

# ALASKA NAFEX NEWSLETTER

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A Publication of the Alaska Chapter, North American Fruit Explorers (NAFEX)

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## MEETING DATES

**Sept 21**, Thurs. 7 p.m. National Bank of Alaska lunchroom. Bring a potluck dish of your choice. Be prepared to talk about your fruit plants and how well they made it through this last test winter of 1988-89.

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## THANKS FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to Pat Gould, Bob Purvis, Erik Simpson, and everyone else who helped put together the May and June Newsletter issues while I was on maternity leave. I had a healthy, 12 lb. 5 oz. boy, Matthew, on May 29, and I really appreciated the assistance. -P. Holloway

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## WORDS FROM BOB PURVIS

Below is an excerpt from a letter Bob Purvis wrote to Erik Simpson on Aug 23, 1989 from Pullman, WA.

"At the WSU horticulture orchard the 'Yellow Trans-

parents' became ripe enough to pick around August 9, and on Aug 22, we were picking some 'Red Gravensteins' and 'Earligold' apples. I tried 'Earligold' in my Anchorage yard in 1985, but they were on Malling 26 rootstocks. Needless to say, the nonhardy rootstock plus the lack of snow cover killed the trees outright that winter. I still think 'Earligold' would be worth a try in Anchorage, but it would probably ripen after Sept 20, and it appears not to be as hardy as 'Oriole'. It is also patented, and I'm not sure how eager C & O Nurseries would be to sell scionwood to NAFEX.

On Aug 22, I picked several 'Reliance' peaches which are the hardiest of peaches and the only one this year with even a moderate to light crop. I also tried an Early Italian prune plum which wasn't quite ripe, but still palatable. It would appear that Pullman is about 4

weeks ahead of Anchorage in ripening apples. We've had perhaps 7-8 days of 90 F or above this summer. The average high, even in late July is in the mid-80's. Nights are in the 40-60° range.

From Aug 13 to 16 the hort grad students went on a field trip to Wenatchee, Puyallup and Prosser, WA to tour the WSU fruit research stations. At Wenatchee, we saw 'Gala' apple trees trained into several forms: a slender spindle, a French axe, and a central leader. In this, their third season in the ground, the trees on slender spindle yielded 190 boxes; on French axe, 48; but on the traditional central leader system, only 2! Thus you can see how important the training system can be. -R. Purvis

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### NOTES ABOUT KIWI SURVIVAL IN ANCHORAGE

All my northern kiwis, planted in 1987 and 1988, lived through the winter, but four of the six died back to within three inches of the ground. The plants were covered with straw. The temperature reached -34°F. The two which did not die back, an arguta ananasnaya female and kolomikta male are in excellent condition and are becoming very large. I believe these two did well as they went into the winter with

trunks pencil width in diameter, whereas the other plant's trunks were only half that width. I would recommend purchasing either bareroot stock or large potted plants to help avoid this problem.

I thought the two kolomikta females, an aromatnaya and pavlovskaya had overwintered all right, as there was a green cambium present when I pruned them in late April, and they were leafing out. However, there also was a brown versus cream colored xylem on the interior and loose bark on the trunk. I should have pruned the vines back below the separated bark, but since the separation was near the ground and the plants looked healthy, I hoped for the best. The kiwi literature was correct though, and the plants died back.

All the plants have regrown and are in the following condition.

- a) ananasnaya (f) 1987 8'x6' excellent
  - b) ananasnaya (f) 1987 2' fair
  - c) male 1987 3' poor
  - d) male 1988 5' x 6' excellent
  - e) aromatnaya 1988 6' good
  - f) pavlovskaya 1988 1.5' fair
- Leslie Toombs

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### TREES AVAILABLE FROM WHITNEY

On the next page is an inventory list of trees from Whitney's nursery as of July 16,

INVENTORY - Whitney's O & N  
 Apple, Pear, and Plum Trees for Alaska  
 AVAILABLE IN 1990

as of July 16, 1989

CULTIVAR: \ Qty on:	1 year old trees					2 year old trees				
	Ant	Bac	Ran	Wien	Unknown	Ant	Bac	Ran	Wien	Unknown
Battleford		1 1U	2			2		4 1U		
Beacon						1				
Breakey								1		
Carroll						1				
Chinese Golden Early	4		3					4		
Collet								4		
Early Geneva		1	1		2U			2		
Gala			6					1		
Glenorchie										
Hazen			2 1U							
Heyer #12		1 1U	4					1 1U		
Hickel's Apple			3							
Jerseymac								2		
Lodi			3							
Mantet	4			1				3		
Noran								3		
Norcue		2U	1	2		2	1	1		
Norda		2 2U	1 1U							
Noret			2	4				1		
Norhey		4U	2							
Norland			1			1		4		
Norson		4	3							
Oriole	2		2							
Parkland			3 1U							
Patterson	2									
Red Duchess	1 1U		1 1U							
Red June		1 1U	3				1	1		
Rescue		1 1U	3	5 1U				4		
Roda Mantet	2									
State Fair			4 1U			1				
Summerred			3 1U			1 1U				
Trailman				3						
Viking	1		2		1		1	1		1
Vista Bella	3 1U	3U			2			10		
Yellow Jay								1U		
Yellow Transpa- rent (Brewer cv)			2							
Yellow Transpa- rent (Koeniger)		2 2U								
Yorkshire Gree- ning			1							

We also have limited quantities of scionwood of Giffard and Summercrisp pear, the edible-fruited M-44/55-44 Ussurian pear, and of the Assiniboine, Brookgold, Brookred, Opal, Pembina, Ptitsin #9, Redcoat, and Underwood plums.

1989. The numbers followed by a "U" are the numbers of trees of that variety which are unsalable because they are too small or the leaves were a bad color. The remainder should be available in 1990.

As of July 15, 'Norland' was just barely ripe at Whitney's,

as was 'Rescue'. Dan has a whole tree of 'Mantet', and it also wasn't quite ripe. There were some 'Vista Bellas' and 'Geneva Early', however, that were ripe enough to be good eating. This list should give you a head start in planning your 1990 purchases. -R. Purvis

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