



**Southern Interior
Horticulture Show**
February 16-17, 2024
Penticton Trade and Convention Centre

PHOTO: Dieter Geesing, AF Provincial Soil Scientist



Friday, February 16, 2024



Time	Session	Room
8:00 AM	Registration Opens	
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks • B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food	Conference Ballroom B-C
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM	Cultivating Strength: Growing Resilience Through Community and Culture. • Mo Dhaliwal, <i>CEO, Sky Rocket Digital Marketing</i> Aiming to inspire British Columbia's farmers and growers by exploring the rich tapestry of the community and agricultural heritage. This talk will dive into the roots of B.C.'s farming communities, showcasing how collective history and diverse cultural influences can shape a resilient agricultural landscape. By sharing personal stories, anecdotes of professional collaboration, and examples of successful community movements, the importance of unity and shared cultural values in overcoming challenges will be highlighted. The presentation will emphasize social practices and innovative strategies that will help growers cope with environmental and economic hurdles but also strengthen our communal bonds. This presentation is designed to be a call to action, encouraging attendees to embrace the power of community and culture in building a more resilient, cohesive, and prosperous agricultural future for British Columbia.	Conference Ballroom B-C
10:15 AM – 10:45 AM	Why is Everyone Talking About Soil Health? • Dr. Kirsten Hannam, <i>Researcher, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i> We hear a lot these days about "soil health" but what does it actually mean? What are some ways to measure "soil health" and how can these measurements be used to inform management decisions? What are some possible benefits of improving "soil health" and how can we get there? I will try to address these questions, using examples from field trials at the Summerland Research and Development Centre. I will also describe our approach to measuring and monitoring "soil health" for the British Columbia Living Lab - Southern Interior sites (which include dairy, cattle and forage, tree fruit and wine grapes).	Conference Ballroom B-C
10:45 AM – 11:15 AM	Morning Break (<i>Refreshments and Baked Goods Sponsored by B.C. Fruit Growers' Association</i>)	
11:15 AM – 11:45 AM	AgRobotics - Innovations in Weed Management • Kristen Obeid, <i>Weed Management Specialist, OMAFRA/Ontario AgRobotics Working Group</i> Innovations in robotic weeding will be discussed.	Conference Ballroom B-C
11:45 AM – 12:25 PM	Fumigation Alternatives – What Works to Improve Yields and Improve Soil Health • Tianna Dupont, <i>Tree Fruit Extension, Washington State University</i> We will discuss a recently completed study looking at anaerobic soil disinfestation and brassica seed meal bio renovation.	Conference Ballroom B-C
12:25 PM – 12:35 PM	Soil Health Indicators • Emma Holmes, <i>Soil Health and Organics Agrologist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food</i> Approaches to measuring soil health.	Conference Ballroom B-C
12:35 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch Break (<i>Food available for purchase from venue concession</i>)	



Available for Apple iOS, Android, and web-based browsers, the **PheedLoop Go! Mobile App** will allow you to review sessions and customize your own schedule, check-out speaker info, respond to feedback survey's and view session recordings post-event.



WiFi Network
Southern Interior
Horticultural Show

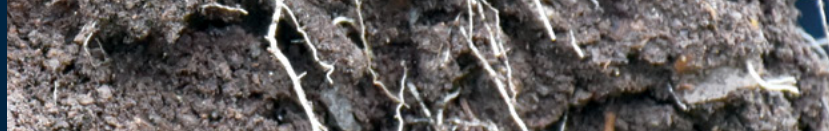
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2:00 PM – 3:15 PM		CONCURRENT COMMODITY SESSIONS 1	
GRAPE			
2:00 PM – 3:15 PM	Sap Flow Pruning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jacopo Miolo, Consultant and Vine Pruning Trainer, Simonit&Sirch</i> <p>A gentle form of pruning named after the viticultural experts Marco Simonit and Pierpaolo Sirch from Friuli in Italy, also known as “gentle pruning” or “healthy pruning”. The method developed in the 1980s is based on very old experiences that have been adapted to the requirements of modern viticulture. The focus is on the health of the vine with a significant extension of the life of the vines.</p>	Conference Ballroom B-C	
APPLE			
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Crop Load Management: Part 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Terence Robinson, Research Professor, Cornell University</i> <p>Last year at the Apple Day, Dr. Terence Robinson gave a great introduction into the physiology of crop load management. This talk will explore more on how to make important crop load management decisions in apple production systems.</p>	Conference Room 6-7	
2:30 PM – 3:10 PM	Newer Apple Rootstocks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dale Goldy, Owner and Grower, Gold Crown Nursery</i> <p>Navigating New Apple Rootstocks. How do all the new rootstocks change the orchard replanting process? What impact do rootstocks have on variety/site selection? How has ordering nursery trees changed? Planning now for future orchard renewal of your new block.</p>	Conference Room 6-7	
CHERRY			
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Cherry Powdery Mildew <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Jay Pscheidt, Professor and Plant Pathology State Extension Specialist, Oregon State University</i> <p>Learn details about this nasty fungal disease along with management tactics.</p>	Conference Room 1-3	
2:30 PM – 3:15 PM	How Variety, Rootstocks and Training System Influence Crop Load Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Lynn Long, Emeritus Appointment, Oregon State University</i> <p>Cherry crop load is affected by a multitude of factors, not the least of which are variety, rootstock and training systems. The ability of a grower to effectively manage crop load is critical to growing premium cherries. Learn why matching the variety with the proper rootstock and training system is necessary to the production of high-quality cherries.</p>	Conference Room 1-3	
3:15 PM – 3:45 PM	Afternoon Break (<i>Refreshments and Baked Goods Sponsored by Princeton Wood Preservers</i>)		
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM		CONCURRENT COMMODITY SESSIONS 2	
GRAPE			
3:45 PM – 3:55 PM	Invasive Weed Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Elaine Desjarlais, Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society, Field Operations Manager</i> <p>How to recognize and deal with some of the biggest problem invasive weeds in the Southern Interior.</p>	Conference Ballroom B-C	
3:55 PM – 4:05 PM	Invasive Insects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Susanna Acheampong, Entomologist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food</i> <p>Learn what potentially economic impactful invasive pests to watch for in B.C.</p>	Conference Ballroom B-C	
4:05 PM – 4:35 PM	Grape Powdery Mildew <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Jay Pscheidt, Professor and Plant Pathology State Extension Specialist, Oregon State University</i> <p>Learn details about this nasty fungal disease along with management tactics. Biological based tactics will be discussed.</p>	Conference Ballroom B-C	



4:35 PM – 4:45 PM	BCIA Update on New Consultant Regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryan O'Grady, Registrar, B.C. Institute of Agrologists <p>There is a lot of confusion on the new consultant rules and when it will now be necessary to have a Professional Agrologist. Ryan O'Grady will give a presentation on the new rules and help answer questions.</p>	Conference Ballroom B-C
APPLE		
3:45 PM – 4:15 PM	An Update on NC-140 Apple Rootstock Trials in Summerland Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Hao Xu, Researcher, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada <p>Summerland Research and Development Centre participates in the NC-140 Regional Research Project. Improving economic and environmental sustainability in tree fruit production through changes in rootstock use.</p> <p>In this talk, Dr. Xu will highlight the outcomes from the 2010 Honeycrisp trial and the 2019 Buckeye Gala trial and will provide an update on a future peach rootstock trial.</p>	Conference Room 6-7
4:15 PM – 4:40 PM	New Apple Plant Growth Regulator: Accede <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie Schipper, Field Market Development Specialist, Valent <p>New crop load thinner and summary of last year in-field demos.</p>	Conference Room 6-7
4:40 PM – 4:50 PM	Environmental Farm Plan/Beneficial Management Practices Program Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yasantha Athukorala, Environment and Climate Program Advisor, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food <p>Find out what is new and some of the Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) funding that is applicable to tree fruit growers with the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program.</p>	Conference Room 6-7
CHERRY		
3:45 PM – 4:15 PM	Managing Tree Architecture and Rejuvenating Climax Orchards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Clive Kaiser, Associate Professor, Lincoln University, NZ <p>Pruning and training older cherry trees.</p>	Conference Room 1-3
4:15 PM – 4:45 PM	Panel: Connections Between Pruning, Crop Load and Disease Management in Sweet Cherries <p>PANEL HOST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molly Thurston, Consultant, Pearl Agricultural Consulting <p>PANELISTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Clive Kaiser, Associate Professor, Lincoln University NZ • Dr. Lynn Long, Emeritus Appointment, Oregon State University • Dale Goldy, Owner and Grower, Gold Crown Nursery • Gayle Krahn, Director of Operations, Jealous Fruits <p>The panel will have an open discussion on integrating the principles discussed throughout the day to connect pruning, crop load management, and disease in sweet cherry orchards.</p>	Conference Room 1-3
5:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Evening Social (Sponsored by TerraLink Horticulture Inc. and Growers Supply) <p>Join us for an evening social and celebration of B.C.'s agriculture industry. Includes complimentary food and drink. All registered participants welcome.</p>	Tradeshow
7:30 PM End of Day 1		

Time	Session	Room
8:00 AM	Registration Opens	
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	CONCURRENT COMMODITY SESSIONS 3	
GRAPE		
9:00 AM – 9:05 AM	Opening Remarks	Conference Ballroom B-C
9:05 AM – 10:00 AM	<p>A Comprehensive and Sustainable Approach to Manage Grapevine Trunk Diseases in British Columbia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • José Ramón Úrbez Torres, <i>Researcher, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i> <p>Grapevine trunk diseases occur wherever grapes are grown and are considered the main biotic factor reducing yields and shortening vineyards' lifespan. Currently, no product is available to eradicate these diseases once grapevines are infected. This presentation will provide different sustainable control strategies that can be used by growers in British Columbia to mitigate the impact of grapevine trunk diseases in vineyards.</p>	Conference Ballroom B-C
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	<p>Vitis SPP Rootstocks for Managing Northern Root-Knot Nematode and other Plant Parasitic Nematodes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernadette Gagnier, <i>PhD Candidate, Washington State University</i> <p>The northern root-knot nematode (<i>Meloidogyne hapla</i>) is a prevalent plant-parasitic nematode in northern grape-growing regions. It induces small galls on roots which restricts water and nutrient uptake, resulting in poor vine establishment or exacerbated decline in stressed vines. Rootstocks can be a viable option for managing this decline in vineyards.</p> <p>We have evaluated nine <i>Vitis</i> spp. rootstocks (1616C, 99R, 44-53M, 140RU, Minotaur, SO4, SW, 5BB, and 1103P) and two <i>Vitis vinifera</i> own-rooted vines (Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon) against <i>M. hapla</i>. Nematode populations were lower on the non-<i>vinifera</i> rootstocks relative to the own-rooted <i>V. vinifera</i> vines.</p>	Conference Ballroom B-C
APPLE		
9:00 AM – 9:05 AM	Opening Remarks	Conference Room 6-7
9:05 AM – 9:35 AM	<p>Rate of Soil Water Loss Under Alternative Organic Soil Amendments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sebastian Damin, <i>Graduate Student, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i> <p>Using Stem Water Potential to evaluate soil water availability under woodchip mulch, and Woolly thyme ground covers.</p>	Conference Room 6-7
9:35 AM – 9:45 AM	<p>Ambrosia Soft Scald</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Bill Wolk, <i>Post-harvest Physiologist</i> <p>An overview of what we know about what can predispose fruit to the post-harvest disorder of Soft Scald and what can be done to reduce the incidence of it in storage.</p>	Conference Room 6-7
9:45 AM – 10:05 AM	<p>Sunburn Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Clive Kaiser, <i>Associate Professor, Lincoln University NZ</i> <p>Learn about the work done on methods and products for helping to reduce sunburn in apples.</p>	Conference Room 6-7
10:05 AM – 10:15 AM	<p>Invasive Weeds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaine Desjarlais, <i>Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society, Field Operations Manager</i> <p>How to recognize and deal with some of the biggest problem invasive weeds in the Southern Interior.</p>	Conference Room 6-7
10:15 AM – 10:25 AM	<p>Invasive Insects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Susanna Acheampong, <i>Entomologist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food</i> <p>Learn what potentially economic impactful invasive pests to watch for in B.C.</p>	Conference Room 6-7



CHERRY		
9:00 AM – 9:05 AM	Opening Remarks	Conference Room 1-3
9:05 AM – 9:15 AM	Invasive Weed Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elaine Desjarlais, <i>Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society, Field Operations Manager</i> How to recognize and deal with some of the biggest problem invasive weeds in the Southern Interior.	Conference Room 1-3
9:15 AM – 9:25 AM	Invasive Insects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Susanna Acheampong, <i>Entomologist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food</i> Learn what potentially economic impactful invasive pests to watch for in B.C.	Conference Room 1-3
9:25 AM – 9:40 AM	Western X/LCD BC Project Update and Sampling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Susanna Acheampong, <i>Entomologist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food</i> Report on the work done in B.C. last year sampling cherry orchards for Western X and Little Cherry Disease.	Conference Room 1-3
9:40 AM – 10:30 AM	X-Disease and Little Cherry Virus Management in Washington State <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Tobin Northfield, <i>Assistant Professor, Washington State University</i> X-Disease is currently at epidemic levels in Pacific Northwest orchards growing cherries and other stone fruits. The current status of X-disease in Washington State will be discussed, as well as a summary of recent research and management recommendations.	Conference Room 1-3
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Morning Break (<i>Refreshments and Baked Goods Sponsored by PGR Sales</i>)	
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	CONCURRENT COMMODITY SESSIONS 3	
GRAPE		
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Lessons on Variety Research with Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Elizabeth Wolkovich, <i>Researcher, University of British Columbia</i> Dr. Elizabeth Wolkovich will share some of the research being done in other growing areas to examine different variety potentials in changing climates.	Conference Ballroom B-C
11:30 AM – 11:40 AM	Environmental Farm Plan/Beneficial Management Practices Program Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yasantha Athukorala, <i>Environment and Climate Program Advisor, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food</i> Find out what is new and some of the Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) funding that is applicable to wine grape growers with the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program.	Conference Ballroom B-C
11:40 AM – 12:25 PM	Panel: Economic Considerations when Considering of Replanting (Lessons Learned) PANEL HOST: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ruth King, <i>Program Manager, Sustainable Wine Growing B.C.</i> PANELLISTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Felix Egerer, <i>Viticulturist, Unsworth Vineyards</i> John Furkalo, <i>Viticulturist, Earlco Vineyards Ltd.</i> Devin Methven, <i>Viticulturist, Andrew Peller Ltd.</i> Panel discussion on what economic factors are taken into consideration when making decisions for replanting a block.	Conference Ballroom B-C
12:25 PM – 12:30 PM	Closing Remarks	Conference Ballroom B-C
APPLE		
11:00 AM – 11:50 AM	Apple Integrated Pest Management Scouting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Molly Thurston, <i>Agronomist, Pearl Agricultural Consulting</i> Tamara Richardson, <i>Agronomist, Cornucopia Consulting</i> Practical session on Integrated Pest Management principles and how to scout for various orchard pests and disease.	Conference Room 6-7
11:50 AM – 12:25 PM	Multi-Leader and High-Density Systems to Improve Fruit Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Stefano Musacchi, <i>Professor and Endowed Chair of Tree Fruit Physiology and Management, Washington State University</i> Fruit quality is becoming more important to increase customer satisfaction and planer canopy can help to improve it.	Conference Room 6-7
12:25 PM – 12:30 PM	Closing Remarks	Conference Room 6-7

CHERRY		
11:00 AM – 11:20 AM	<p>GA Research Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Matthew Whiting, <i>Professor, Scientist, Extension Specialist, Washington State University</i> <p>GA is an important plant growth regulator used extensively in cherry production. This pre-recorded presentation will give an update on how to best use it.</p>	Conference Room 1-3
11:20 AM – 11:50 AM	<p>Environmental Stresses and Horticultural Mitigations in Sweet Cherries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Hao Xu, <i>Researcher, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i> <p>Sustainable yield of sweet cherry is often challenged by cold damage in early spring, summer heat waves, and excessive moisture prior to harvest. In this talk, Dr. Xu will introduce the crop responses to these environmental stresses and discuss the effective horticultural mitigations.</p>	Conference Room 1-3
11:50 AM – 12:00 PM	<p>Environmental Farm Plan/Beneficial Management Practices Program Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yasantha Athukorala, <i>Environment and Climate Program Advisor, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food</i> <p>Find out what is new and some of the Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) funding that is applicable to tree fruit growers with the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program.</p>	Conference Room 1-3
12:00 PM – 12:25 PM	<p>Cherry Breeding Program Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Amritpal Singh, <i>Researcher, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</i> <p>An update on the strains being tested and their attributes from the AAFC Summerland cherry breeding program.</p>	Conference Room 1-3
12:25 PM – 12:30 PM	Closing Remarks	Conference Room 1-3
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch Break (<i>Food available for purchase from venue concession</i>)	
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	<p>The Impact of Land Use and Climate Change on Okanagan Basin Hydrology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. John Pomeroy, <i>Professor, Director and Research Chair, University of Saskatchewan</i> <p>Model results with changing land cover and climate forcings showing the impact of changing snow and rainfall runoff in delivering water to the Okanagan Basin.</p>	Conference Ballroom B-C
2:00 PM – 2:45 PM	<p>Climate Change Trends and Impacts on California Agriculture and Tools and Resources for Managing Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tapan Pathek, <i>Associate Professor, UC Merced</i> <p>Sustainable agriculture is vital to global economic and food security, yet current and future climate risks pose many challenges. Increased frequency and intensity of extreme events such as heat waves, floods, and droughts, increased temperature rates, variable and uncertain precipitation events, and associated increase in weed, pest, and disease pressures are already impacting agriculture and the broader economy significantly. These conditions provide a glimpse of the future. Farmers and ranchers, including socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, beginning and limited resource farmers and ranchers are under constant pressure to adjust to uncertain weather and climate events in order to minimize risks.</p> <p>This presentation is broadly focused on how climate change is affecting agricultural production in water scarce California, solutions such as climate-smart agriculture practices to alleviate some of the risks, data driven decision making in agriculture, and how farmers perceive climate change in California.</p>	Conference Ballroom B-C
2:45 PM – 3:15 PM	Afternoon Break (<i>Refreshments and Baked Goods Sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food</i>)	

Saturday, February 17, 2024



3:15 PM – 3:25 PM	Navigating the B.C. Agriculture Water Calculator <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tara Despault, <i>Water Resource Specialist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food</i> Discover the B.C. Agriculture Water Calculator in a concise demonstration. Learn how this tool assists agricultural producers in calculating water needs for crops and livestock, and its practical application in water licensing. We'll cover the methods used in calculating annual requirements, focusing on variables like crop type, soil properties, climate, and irrigation systems used on the farm. The presentation will also highlight the tool's additional features and functions that go beyond water use calculations.	Conference Ballroom B-C
3:25 PM - 3:40 PM	Top 5 Practices to Improve Orchard and Vineyard Water Use Efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bruce Naka, <i>Consultant, Sound Water Advice</i> Water scarcity, heat domes, drought, all issues created by climate change. Join Bruce Naka on his discussion of techniques and new technologies that contribute to improving your irrigation system's efficiency. The discussion will include how to go about performing an annual site inspection of your irrigation system to maximise its preparedness for upcoming irrigation season. The session will also review ongoing basic maintenance procedures which could improve your system's efficiency. Learn of existing resources which can assist you in determining how much water you require daily.	Conference Ballroom B-C
3:40 PM - 4:15 PM	Irrigation and Water Panel <p>MODERATOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tara Despault, <i>Water Resource Specialist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food</i> <p>PANELLISTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sam DiMaria, <i>Grower, Orchardist</i>Ravi Dhaliwal, <i>Grower, Orchard Hill</i>Andrew Moon, <i>Viticulturalist, Tinhorn Creek Winery</i> Panel Discussion: Optimizing your irrigation system in tree fruits and grapes.	Conference Ballroom B-C
4:15 PM - 4:20 PM	Water, Soil, Climate: Research and Resources to Support B.C. Farmers <ul style="list-style-type: none">Yasantha Athukorala, <i>Environment and Climate Program Advisor, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food</i> Find out about upcoming workshops.	Conference Ballroom B-C
4:20 PM - 4:30 PM	Door Prize Give Away	Conference Ballroom B-C
4:30 PM	End of Day 2	

The Southern Interior Horticultural Show is being delivered in partnership with:

B.C. Cherry Association

Sustainable Winegrowing B.C.

B.C. Fruit Growers' Association

Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release (SIR) Program

B.C. Grapegrowers' Association

Summerland Varieties Corp.

B.C. Wine Grape Council

New Tree Fruit Varieties Development Council

Wine Growers British Columbia

Okanagan Horticultural Advisors' Group

