

Montana Beginner Fruit Grower Workshop

F Bar 3 Vineyard, Laurel, MT

Saturday September 8, 2018 9am-3:30pm

Interested in small acreage agriculture and commercial fruit production in Montana? Come learn about growing berries, apples, grapes and other fruits in Montana. This workshop will cover the basics of field preparation and planting, early care and basic marketing of Montana produce. New and experienced growers welcome.

AGENDA

9:00am Introductions

9:15am **Selecting fruits for productivity and marketability:** Dr. Zach Miller, Superintendent Western Agriculture Research Center, will present research based information regarding which fruit species and their cultivars are suitable for cultivation in Montana and the opportunities and limitations of these crops in fresh and value-added markets.

10:00am **Grower an Value-added Producer Perspectives:** Bob Thaden, co-owner with his wife and son of Tongue River Vineyard & Winery LLC, will present on his personal experience growing a variety of fruits including grapes, currants, haskaps, raspberries, cherries, sand cherries, chokecherries and rhubarb for wine production, and marketing their wines in Montana and beyond from their farm in Miles City, MT.

Mark Rehder, owner Geysers Farm, will discuss his experience growing currants and other crops for sale as fresh produce and value-added products like kombucha and sauerkraut in Livingston, MT.

11:00am Break

11:15am **Site Selection, Soil and Irrigation Management:** Larry Robertson, Flathead Lake Vineyard & Winery owner, will provide information on growing site evaluation and managing your soil and water resources to efficiently water your crop to balance yield and quality

11:45am **Establishment, Early Care, and Pest Management:** Katrina Mendrey, WARC, will discuss the importance proper establishment and early care for long-term health and productivity of your orchard. In addition she will provide basic information on the primary pests in orchards and vineyards.

12:30pm **Lunch (included with \$10 registration) and tour of F Bar 3 vineyard**

1:45pm **Leave for Ross Orchard, 111 North St, Fromberg, MT**

2:15pm-3:30pm **Tour Ross Orchard**

