

Fruit News article July 2016

As my daughters and I talked about getting away for a few days next week, before peach harvest gets fully underway, one of the first questions that they asked was, “I wonder what new Farm Markets we can find?” Maybe our family is a little different than most, or maybe fruitgrower families are special in general. That got me thinking about how we as a fruitgrowers are different from the general population, and led to the following...

You might be a fruit grower if:

- You plan your vacation route to go past a farm market you have yet to visit, and stop in on the way to your destination.
- You have four weather apps on your cellphone, and your non farming friends ask you what the weather will be like tomorrow instead of watching the local news.
- You have a specific hat for spraying, another for the retail store, and a clean, non-smelly hat for those special, high-brow evening events.
- You never throw away a 5 gallon bucket, and have an unlimited number of uses for them.
- You have driven off the edge of the road while critiquing your neighbor’s fruit trees.
- You refer to farms by who owned them 50 years ago and fields by some long-gone building.
- Family weddings are planned around harvest season...and deer season.
- You carry a knife in your pocket and are momentarily baffled when the security guard at the hockey game says, “sir you can’t bring that into the stadium.” Then you realize that the rest of the world may consider a knife a weapon and not a tool.
- You can hear terms like Hydra-ladder, rootstock, Montmorency, cling, bitter pit, and acronyms like FREC, YGA, SHAP and EMLA and not be confused as to what the other person is talking about.
- When someone tells you not to touch your face while picking peaches, you know why.
- You know how many pecks are in a bushel, how many bushels are in a bin and how many bins fit on the truck...legally.
- You know how to properly strap on a picking bucket and how to move, set and climb a straight ladder and tri-pod ladder without crashing to the ground...well most of the time.
- You know what someone means when they say, “you can make that sharp turn at the end of the row if you use the brake.”
- You can answer any question with “Yupp”, and the other person is satisfied with the answer, and a head nod and a smile is a perfectly acceptable response. (An observation made by my daughter’s friend from Holland after his visit to farms in PA which included stops at a tractor dealer and a wholesale fruit purveyor.)

Yupp, we sure are different. But a good kind of different.

Best wishes for a great harvest season,
Tad

Tad Kuntz
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