SGGA NEWS

April 2022

SGGA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant."

– Anne Bradstreet

This month we said a sad goodbye to past SGGA president and owner of Grandora Gardens Fred Gittings. Fred was highly respected and did much to serve and expand the industry. My condolences to his family and friends.

As one by one we open the doors, flick the switch, turn on the furnaces, uncover the machinery, and open the boxes – we start a new. Our decisions were made on pre covid sales. As if the last two seasons never occurred, just one long "off" season. Not off as not functioning, powerless, off as "different".

So with the same customers, colour combos, and old favourites, how do we tackle new problems? How do we deal with anecdotal predictions and quotes of 24% fuel surcharge, and trucking increasing 300-400%? We use old solutions. We hold on, buckle up, and get to work. We use our degrees and experience to make the best changes.

We are strong, we have problem solved every other year with seemingly insurmountable issues. As an association, we continue to brain storm and fundraise to balance our budget. When one option did not come to fruition (bulk purchase strawberry roots), we dug down and got to work on something ever bigger. Gardenscape is in a few short weeks. There we will meet face to face, smile to smile. Our goals are success. Our methods are thinking outside of the box. We, as an industry, are not scared of hard work. Our goal is to get our hands dirty. So bring it on! Give a person a fruit or veggie- they will eat. Give it to a greenhouse grower, they will grow it and feed it to the community. Just like Fred did. Thanks Fred. Your work here is done.

– Tammy Lauinger
President SGGA

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2022 MEMBERSHIPS NOW DUE

Saskatchewan Greenhouse Growers Association

- Access to Tag Discount Program
- Access to Tray and Box Discount Program
- Subscription to SGGA's Newsletter
- Industry support through other mentors and Board of Directors
- Member Discount to Annual Conference and Learning Opportunities
- Industry Updates and Networking Opportunities
  - Industry Liaison to Government
  - Covid Support for your Business
- Member on Facebook forum

NEW MEMBERSHIP PERKS

- Covid Support for your Business
- Promotion of your business on New Facebook Group – Flowers & Gardens – Sask Connection for Backyard Enthusiasts
- Copy of the Industry Suppliers Guide
- Access to winter virtual learning events and coffee talks (member exclusive)
- SGGA members tour maps (the SGGA will be creating and sharing with the public, tour maps to guide garden enthusiasts on where to go for local flowers and produce)

On your behalf the SGGA is pleased to represent the greenhouse industry, addressing topics important to your business at the industry and government level. Your membership is important and entitles you to share your opinion and concerns with the board.

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www.saskgreenhouses.com

SGGA verified members will receive SGGA member rates on tag orders placed with:

Horta-Craft

Horta-Craft Limited
www.horta-craft.ca

Qualifying members must provide verification of 2020-21 SGGA membership when submitting orders to Horta-Craft Limited for group pricing.

SGGA Newsletter Advertising

Advertising Option	Member Fee	Non-Member Fee
Full Page 7.25″ x 9.75″	$110.00	$165.00
Half Page 7.25″ x 4.8″ (horizontal) 3.5″ x 9.75″ (vertical)	$ 85.00	$127.00
Quarter Page 3.5″ x 4.8″	$ 60.00	$ 90.00
Business Card (1/8 Page) 3.5″ x 2.3″	$ 35.00	$ 52.00
Full Page Insert	$ 75.00 you print $ 125.00 we print	$ 125.00 you print $ 200.00 we print

Contact the SGGA OFFICE to book your advertising space!

Fruit for Your Garden Center/Greenhouse: Apples, Sour Cherries and Haskap

By Jackie Bantle

Many home gardeners and new homeowners will be looking to purchase some type of fruit tree for their yard this spring. The University of Saskatchewan Fruit program has been working on developing hardy fruit for the Prairies for 100 years. Saskatchewan has come a long way from early pioneers picking tiny apples from a tree that is barely surviving the cold Prairie winter, to harvesting tasty, luscious haskap berries in early July. As greenhouse growers, selling locally developed fruit trees or shrubs, as well as providing personalized, information and advice to your customers gives you a huge advantage over the big box stores that leave customers on their own to select from semi-hardy fruit cultivars brought in from unknown production locations.

Propagators of U of S Fruit Varieties		
	Location	Crops
Adamson's Heritage Nurseries Ltd.	British Columbia	Cherries, Haskap
Advance Nursery Co. Ltd	British Columbia	Cherries
Agri-Forest Bio-Technologies Ltd.	British Columbia	Cherries, Haskap
Bylands Nurseries	British Columbia	Haskap, Cherries
DNA Gardens	Elnora, Alberta	Apples
FloraMaxx Technologies	West Kelowna, BC	Haskap, Cherries
Haskap Central Sales	Henribourg, Saskatchewan	Haskap
Haskap Prairie Orchards	West St. Paul, Manitoba	Haskap
Mosterman Plants Inc.	Chilliwack, British Columbia	Cherries, Haskap
Phytoclone Inc.	St Etienne des Gres, Quebec	Cherries, Haskap
Phytocultures Ltd	Charlottetown, PEI	Cherries, Haskap
PPS Fruit Trees (formerly Prairie Plant Systems)	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	Cherries, Haskap
PrairieTech Propagation	Bonnyville, Alberta	Cherries, Haskap
Riverbend Orchards	Portage la Prairie, Manitoba	Cherries, Haskap
Scott and Stewart Forestry Consultants	Antigonish County, Nova Scotia	Haskap
Shannon Oaks Tree Farm	Morden, Manitoba	Cherries
Sheridan Nurseries	Georgetown, Ontario	Haskap
Sidhu and Sons Nursery	Mission, British Columbia	Haskap
Tree Time	Edmonton, Alberta	Cherries, Haskap
Van Belle Nursery	Abbotsford, British Columbia	Haskap
Vanstone Nurseries	Portage la Prairie, Manitoba	Haskap
Vegetolab Inc.	Alma, Quebec	Cherries, Haskap
Wind & Water Farm	Manitoba	Haskap
Young Plants Canada	Elrose, Saskatchewan	Cherries, Haskap
Yukon Berry Farms (shawnnewell@hotmail.com)	Yukon Territory	Haskap

(https://research-groups.usask.ca/fruit/buying-our-plants/buyingourplants.php)

SOURCING PLANTS

One of the first challenges of the greenhouse is finding locally grown fruit plants to sell to your customers. The University of Saskatchewan fruit program's website lists several propagators that can supply plants.

DECIDING WHAT CULTIVARS TO SELL

What is a cultivar? A cultivar is a plant that has been bred for specific traits – usually by crossing male pollen from one plant, with certain desirable characteristics, with the female flower parts of another plant, with different desirable characteristics. The resulting seed(s) that are produced are germinated and the new seedling plants are evaluated for their growth, quality, hardiness, etc. If any of the seedlings display the desired traits, that plant becomes a named cultivar. That named cultivar plant is then reproduced by grafting, cloning, tissue culture or carefully controlled seed production. 'Gala', 'MacIntosh' and 'Granny Smith' are example of apple cultivars however the trees that produce these three cultivars are not hardy enough to be grown on the Prairies.

Full sized Prairie bred **apple** cultivars that are recommended for backyard gardeners include:

- 'Prairie Sensation' - released in 2006, attractive fruit is 3-4" in diameter with good flavor. Harvest in mid-September
- 'Treasure Red' – a columnar apple tree that produces good sized edible fruit. Recommended for small yards.
- Others full sized apples: 'Battleford', 'Carlos Queen', 'Goodland', 'Haralson', 'Heyer 12', 'Norkent', 'Norland', 'September Ruby', 'Westland'

Unnamed apple seedling from U of S apple breeding program. JACKIE BANTLE PHOTO

Crabapples recommended for backyard gardeners:

- 'Kerr' – released in 1952, crabapple type approximately 3cm in diameter. Produces attractive colored jelly. Harvest in late September – early October. Good flavour.
- 'Rescue' – released in 1936, crabapple type, excellent for juicing.
- 'Dolgo' – originates from Siberia, Russia, good for jelly, small fruit, nice flavour. Harvest in mid-August.

Apples must be cross pollinated. Any edible apple tree or flowering crab tree can act as pollinator: apple trees that are cross pollinating should be no more than 10m apart.

'Juliet' Dwarf sour cherry ripening on the bush in early August. JACKIE BANTLE PHOTO

Tart Cherries (Sour Cherries) recommended for backyard gardeners include:

- 'D'Artagnon' – released in 2021, recommended for a cherry hedge since 'D'Artagnon' suckers more than other cultivars. Cherries are a good size and flavorful.
- 'Juliet' – good fruit size and quality. Best overall cultivar of the Romance series: hardy, flavour, size.
- Other cultivars to sell: 'Valentine' – good for pies, tart flavour; 'Crimson Passion' – large fruit, later maturing; 'Romeo' – late maturing, dark fruit color, tasty but semi-hardy for Saskatchewan; 'Cupid'; 'Carmine Jewel' – the first sour cherry to be released, very hardy but medium sized fruit.

... continued ...

Cherries are self-pollinating and do not need a second plant to produce fruit.

Haskap – the name given to superior honeysuckle cultivars that have Japanese germplasm in their breeding line. Haskap is a relatively new berry that does not have the terrible astringent flavor of wild blue honeysuckle or honeyberries found in nature.

Haskaps are an excellent, reliable berry to grow in Saskatchewan. Unlike Saskatoon berries, haskap flowers are hardy to -4°C frost. Haskap require cross pollination between two different cultivars. Additionally, not just any two haskap cultivars will cross pollinate. Check the chart below for compatible and non-compatible haskap cultivars for cross pollination. Some haskap cultivars are ready to harvest in early July whereas recently released cultivars can be harvested in early August. Gardeners can grow several bushes in their yard to extend the harvest season.

'Boreal Blizzard' haskap fruit. WWW.GARDENING@USASK.CA PHOTO

Most recent haskap cultivars recommended by the University of Saskatchewan are 'Boreal Blizzard' and 'Boreal Beast' which have larger fruit than earlier released cultivars of 'Aurora' and 'Tundra. 'Indigo Gem' is a bush with smaller berries but good yields. 'Boreal Beauty' is a later maturing cultivar that helps to extend the haskap harvest season later into the summer.

Compatibility Chart for haskap cross pollination, University of Saskatchewan Cultivars

	Tundra	Borealis	Indigo Series	Aurora	Honey Bee	Boreal Blizzard	Boreal Beast	Boreal Beauty
Tundra	BAD	BAD	BAD	GOOD	GOOD	OK	POOR	BAD
Borealis	BAD	BAD	BAD	GOOD	GOOD	OK	POOR	BAD
Indigo Series	BAD	BAD	BAD	GOOD	GOOD	OK	POOR	BAD
Aurora	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	BAD	GOOD	BAD	OK	BAD
Honeybee	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	BAD	OK	OK	BAD
Boreal Blizzard	OK	OK	OK	BAD	OK	BAD	GOOD	POOR
Boreal Beast	POOR	POOR	POOR	POOR	OK	GOOD	BAD	GOOD
Boreal Beauty	BAD	BAD	BAD	BAD	BAD	POOR	GOOD	BAD

For more detailed information on other fruit that is hardy for the Prairies, check out the University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program website at **https://research-groups.usask.ca/fruit/index.php**.

ONETREEPLANTED

Joan Browne MEMORIAL Fund

EcoFriendly Sask.ca

Arbour Crest

Fred Gittings

The SGGA wishes to extend our deepest condolences to Pat and the family and friends of Fred. A long-time member of the SGGA, Fred served on the board as the President for several years. He and his wife have made several contributions to the industry. Fred's smile and laugh will be remembered.

It is with sad hearts that we announce the passing of Fred on February 25 due to complications from COPD. He is survived by his wife and partner in everything, Pat; his sisters Kathy and Donna and his brothers Ken and Bill. He was predeceased by his father Elmer and his mother Helen. Born in Oakville he spent his youth in Port Credit before attending Brock University where he earned his Geology degree, followed by his MBA from the University of Saskatchewan. Fred and Pat joined Saskatoon Farmer's Market where they were early members, vendors and Fred served as treasurer and president. He became involved with the Saskatchewan Greenhouse Growers Association, also serving as president. Over the past 30 years Fred and Pat have grown Grandora Gardens into a thriving business. Patient, quiet, introspective all describe Fred, but the one word we continue to hear is kind. The Celebration of Life of this kind man, was held on Thursday March 3 at 2 p.m. at Saskatoon Funeral Home www.saskatoonfuneralhome.com. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Saskatoon Farmer's Market or Lung Saskatchewan.

Save the Date

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2022 1:00-5:00

Saskatchewan new Blooms
for canadian nurseries and retailers

WITH HIGH Q GREENHOUSE

HOSTED @ MISTY GARDENS - HUMBOLDT, SASK

Using Nematodes for Pest Prevention & Control

Nemasys is a biological control used on a wide variety of greenhouse products and is a live advanced biocontrol, that seeks out larval stage gnats and adult stage thrips. This product can be used early in the season as a preventative treatment to thrips and gnats. Nemasys can be used in combination with other biological and conventional applications. When using Nemasys in rotation with conventional products, you are helping reducing the chances of chemical resistance. Control can be made with light and frequent applications, or higher rates less frequently. These critters thrive in a moist environment and should be applied to a moist and cool growing media. Adopting Nemasys into your pest prevention program is a must this growing season! For more information on Nemasys I recommend visiting **https://betterplants.basf.us/products/nemasys--beneficial-nematodes.html**. Information from Plant Products Canada & BASF.

Western Flower Thrips Applications

Pest	Target	Program Interval	Infestation Level	Application Rate	Application Volume[1]
Western flower thrips	Soil or growing media	Initial application	All	50 mil./1100 ft² (100 m²) 150 mil./3300 ft² (300 m²) 250 mil./5500 ft² (500 m²)	30–50 gal./1000 ft² (115–190 L/100 m²)
	Foliage	Once or twice weekly	Light	50 mil./4400 ft² (400 m²) 150 mil./13200 ft² (1140 m²) 250 mil./22000 ft² (2040 m²)	2.5 gal./1000 ft² (10 L/100 m²)
			Heavy	50 mil./2200 ft² (200 m²) 150 mil./6600 ft² (570 m²) 250 mil./11000 ft² (1020 m²)	

Fungus Gnat Applications

Pest	Target	Application Interval	Application Rate	Application Volume[1]
Fungus gnats	Soil or growing media	2–3 weeks	50 mil./1100 ft² (100 m²) 150 mil./3300 ft² (300 m²) 250 mil./5500 ft² (500 m²)	30–50 gal./1000 ft² (115–190 L/100 m²)
		4–6 weeks	50 mil./550 ft² (50 m²) 150 mil./1650 ft² (150 m²) 250 mil./2750 ft² (250 m²)	

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The AGGA Greenhouse CHAT is back!

You are invited to join!

Future sessions will be on Mondays, every two weeks or so. Please mark future dates in your calendar and plan to attend: Feb 28, March 14 & 28, April 11 & 25, May 16 & 30, June 13, 2022.

AGGA is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. THE CHAT
Join Zoom Meeting: **https://zoom.us/j/94951754187?pwd=MUk3R3o4UjF5YkJxaHJHaEliWFFUZz09**

Meeting ID: 949 5175 4187 | Passcode: 571452
Dial by your location: 1 587 328 1099 Canada
Find your local number: **https://zoom.us/u/adpT44NIu5**

Topic: the CHAT 2022
Time: Feb 15, 2022 07:00 PM Edmonton

Feb 15, 2022 07:00 PM
Feb 28, 2022 07:00 PM
Mar 14, 2022 07:00 PM
Mar 28, 2022 07:00 PM
Apr 11, 2022 07:00 PM
Apr 25, 2022 07:00 PM
May 16, 2022 07:00 PM
May 30, 2022 07:00 PM
Jun 13, 2022 07:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.
Weekly: **https://zoom.us/meeting/tJAkcuivqz8rEtNMzdlnI60PV1b5ck_OARcd/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCspz4rHdGRsRGARowIHY_4d-3wmClcj7dzsQXhDy56NFPGALNAZ7F0L_fx**

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