volunteers for these specific areas. **Theme** – Kristan has already spoken to Steve Jones about giving a talk on the nutritional value of the old varieties. He is pursuing other speakers for the Panel on nutrition of fruit. Bob, and Mike will work with Kristan on speakers Sue suggested that we could have a presentation on *Research this Year in the Garden*.

Flower and Garden Show - board continues to support

Board Retreat - Saturday, November 14th at Sue's Sun room. Sue handed out the WWFRF goals and objectives we worked on a couple of years ago. We plan to update during the retreat. This should include all the activities to happen in 2016.

Blueberries and Real Estate: Location, Location, Location....

By Lisa and Bill Pierce, Soaring Swallow Farm

In 2009, we visited Bryant Blueberry Farm in Arlington and noted that, unlike many other berry operations, they did not use irrigation to produce their large crop of blueberries. We inquired about this, and the farmer said that the secret is to grow the berries in an old peat bog, or similar spot, if possible. So, when we planted 3 rows of blueberries the following year, we sited them in fairly wet, acidic soil (Mukilteo Muck), with full sun, and added peat moss prior to planting them. They have thrived there and, other than weeding and spring fertilizing, require very little work for organic berries.

However, this blueberry paradise is about a 10-minute walk, across our farm, from our house. We wanted to have a few plants closer to the kitchen and, in the next year, planted 4 blueberry bushes in our yard in well drained, sandy soil, with partial sun. We still added peat moss and also added cottonseed meal to reduce the pH of the neutral, trucked-in topsoil. We watered these plants

occasionally but, within a year, they looked weak and sickly.

We decided to transplant them to our main blueberry patch. We no longer have to water them, yet they are now very healthy, strong, and vigorous bushes, producing a nice amount of berries, after only 2-1/2 years in their new location. This example is only one, anecdotal case, but from it, we have seen what a difference the right soil, moisture, and sun levels can make. Often, growers struggle to grow a particular kind of plant in a location that just doesn't work for it. This case highlights the benefits of working with the plants and the unique aspects of your property to find areas that naturally suit their requirements. Like in real estate, location matters.

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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 outhrough PayPal.	ur website and click on <i>support-donate</i> to make a donation	
Please designate my monetary gift toward:	Where it is needed most! Fruit Display Garden Fruit Variety Trials Sampling and Field Days	
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Please make my gift:In Honor of:In N (Name of person)		
Address of person or person's family		
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Tacoma, WA 98403-2013		

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

Safe Repellents That Protect Fruit From Spotted Wing Drosophila

Excerpts from an article by Iqbal Pittalwala in UCR Today Used with permission

The spotted wing Drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*), lays its eggs inside ripe berries, and, when its larvae emerge there, the fruit is destroyed. As a result, each year *D. suzukii* causes hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of agricultural damage worldwide.

Scientists at the University of California, Riverside have now identified a safe repellent that protects fruits from *D. suzukii*: Butyl anthranilate (BA), a pleasant-smelling chemical compound produced naturally in fruits in small amounts. In their lab experiments, the scientists found BA warded off *D. suzukii* from blueberries coated with it.

"Toxic insecticides are often risky to use directly on fruits – especially when they are close to being harvested," said Anandasankar Ray, an associate professor of entomology and the director of the Center for Disease Vector Research at UC Riverside, whose lab performed the research project. "A safe and affordable repellent such as BA could provide protection and reduce use of toxic chemicals."

Found in low concentrations in a number of fruit, BA smells like grapes and is commonly used as a flavor and fragrance component. It belongs to a category called generally recognized as safe (GRAS) and is approved for human consumption as a food additive.

"Most flies are attracted to rotting fruit," Ray explained. "D. suzukii, however, is specialized in that it is attracted to ripening fruit. What makes BA especially appealing is that not only does it repel D. suzukii, but it also reduces the flies' desire to lay eggs. There is good potential in the future to develop brandnew strategies for reducing crop damage using repellents like BA. From previous studies we have done in the lab, we have hundreds of such compounds to explore and test."

Next, Ray wants to test how efficacious BA is in field trials, and if they are, to request approval from the Environmental Protection Agency.

For full article go to: http://ucrtoday.ucr.edu/29996

Mummy Berry Cleanup Time!

By Kim Siebert

Mummy berry is a disease of blueberries caused by the fungus, *Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*, which causes the berries to shrink, turn dusty pink and then shrivel up to a metallic gray, when they are called mummies. It can also affect new growth of stems and leaves.

The mummies fall to the ground and in the spring small goblet shaped mushrooms called apotheciam grow to release spores to infect the plants all over again.

In order to break the cycle the berries should be removed from the plant as soon as they are noticed if possible, or else all the fruit should be harvested and the infected fruit buried. Keeping the ground under the plants free of weeds



A Mummy in a cluster of blueberries growing in the Fruit Garden.

makes it easier to rake and remove fallen berries - both the mummies and other fallen berries. In

February a 2 inch layer of Douglas fir sawdust mulch and help reduce the apothecia. The ground can be raked if any apothecia are noticed to disturb the growth.

By putting a few inches of soil in a pot and placing a handful of mummy berries on the soil in the pot and keeping the pot out in the same weather as the blueberry patch (but not near the blueberries), the apothecia can be observed when they emerge and then similar growths can be looked for under the blueberry plants in order to remove the apothecia before they release their spores (before the goblet gets very large).

Look for a more in depth article in our February issue for information.

Board Meeting Retreat

Saturday, November 14, 9am - 4 pm. at Sue William's home

All members are welcome to attend board meetings

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Annual memberships cost \$25/year for Individuals and \$40/year per Family (Parents with their minor children). Membership entitles you to the newsletter, participation at all Field Days/Open Houses and Sample the Harvest Days, at no additional charge; other types of memberships are also available. Visit **nwfruit.org** to download the membership form OR use the membership form found in this newsletter.

The WWFRF Newsletter is printed 3x/ year in February, June, and September and mailed to all members.

- <u>FIELD DAYS/ OPEN HOUSES</u> are free to members, and open to non-members for One-Day only fees of @ \$15/ Individual and \$30.00/ Family (Parents with their minor children) for each event.
- The Winter Field Day/Open House is the first Saturday of March, and consists of hands-on pruning, grafting and budding, talks on insects and pests, scion wood sale, and root stock sale.

HARVEST DAYS are free to members, and open to non-members @ \$15/ Individual and \$30.00/ Family (Parents with their minor children) at **each** event:

• Sample the Harvest Days are held in July and October. The following fruit is harvested in season: cherries, pears and apples. Paid members and non-members are allowed to keep their portion of the harvested fruit.

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 - Stevensville, Montana Christianson's Nursery - www.christiansonsnursery.com Sonshine Tree Care - www.sonshinetreecare.com



Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation Membership Form Please check one box ONLY: Renewal

NAME:	DATE:
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☐ I would prefer to receive email newsle	etters instead of by regular mail when WWFRF is prepared to send them.
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SIGN ME UP TO HELP WWFRF AS CHECKED BEL	OW (please check all applicable lines):
FIELD WORK IN THE WWFRF FRUIT DISP I	LAY GARDEN
(usually held every Thursday from 9am-12nd	oon; 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 yea	r)
SELLING APPLES AT VARIOUS FALL FRUI	T SHOWS (Seattle & Port Townsend)
BY DOING WORK I CAN DO IN MY OWN HO	OME USING MY COMPUTER OR TELEPHONE

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

SERVING AS A BOARD MEMBER (4 meetings a year)

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Please check your label to see if your membership needs renewing.



In This Issue
Fruit Garden Tour!
Growing Grapes in Western Washington!

Apple and Pear Day Changed to September 26th!

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

The Mission of WWFRF is to promote research and provide education about growing fruit in Western Washington State.