

WSU EXTENSION 2022 LITTLE CHERRY DISEASE DAY: SPEAKER PHOTOS AND BIOS



Corina Serban started her position as the Information and Technology Transfer (ITT) Extension Coordinator for Washington State University in July 2021. Corina is responsible for providing oversight and leadership for the Little Cherry Disease (LCD) Extension and Outreach program. She works with a network of research and Extension faculty, tree fruit producers, allied industry, and industry partners to deliver educational programs and resources on LCD.



Tianna DuPont is a Tree Fruit Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor for Washington State University. Her focus is on sustainable pest and disease management, soil and water management and providing opportunities for orchardists to learn and apply research-based information.



Scott Harper received his PhD in plant virology from the University of Auckland, and since then has worked on viruses and virus-like diseases in perennial crops including Citrus, Apples, and Cherries in New Zealand, Florida, and Washington state. Scott has been at WSU since 2017, and his current research focuses on what, how, and why of the little cherry and X-disease in cherries and other stone fruit.



Lav Khot is an Associate Professor of Precision Agriculture in the department of Biological Systems Engineering (BSE). He is also the Interim Director for WSU's Agricultural Weather Network. He is one of the core faculty member of CPAAS at the Irrigated Agriculture Research Education Center, WSU Prosser. He has a BS, MS, and PhD in Agricultural Engineering. Lav primarily works in the agricultural automation research emphasis area of BSE department. His research and extension program focuses on sensing and automation technologies for site specific and precision management of production agriculture.



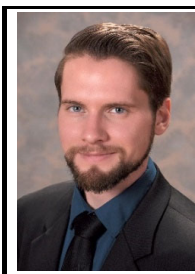
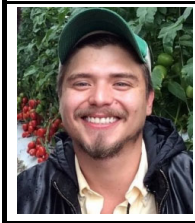



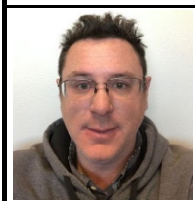
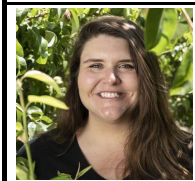
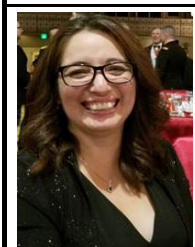
Lynda Pheasant is the Wenatchee Kennel Club (WKC) Project Coordinator for the Agricultural Detection Dog pilot project. Lynda is also a graduate of the Washington Agricultural & Forestry Leadership Program. Her experience grew from 4-H leader (dog project), to take her turn at training and developing teamwork and new skills with her own dogs. Lynda and her husband Jack became active members of the WKC, serving on the Building Committee from initial property search through construction of the beautiful WKC Training Center in 2019.



Kelsey Galimba is starting her second year as an assistant professor of tree fruit horticulture at the OSU Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Hood River, OR. Her research background includes characterization of floral organ identity genes and combining molecular and horticultural approaches to study fruit development in apple, peach and plum. She is currently building a program focused on optimizing orchard production systems for the two major crops of the Mid-Columbia region, pear and sweet cherry, with research goals of improving both yield and quality.



Rodney Cooper is an entomologist and Research Leader at the USDA-ARS laboratory in Wapato, WA. He conducts research on biology and management of insect pests of tree fruits and potato, including psyllid and leafhopper vectors of plant pathogens.

	<p>Dr. Adrian Marshall is a postdoctoral tree fruit entomologist at the WSU Tree Fruit Research & Extension Center in Wenatchee in Dr. Tobin Northfield’s lab. He currently works on X-disease vector management with a focus on the insect vector phenology, alternative host plants, and post-harvest cultural controls.</p>
	<p>Cesar Reyes is a second-year Ph.D. student at the WSU Tree Fruit Research & Extension Center in Wenatchee in Tobin Northfield’s lab. His research focuses on insect-pathogen interactions, and he currently works with the X-disease phytoplasma and its leafhopper vectors.</p>
	<p>Katlyn Catron is a postdoctoral researcher at the WSU Tree Fruit Research & Extension Center in Wenatchee in Louis Nottingham's lab. She has worked in insect pest management in row crops, vegetables, urban environments, industrial hemp, and now tree fruit. She is interested in making pest management more efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly.</p>
	<p>Dr. Elizabeth Beers is a WSU entomologist located at the Tree Fruit Research & Extension Center in Wenatchee. Her research and extension efforts in IPM have covered many of the pests of tree fruits over the years, with emphasis on finding practical solutions to grower’s pest problems.</p>
	<p>Abigail (Abby) Clarke recently graduated with her master's degree in Entomology from Washington State University. Her research project focuses on host use and life history by the leafhoppers that vector X disease. She's currently a Project Manager in Tobin Northfield's lab at the Tree Fruit Research & Extension Center in Wenatchee. Prior to starting at WSU, she received her BS degree at University of Delaware.</p>
	<p>Matthew Smith is a horticulturalist and tree fruit consultant for Northwest Wholesale out of the East Wenatchee area.</p>
	<p>Ashley Thompson, PhD is the OSU Extension Tree Fruit Horticulturalist for Wasco and Hood River Counties. She has been working closely with orchardists in Wasco, Hood River and Klickitat Counties to identify LCD since 2018.</p>
	<p>Benita Matheson is the Plant Services Supervisor for Eastern and Northwestern Washington. Benita grew up in Grant County and has worked for the Washington State Dept. of Agriculture for 24 years in various positions that has allowed her to work with all major agricultural growers in the Basin. Benita currently assists with WSDA’s seed potato, grapevine, caneberry and fruit tree planting stock certification programs, as well as export certification in Eastern Washington.</p>