Upcoming UMD Sustainable Agriculture Project Orchard and Integrated Pest Management Workshops for 2013

UMD Sustainable Agriculture Program is partnering with the Duluth Community Garden Program, so members get discount on all workshops. Check out their website http://www.duluthcommunitygarden.org or contact their office (218) 722-4583 to become a member!

Cindy Hale, a forest ecologist with the Natural Resources Research Institute and the orchard program coordinator for the UMD Sustainable Agriculture Project will be the instructor or all workshops. She is a well-known local orchardist, farmer, researcher and advocate for restoration and planting of orchards featuring heritage varieties of historical importance to our region. Through these workshops she will share her experience and training in ecological and sustainable farming and pest management in a hands-on and interactive environment.

The UMD Seedling Trial Orchard was planted in 1913 and abandoned in the 1970s. Restoration work began in 2009 through the UMD Sustainable Agriculture Project, and they sold their first apples in 2011. For more information on SAP projects and directions: http://www.d.umn.edu/cscd/sap/main/index.php

To register for any or all workshops contact Cindy Hale at cmhale@d.umn.edu

Fruit Tree Grafting - indoor bench grafting
When: Wednesday, March 20th, 5:30-7:30pm
Where: The Natural Resources Research Institute, 5013 Miller Trunk Hwy.
(driving directions - From HWY 53, turn left on the side road between Curtis Oil and Northern Tool, this will take you around to the back of the NRRI building, drive to front parking and enter the front lobby doors.
Class Fee: $25 ($20 for Duluth Community Garden Program members)

Description: Save or propagate the old family apple tree by learning how to graft it onto a new root to create a new tree! Course fee includes all supplies (handouts, grafting bands, sealant, etc.), one semi-dwarf rootstock (additional will be available for $6 each, supplies are limited) and a selection of non-patented scion (twigs of desired apple varieties). Each student should bring a sharp, straight bladed knife (some will be provided for use during the class), good fitting leather gloves recommended. Bring your own scion wood if you like. A 1-2 year old twig, the longer the better, cut directly before class. Keep scions moist by putting them in plastic bags with moist paper towels, leaves of moss.

Fruit Tree Grafting - outdoor field grafting
When: Tuesday, April 16th, 5:30-8:00pm
Where: UMD Seedling Trial Orchard at the UMD Field Research Station, 4709 Jean Duluth Rd.
Class Fee: $25 ($20 for Duluth Community Garden Program members)

Description: Want more apple varieties, but don’t have room for more trees? Learn how to have five different apples on one tree! Save that great fruit tree from the family farm or cabin before the tree dies by grafting it onto a younger existing tree. Each student must bring a sharp, straight bladed knife along, good fitting leather gloves recommended. Grafting bands, sealant, and non-patented scions from a range of varieties will be available through the instructor. Bring your own scion wood of a 1-2 year old limb that has been cut directly before class if you like to add it to the heritage orchard at UMD.
Fruit Tree Management and Pest Control Series:

These workshops are geared towards small growers of all skill levels, whether you have 1 backyard tree or a small orchard. Each session will address specific issues related to growing healthy trees & fruit and controlling pests and diseases throughout the season. Classes will include handouts on specific topics covered, begin with a brief introduction, followed by hands-on work at the UMD Seedling Trial Orchard and the newly planted Duluth Community Orchard. So we will cover issues related to older trees as well as newly planted trees. Get real hands on experience managing a variety of fruit trees and their pests!

Location: All sessions will be at the UMD Seedling Trial Orchard at the UMD Field Research Station, 4709 Jean Duluth Road <http://www.d.umn.edu/cscd/sap/main/index.php>

Class Fees: These workshops can be taken individually for $45 for each day (2 sessions) or $120 for all 3 days (6 sessions). ($35 per day or $90 for all sessions to DCGP members).

Session 1 & 2: Introduction to Orchard and Integrated Pest Management and Bud Burst to Bloom - Spring Orchard Tree and Pest Management

When: Sunday, May 5th, 10am to 3pm
Description: This first workshop will introduce you to the seasonal phenology of your trees (i.e. bud swell, bud burst, fruit set, June drop, etc.) and what to expect as your trees begin to flower in the spring. You will get an introduction to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic management of fruit trees to learn how you can monitor and deal with potential pests or diseases early in the season (i.e. dormant oil sprays for scale). Learn the early warning signs for fire blight and apple scab and what you can do to prevent or stop an outbreak. Finally, what is a degree day and why should you care? How many degree days have accumulated, how does that correlate to the seasonal phenology of your trees, pest and diseases you might face. Plan for the coming season to monitor fruit development and manage insect pests and diseases in your fruit trees to maximize high quality fruit production. You will learn how to start using an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic management perspective to identify potential pests of the early season (i.e. leaf rollers, apple worms, etc.) and alternative for treating or controlling pests and diseases throughout the season.

Session 3 & 4: Early & Mid-Summer Orchard Tree and Pest Management
When: Sunday, July 7th, 10am to 3pm
Description: Learn how to assess the level of fruit set and initial vegetative growth on your trees and what that may mean for management. We will discuss fruit thinning, “June Drop”, water sprouting and other issue that arise at this stage in the season; and plan for monitor fruit development, insect pests and diseases in your fruit trees as we move into the summer season. You will learn more about using an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic management perspective when dealing with potential pests or diseases and we will demonstrate spraying techniques and discuss specific organic treatments you can use to control specific pests in the summer months.

Apple Maggot season! How to monitor for and manage apple maggot along with continuing to assess the fruit development and vegetative growth on our trees, practice “scouting” an orchard to identify specific pest and diseases and how to use the results of your scouting to make management decisions (to spray or not to spray!). Explore the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic management perspective when dealing with potential pests or diseases and we will discuss specific organic sprays or treatments you can use to control mid-summer pests.

Session 5 & 6: Harvest Season – Fall Preparations for Orchard Tree & Pest Management
When: Sunday, September 8th, 10am to 3pm
**Description:** Early season varieties may have already matured! We will compare and contrast the development of different fruit varieties, how to monitor fruit maturity and their susceptibility to different insect pests and diseases. We will practice “scouting” an orchard to identify specific pest and diseases and how to use the results to plan for fall harvest and management. Explore the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic management perspective when dealing with potential pests or diseases.

We will discuss methods for harvesting your crop using safe handling practices to minimize fruit damage and preparations for crop storage as needed. Now is the time to think about “orchard floor management” before you put your orchard to bed for the season. Good fall management will lead to healthier trees and fruit next year!

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**Save the date!**

**4th annual UMD Sustainable Agriculture Fall Harvest Festival and Apple Expo!**

**When:** Saturday, October 5th, noon-4pm

**Description:** Compare and contrast the flavors, textures and colors of dozens of different fruit varieties at the Apple Expo. Cider pressing demonstrations, games and activities for the whole family, veggies from the UMD student farm, “pick your own fruit” and other products from the UMD orchard will be for sale.

Further details to be announced, but plan on a day full of exploring the sights, sounds and tastes of the UMD Sustainable Agriculture Project’s orchards and gardens!

**Free and open to the public.**