



# Texas Fruit & Nut Orchard Conference



October 11th & 12th, 2012

The Brazos Center, Bryan, Texas

## General Announcement

Interested in growing fruits or nuts for health, wealth, or recreation in Texas, and need to know how to get started? Or are you a commercial fruit grower seeking new crops and greater diversification? The Texas Fruit & Nut Orchard Conference is an educational program serving both purposes: **orienting prospective growers in starting a new commercial fruit orchard**, and offering **alternative fruit crops and production systems for established commercial fruit growers in Texas**.

While this conference is intended to assist commercial fruit producers, the materials presented will also be helpful to homeowners and gardeners who simply want to grow fruits and nuts for home consumption and pleasure. Texas has tremendous diversity in weather, soils, and water availability, providing significant challenges in fruit growing. This conference will cover critical topics of water, nutrient, disease and insect management. Earth-Kind® techniques for growing fruit in Texas will also be discussed. One mini-session will be devoted to recommended varieties of fruits for different regions of Texas. Texas AgriLife Extension specialists from College Station, Dallas, Fredericksburg, Lubbock, and Uvalde will present successful growing practices for pecans, figs, citrus, olives and pomegranates. High tunnels, tools for protecting fruit crops from frost damage and extending market windows, will be discussed. Successful peach and berry producer, Dale Ham, of Ham Orchards in Terrell, Texas, will share his experiences in marketing fruits.

Pesticide continuing education units (CEU's) will be offered for this one and one-half day long event.

## Registration for this event is On-Line at <http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu>

Online registration through October 2, 2012 is \$75.00. (\$45.00 for Texas AgriLife County Agents). On-site registration on October 11th or 12th, is \$80.00.

The site of the conference is The Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, Texas, 77802. It is accessed from Earl Rudder Parkway (Highway 6) at the Briarcrest Drive Exit. The Brazos Center is approximately 6 miles or 10 minutes from Texas A&M University Campus, College Station, Texas.

### Conference Coordinators for more Information:

Monte Nesbitt, (979) 862-1218; MLNesbitt@tamu.edu

Larry Stein, (830) 278-9151; larrystein@tamu.edu

### Texas Fruit & Nut Orchard Conference Hotels

Hampton Inn: \$109 Standard Room, or \$119 Suite  
925 Earl Rudder Freeway South, College Station, Tx 77840 979-694-2100

Best Western Premier-Old Town Center, \$99.00 Standard Room  
1920 Austins Colony Parkway, Bryan, TX, 77803: 979-731-5300

**Tentative Program Schedule Attached—Next Page**



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*New Orchard Establishment*  
*Season Extension*

*Fruit Varieties*  
*Marketing*

*Irrigation*  
*Insect & Disease Management*

*Alternative Crops*

## Educational Program Schedule

Thursday Morning	October 11th, 2012	The Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, Texas, 77802
8:00-8:45 am	On-Site Registration	
8:30-12:00	<b><i>New Orchard Establishment Session</i></b>	
8:30	Site Selection Considerations for New Orchards	Jim Kamas, Texas AgriLife Extension, Fredericksburg,
9:00	Water Quality and Irrigation Management	Larry Stein, Texas AgriLife Extension, Uvalde
9:30	Managing Weeds and the Orchard Floor	Monte Nesbitt, Texas AgriLife Extension, College Station
10:00	<i>Break</i>	
10:15	Nitrogen Management in Orchards and Vineyards	Sam Feagley, Texas A&M University, College Station
10:45	Non-Traditional Soil Amendments	Mark McFarland, Texas Agrilife Extension, College Station
11:15	Experiences in Marketing Tree Fruits and Berries	Dale Ham, Ham Orchards, Terrell , Texas
11:45	<b>Question/Answer Session</b>	
12:00-1:00pm	<b><i>Catered Lunch</i></b>	
1:00-3:00 pm	<b><i>Orchard Insects &amp; Diseases Session</i></b>	
1:00 pm	IPM for Insect Pests of Fruit & Nut Orchards	Allen Knutson, Texas AgriLife Extension, Dallas
1:30 pm	Fruit & Nut Orchard Diseases	David Appel, Texas AgriLife Extension, College Station
2:00 pm	Knowing and Avoiding Cotton Root Rot in Texas	Sheila McBride, Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab, College Station
2:30 pm	Earth-Kind® Orchard Management	Monte Nesbitt
3:00 pm	<b><i>Break</i></b>	<b>Program continued next page</b>



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## *Educational Program Schedule*

<b>Thursday Afternoon</b>	<b>October 11th</b>	<b>The Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, Texas, 77802</b>
<b>3:30-5:00 pm</b>	<b><i>Fruit Varieties Session</i></b>	
<b>3:30</b>	Peach, Plum, & Other Stone Fruit Varieties	Jim Kamas
<b>3:50</b>	Apple, Pear, & Persimmon Varieties	Larry Stein
<b>4:10</b>	Blackberry, Blueberry, & Strawberry Varieties	Monte Nesbitt
<b>4:30</b>	Winegrape, Tablegrape, & Muscadine Varieties	Jim Kamas
<b>4:50</b>	<b><i>Question/Answer Session</i></b>	
<b>5:00</b>	<b><i>Adjourn Day 1—Dinner on Your Own</i></b>	

### **DAY 2-Half Day Program**

<b>Friday Morning</b>	<b>October 12th</b>	<b>The Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, Texas, 77802</b>
<b>8:00am-8:45 am</b>	On-Site Registration	
<b>8:30am-12:00</b>	<b><i>Orchard Challenges and Opportunities Session</i></b>	
<b>8:30</b>	Managing Plant Stress for Maximum Fruit Growth	Jim Kamas
<b>9:00</b>	Strawberries & Other Fruit Crop Opportunities with High Tunnels	Russ Wallace, Texas AgriLife Extension, Lubbock
<b>9:30</b>	Pomegranate Varieties and Management for Texas	Larry Stein
<b>10:00</b>	Break	
<b>10:15</b>	Growing Figs in Texas	George Ray McEachern, Texas A&M University, College Station
<b>10:45</b>	So You Want to Grow Pecans?	Larry Stein
<b>11:15</b>	Citrus and Olive Production in Texas	Monte Nesbitt
<b>11:45</b>	<b><i>Question/Answer Session</i></b>	
<b>1:00pm</b>	<b><i>Adjourn Day 2—Lunch on Your Own</i></b>	