

3 **FRUIT GROWERS' LETTER**

By Leonard B. Hertz, extension horticulturist

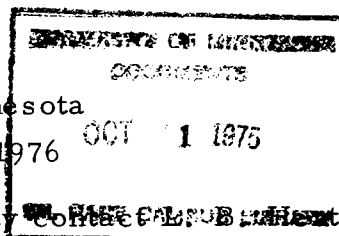
4 September 1975

MINNESOTA TO HOST ANNUAL MEETING OF
MINNESOTA AND WISCONSIN APPLE GROWERS

The combined annual meeting for the Minnesota and Wisconsin Apple Grower Associations will be at:

Kahler Hotel
Rochester, Minnesota

January 22-23, 1976



For additional information, Minnesota growers may contact Leonard B. Hertz, Department of Horticulture, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108.

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ROLL-OVER PROTECTIVE STRUCTURES FOR TRACTORS

Low profile orchard tractors are exempt from the requirement of roll-over protective structures (ROPS) when those tractors are being used for orchard work. The original Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA) proposals would have required all tractors of more than 20 hp., being used in orchards, to have roll-over protection and seat belts. Thanks to many efforts agricultural tractors are exempt from the ROPS when used in orchards if they meet the definitions of a low profile tractor.

The standards require that all tractors with more than 20 hp. engines, manufactured after October 25, 1976, be equipped with ROPS and seat belts. Such tractors with the ROPS in place will require the operator to use the seat belts.

"An 'agricultural tractor' means a two- or four-wheel drive type vehicle, or track vehicle, of more than 20 engine horsepower, designed to furnish the power to pull, carry, propel or drive implements that are designed for agriculture. All self-propelled implements are excluded."

"A 'low profile tractor' means a wheeled tractor possessing the following characteristics:

1. The front wheel spacing is equal to the rear wheel spacing, as measured from the centerline of each right wheel to the centerline of the corresponding left wheel.
2. The clearance from the bottom of the tractor chassis to the ground does not exceed 18 inches.

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3. The highest point of the hood does not exceed 60 inches, and
4. The tractor is designed so that the operator straddles the transmission when seated."

Exempted from the ROPS are the low profile tractors used in orchards, vineyards, farm buildings, or other places where vertical clearance is not sufficient to allow proper use. Also, exempt are tractors that require equipment, such as corn-pickers, which would be incompatible with ROPS. Tractors purchased prior to the October 25, 1976 date will not be required to have roll-over protection. In other words, your present tractor is exempt.

After October 25, 1976 when your low profile tractor is operated other than in your orchard, or in areas of low clearance, it must have the roll-over protection replaced on it, and the seat belt must be used.

(From Virginia Fruit, June 1975)

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ROUNDUP LOOKS PROMISING IN MINNESOTA APPLE ORCHARDS

Roundup has looked promising for control of several perennial weeds, including quackgrass, bluegrass, brome grass, Canadian thistle, and common milkweed when applied under apple trees.

Annual weeds are controlled easily with 1 lb/acre, however, they rapidly reinfested the area, unless a residual herbicide, such as Simazine or Terbacil is added. The perennial weeds are effectively controlled with 2 to 3 lbs/acre.

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TREE SUPPORT

A Sack of Soil against the trunk of a leaning young apple tree is a faster, easier, and cheaper method of tree support than staking or propping, according to Dave and George Allen, Wapato, Washington orchardists.

(From Goodfruit Grower, June 15, 1975)

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ALDERMAN HONORED

Dr. William H. Alderman, emeritus professor, was honored in June when the Horticultural Science and Landscape Architecture Building at the University of Minnesota was renamed Alderman Hall. Prof. Alderman was head of the department from 1919 to 1953, and a widely known fruit researcher. The 'Latham' raspberry is probably his most widely known fruit introduction.

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CIDER CONCENTRATE

A concentrated apple cider, marketed in small plastic pouches, within consumer boxes which can be diluted with seven parts of water to one part concentrate by the housewife is becoming a popular item on produce department shelves.

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FOOD ENERGY USE

Of the total U.S. energy use, 12 percent goes directly or indirectly to the production, processing, transportation, trade and consumption of food. Of this share, 25 percent goes for farming, 40 percent for food processing, and the remaining 35 percent for home refrigeration and preparation.

(J. G. Youde and H. O. Carter, University of California at Davis)

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RED DELICIOUS APPLES RANKED TOPS IN VOLUME

According to the International Apple Institute (IAI), Red Delicious apples hold the number one spot in volume variety grown throughout the apple producing areas of the United States.

Golden Delicious is ranked second. It is popular for fresh eating, salads, and in cooking.

Other popular varieties include McIntosh, Jonathan, Rome Beauty, Stayman, Yellow Newtown, Northern Spy, Winesap, Cortland, Gravenstein, and York Imperial.

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Modern agriculture does have problems, but none we cannot solve. The do-gooders say the solution to our problem is to go back to the "agriculture of my youth." I can guarantee you that anyone advocating this course of action has never walked all day behind a plow looking at the ugly end of a mule as I have.

(W. Carlton Stewart, former president of National Peach Council)

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APPLES

Nationwide, growers are experiencing a record crop. Estimates for this year are for 110.5 million bushels compared with the 86.2 million bushels marketed fresh last year. The crop looks to be outstanding not only in volume but in quality. It is of good size and maturing well. Growers began picking summer apples in late June. The first fall apples are being shipped now from Arkansas to North and South Carolina. This activity was expected to increase following Labor Day. The Washington state harvest should begin in late September with most of the northern states beginning in mid-September. Picking should be over by mid-October.

(From The Packer)

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OBSERVATIONS FROM PICK-YOUR-OWN OPERATIONS

A recent survey of several pick-your-own strawberry operations from an Eastern state projected some interesting conclusions. Several appear applicable to Minnesota's own "pick your own" harvest and marketing technique for strawberries. The questions and answers summarized follow:

1. How did the customers learn about the pick-your-own operation?

Thirty percent of the people queried learned from a newspaper, 15 percent from the radio, and 55 percent by word of mouth. It is evident that satisfied customers are responsible for additional customers to pick-your-own operations.

2. How many years have the customers used the pick-your-own operations?

For 30 percent it was the first year, 40 percent less than 5 years, and 30 percent had picked more than 5 years.

3. How many miles did they travel?

Twenty-five percent traveled less than 10 miles, 45 percent traveled 10 to 25 miles, 20 percent 25 to 50 miles, and 10 percent over 50 miles. It is interesting to note that 70 percent of the customers traveled up to 25 miles to pick strawberries. Advertising in areas further than 25 miles should be carefully evaluated.

4. How many pounds does each customer pick?

Twenty percent picked up to 15 pounds, 35 percent 15 to 35 pounds, 35 percent 35 to 75 pounds and 10 percent over 75 pounds. This shows that pick-your-own customers do pick a lot of strawberries.

5. Why do you pick your own strawberries?

Thirty-five percent said cheaper, 32 percent enjoyed picking, and 32 percent said better quality.

6. What do you dislike about pick-your-own?

(In order of frequency). Backache, sun too hot, mosquitoes, no water for hand washing, and nothing available to drink.

7. What other crops are picked?

(In order of frequency). Apples, raspberries, and tomatoes. It should be noted that the fruit crops are still the most popular for pick-your-own operations. (Summarized from a survey by F. C. Dellamano, Extension Agent, Oswego County, New York)

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