New Jersey News

Reinhard Sorge Passed on February 26, 2025

Reinhard Maria Francis (Butch) Sorge, age 78, passed away February 26, 2025, at home in Bloomsbury, NJ. He was born on January 22, 1947 in Manhattan, a son of the late Reinhard and Gertrude Fatzer Sorge.

Butch is survived by Katherine Ballantyne, his loving wife of 30 years; his daughters Jessica and Rebecca Sorge; his sons Reinhard E. Sorge (wife Kelly) and Richard Hanley (wife Bronwyn) and their mother, Peggy Sorge; and many loved and loving grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

He was a graduate of Ridge High School in Basking Ridge, NJ and Rutgers Cook College. He was a lover of agriculture – he grew up on a farm in Basking Ridge and later raised peaches and apples on his own farm in Pittstown, NJ.

After selling that farm, he became farm supervisor at Snyder Research Farm in Pittstown and then opened The Fence Company, installing countless horse fences and deer fences in Hunterdon County and northern NJ.

Never one to sit still for long, in semi-retirement he worked for his dear friends at Peterson Farm in Quakertown, NJ.

With an insatiable need to be of service, Butch was the first to offer to do for others wherever he saw a need. As his health declined, neighbors, friends and family he had helped over the years generously and tirelessly supported him and his family to the end.

Contributions in his memory may be made to www.pollinator.org or Hunterdon Hospice, 2100 Wescott Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822.

Pruning Meeting and PGR Demonstrations Held at Sunhigh Orchards, Randolph, NJ

Win Cowgill
Professor Emeritus Rutgers University
Owner Win Enterprises International., LLC.

Win Enterprises International, LLC with Rutgers Cooperative Extension sponsored our annual winter pruning meeting at Sun High Orchards on January 27, 2025. Phil Green owner of Sun High Orchards hosted the group of 28 growers (photo 2). Our outstanding guest speaker, Bill Pitts (Photo 1) of Bill Pitts Consulting and Breeder/Horticulturalist for MAIA, did an outstanding teaching pruning tall spindle trees for the 5th year in a row. Bill spent 40 years as the nurseryman at Wafler Nursery in Wolcot, NY and has been instrumental in bringing the new MAIA verities to market and encouraging grower adoption (Photo 3).
Sun High - has been our perfect MAIA cultivar teaching orchard as we have all the new cultivars ranging in age from 1-6 years, perfect for observation of pruning differences.

Photo 1. Bill Pitts teaching pruning at Sun High Orchards. Photo credit: Win Cowgill.

Photo 2. Sun High Orchards- Crowd at 2025 Pruning Meeting. Photo credit: Win Cowgill.

Trevor Hardy Brookdale Farm Supply Hollis, NH demonstrated advanced orchard tillage equipment and new imported steel trellis posts.

Cowgill demonstrated peach pruning and then we moved inside for lunch and a short program.

Rick Kleveze, Growmark FS gave a product update and sponsored lunch at our indoor portion (Photo 4)

Our featured indoor speaker was our Katlin Quinn, north Jersey IPM Program Associate (Photo 4). Her topic was ***Controlling Ambrosia Beetle and Bitter Rot of Apple.***

Photo 3. Ludacrisp apple 5th leaf on G.11 before pruning. Photo Credit: Win Cowgill

Photo 4. Katlin Quin, North Jersey IPM Program Associate, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, discusses controlling Ambrosia Beetle/Black Stem Borer control in apple during lunch provided by Growmark, FS- Rick Klevze- Photo credit: Win Cowgill.

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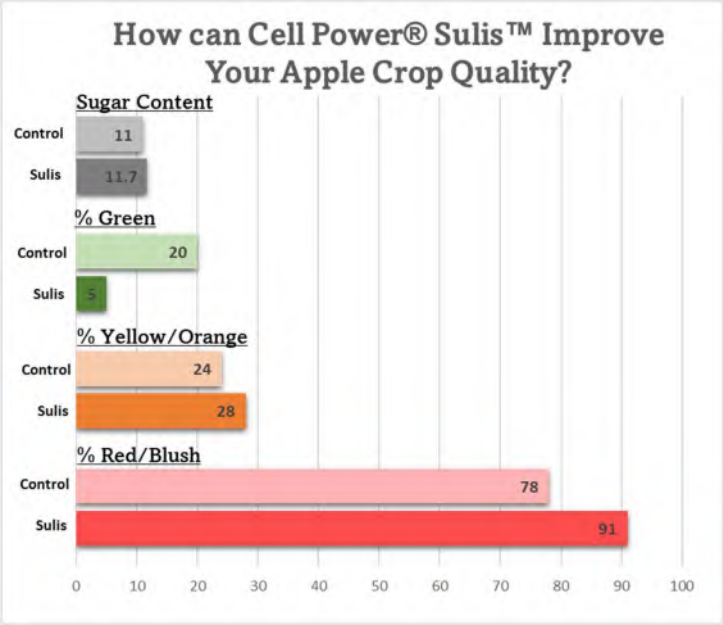
Molybdenum is essential for the production of abscisic acid (ABA). "This is one of two plant hormones associated with fruit maturity," explains British Researchers, who have been researching the important role of molybdenum in crops.

"We can force the plant **to use Molybdenum more quickly, producing high levels of ABA, with Cell Power® Sulis® technology**. We're giving the plant the resource to do what it needs to do, more efficiently.

With **Sulis®** this product also includes specific cell wall protectants, helping maintain the integrity of cell walls. These counter ethylene, enhancing the ABA effect and **preventing softening of the fruit**. The further inclusion of **boron doubles down on sugar production**.

To stimulate color and brix ahead of harvest, apply **Sulis®** as soon as fruit starts maturation, repeating the application at 7-10 day intervals.



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