

ALASKA NAFEX NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALASKA CHAPTER, NORTH AMERICAN FRUIT
EXPLORERS (NAFEX)

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MEETING DATES

Mar. 8 Preparations for spring. NBA lunchroom. Northern Lights and "C" Streets, Anchorage. 7 p.m. How to "Jumpstart" the Planting Season with Sue Adams-Green and George Hedla. Both speakers have lectured to the Alaska Master Gardeners Assoc. in their areas of expertise. Each had their homes featured on last summer's tour for the Anchorage Garden Club.

Sue Adams-Green will concentrate on techniques to enhance soil warming and aeration for outdoor seedlings and trees. She and her husband, Dick Green, live in the East Tudor area, raising flowers and vegetables along with a wide variety of cold-hardy fruits on their standard-sized city lot. Fruit varieties they are currently growing include kiwi, apples, cherries, grapes, pears, plums, blueberries and currants.

George Hedla will recount some of the adventures of 35 years of gardening in Alaska. He and wife Lenore raise flowers, vegetables and fruits on a south-facing Sand Lake tract. The Hedlas have both a solar addition and greenhouses. George is one of the few people to try raising melons in Anchorage. He also has innovative soil-warming techniques using recycled materials.

April 12 Tree grafting party. 7 p.m. NBA lunchroom (NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION FROM LAST NEWSLETTER!)

May Feeding, watering and soil testing for different fruit crops. Time/place TBA

June Seedling/rooted cutting exchange

September Seed gathering/winter preparations

October Fruit tasting

FAIRBANKS TREE GRAFTING WORKSHOP-REMINDER

A tree grafting workshop is scheduled for Sat., April 7, 1990

in 301 O'Neill Resource Building,
UAF West Ridge, 1:00 p.m.

DUES REMINDER

Your name will be dropped from our mailing list if your dues (\$7.00) are not paid to Erik Simpson by March 31, 1990!

NEW NAME FOR THE ALASKA CHAPTER ?

We are interested in changing the name of our local organization from Alaska NAFEX to something that more readily identifies who we are. Some possible suggestions have been Home Orchard Society, Alaska Home Orchard Society, and Alaska Home Fruit Growers Society. If you have any additional suggestions, preferences, comments, etc. contact Dell Kuk before the April meeting date.

SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY MEETING

At the February 8 meeting, Helen Butcher introduced Josephine Jureliet, a long-time Alaskan from Haines. Jo gave a fine slide presentation on her trees and garden in Haines. Jo has successfully grown 'Yellow Transparent' (her favorite), 'Northern Spy', 'Early Gold', 'Bing cherry', 'Black Tartarian' cherry (the earliest to bear fruit), and unknown crabapples. With the heavy snowfall in Haines, Jo has trained her apple

branches upward by wrapping with a rope around the tree in an upward spiral fashion. She found it necessary to water the apple and cherry trees heavily in the summer when they are bearing fruit. She orders all her trees from C & O Nursery, Wenatchee, Washington. She prefers to order the largest tree she can get in order to give them a good start. She has found it necessary to wrap her trees with tree guards because of the mice and rabbit problems.

Jo broke up her old iron pots and planted them in the ground under the drip line of her apple trees because they need iron. She would use plastic strips over the ends of the limbs to keep the moose away and use whirly windmills that look like sunflowers to keep the bears away. She found it important to thoroughly water when transplanting and to stomp the ground to get the air pockets out of the soil. Air pockets left in the soil create frost pockets which will kill the roots in the spring.

For a fertilizer, she highly recommends using 16-16-16. She said seaweed works well after it has aged for one year. Members thought this fertilizer could be obtained or made up by Don Chemical or Alaska Mill and Feed.

Jo also said not to put fertilizer in the hole when

transplanting trees because it can kill the trees.

Our second speaker that night was Cathy Wright from the Palmer Plant Materials Center. She gave a good slide presentation on the apple and rootstock test plots growing there. She had been successfully bud grafting all the apple trees we are familiar with that are growing in Anchorage and Fairbanks. The bud grafts require that the trees be wintered over in a greenhouse or root cellar before planting them out the following spring. Cathy found 'Wien' rootstock to be the most successful with little winterkill and vigorous growth. 'Wien' crabapple seed can occasionally be obtained from Lawyer's Nursery, Plains, MT. Cathy likes the 20-20-10 fertilizer which can be obtained through Alaska Mill and Feed. Hopefully Cathy will send up the results of her work at the PMC so we can share it with our members. Cathy did say the 'Norec' was the earliest apple in the Nor- series to fruit at Palmer, but 'Norland' was the best tasting. -Erik Simpson.

SURVIVAL OF FRUIT TREES IN DELTA JUNCTION 1988-89

Below is a summary of the survival of our fruit trees after the winter of 1988-89. We experienced about a week of temperatures in the -60 F range

with a low of -68 F. They were protected by 18 inches of sawdust in a 12 inch diameter metal cannister and a snow cover of about 18-24 inches.

Apples: 31 rootstocks survived and 9 died (78% success).

Variety	Alive	Dead	%
'Antonovka'	8	1	89
<u>M.baccata</u>	13	4	76
Ranetka	7	3	70
'Rescue'	2	0	100
unknown	1	1	50

Three grafts (scions) survived, 8 died (38% survival). Those surviving were 'Norda' on unknown rootstock (probably baccata), 'Battleford' on baccata and 'Norland' on baccata. Grafts (scions) that died were 'Noran', 'Norda' and 'Noret'. Whole trees that died (scion and rootstock) included 'Norland' on unknown rootstock, 'Norda' on baccata, 'Nor?' on 'Antonovka', and 'Nor?' on baccata.

One 'Norec' on baccata was unclear whether the graft survived as the frost damage was severe. Possibly we will know next year. The rootstock looks good and may still have a 'Norec' on it.

All five of our manchurian plum rootstocks survived, but two 'Bradshaw' grafts on the above rootstocks died.

One 'Ure' pear survived, but a Ussurian graft on it died.

-The Dufendachs
