



NW Fruit

Apple and Pear Day

NW Fruit (Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation)

In cooperation with

Washington State University Northwest Washington Research and Extension Center

16650 State Route 536, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Apple and Pear Sample the Harvest Day

Saturday, October 12, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

You will have the opportunity to taste and harvest the many varieties of apples, Asian pears, European pears as well as other kinds of fruit. A tasting station will allow you to sample the different varieties of apple grown in the fruit garden. Bags will be provided so people may harvest fruit to enjoy fresh or preserve.

This event will feature guest speaker Dr. Cameron Peace from WSU Pullman, who will talk about his apple DNA testing program, which allows him to identify the variety and parentage of apples based on a leaf sample. Other experts will discuss their favorite cultivars and which varieties grow well in our climate.

NW Fruit maintains several varieties of historically significant fruit including antique apples as part of their Heritage Apple Project. The 6-acre fruit garden is currently being set up so those taking a tour of the garden may access detailed information through a QR code using their smartphones. Check out nwfruit.org for more details.

The schedule:

9-9:30 a.m. Registration: The event is free to NW Fruit members. Those with expired memberships are encouraged to renew through the nwfruit.org website. Day-of-event registration is available. One-day passes are available for \$15.

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In the Fruit Garden:

10 a.m-2:30 p.m. Fruit picking:

- * Pick up a fruit bag after registering. Instructions and picking techniques will be presented.
- * Tours of the fruit garden are scheduled throughout the day.
- * Taste samples of fruit grown in the fruit garden at sampling tables.
- * A fruit identification table will be on display in the auditorium.

In the auditorium:

9:30 a.m. Introduction to activities and talks. **Sam Benowitz**

9:45 a.m. How apple identification is done. **Lori Brakken**

10-10:30 a.m. How and when to pick apples and pears. Home orchard maintenance for fall and winter. **Gary Moulton**

10:45 a.m. Tasting apples and appreciating the complex flavors in fruit.

11 a.m. Learn about the antique apples and pears in the Fruit Garden. **Larry Crum**

Noon View photographs of apples and catalogs from the early 1900s and discover what varieties were grown in the Pacific Northwest. **Lori Janzen**

12:45 p.m. Panel discussion on the best antique varieties. Join us with your observations and questions.

1:15-3 p.m. "Naming, Rediscovering, and Reutilizing PNW Heirloom Apple Cultivars." Dr. Cameron Peace, a DNA researcher at WSU Pullman, will talk about a statewide project to correctly identify and preserve heritage apple varieties. He will also discuss the topic of you-can-do-it-too apple breeding.



The Fruit Garden is maintained by NWFruit members who diligently volunteer their time and expertise. Any NW Fruit member is welcome to join the Thursday morning work parties that go from 9 a.m. until noon. Saturday workdays are also scheduled during busy times of the season. Volunteers who help with maintaining the orchard are rewarded with formal and informal learning opportunities as well as fellowship with other people who are passionate about growing and tasting fruit.