

Tree Fruit Twilight Meeting at Brookdale Fruit Farm Hollis, New Hampshire - Highlights

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On August 20, 2025, [Brookdale Fruit Farm](#) in Hollis, NH hosted a Tree Fruit Twilight Meeting co-sponsored by the [New Hampshire Fruit Growers' Association](#) and the University of New Hampshire. Also dubbed an “end-of-season celebration,” the Meeting included a field tour with an update on IPM results in NH in the 2025 season from Jeremy Delise and the NH team. Equipment and technology demos highlighting equipment for mechanical weed control and sucker removal by Trevor Hardy, Brookdale Farm Supply. Irrigation automation with soil moisture sensing was reviewed by Anthony Tasselli of [Toro Irrigation](#). Jon Clements UMass reviewed orchard mapping and fruit count estimates using an UAV (drone). Hi-density apple orchard pruning and training and tree branching with Plant Growth Regulators (PGR'S) were topics covered on our orchard tour by Win Cowgill, Win Enterprises International (see Photos 4-5). Also of interest was the observation and discussion of current and upcoming MAIA apple releases by Bill Pitts, Bill Pitts Consulting. Growers walked a tall spindle block of numerous established (4-5 years) new apple varieties from the [Midwest Apple Improvement Association \(MAIA\)](#) including MAIA- SM (Sweet Maia), MAIA12 (Summerset), MAIA11 (Rosalee), MAIA-L (Ludacrisp), MAIA 1 and 12 (Evercrisp and Evercrisp Mitchell), and MAIA-AM Photo 7.



Photo 1. Trevor Hardy demonstrates The Rinieri Biodynamic SRL mechanical weeder which makes short-work of weeds and apple rootsuckers at Brookdale Fruit Farm. Sold by [Brookdale Farm Supply](#). Photo Credit: Win Cowgill.

The Meeting was attended by well over 100 fruit growers, industry reps, private consultants, and Brookdale Fruit Farm staff of course. Brookdale-grown corn, salad and a food truck dishing out BBQ and sausage grinders were enjoyed by all (along with beer for those who chose to partake). Chuck Souther of [Apple Hill Farm](#), Concord, NH was presented with a special recognition for long-time service to the industry by the NH Fruit Growers Association. Brookdale's H2A workers provided a raucous backdrop of Reggae music while



Photo 2. The view of the crowd from “above” taken by Jon Clements, UMass Extension, while flying the UAV (drone) at Brookdale Fruit Farm. Jon visited Brookdale Orchard several times, flew the drone, and in collaboration with outfield.xyz mapped apple variability and estimated block apple yield.

we ate and enjoyed. Thanks to Trevor Hardy, the rest of the Brookdale Orchard staff, Jeremy Delise, UNH and the NH Fruit Growers Association for entertaining and educating us. Surely the meeting was a great break after the growing was done and before apple harvest got underway!



Photo 3. Well-branched 4th leaf Brookfield Gala/M9 on tall spindle at Brookdale Fruit Farms. Photo Credit: Win Cowgill.



Photo 4. Win Cowgill, Trevor Hardy, Jon Clements, Bill Pitts- all invited speakers to the NH Fruit Growers Association meeting.



Photo 5. Win Cowgill (left), Win Enterprises International , and Bill Pitts (right), Bill Pitts Consulting, talk hi-density apple pruning and tree training/ branching at Brookdale Fruit Farm. Both experts in their respective fields. Bill was also representing MAIA Apples and updated growers on new MAIA cultivars at Brookdale Fruit Farm. Win updated growers on how to branch apple trees with PGRS from years 1-5 in the orchard. Phil Green owner of Sun High Orchards, Randolph, NJ in the background, traveled the longest distance to attend the event!

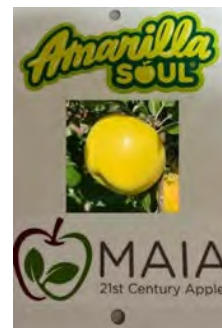


Photo 6. MAIA-Am (Amarilla Soul)- newest outstanding apple from MAIA discussed by Bill Pitts- Brookdale had a 4 year old test row planted. Available for MAIA members at maiaapples.com- commercial nurseries are propagating.



Photo 7. Impromptu Reggae music blasted by Brookdale's H2A worker. Photo credit: Jon Clements.



Photo 8. Chuck Souther, left, receiving presented with the first NH Service to Agriculture award by the NH Fruit Growers' Association while Trevor Hardy looks on. Photo credit: Win Cowgill.



Dr. George Greene-

Jon Clements and Win Cowgill visited our old friend Dr. George Green in Damariscotta, Maine last August following the summer meeting of the NH Fruit Growers Association held at Brookdale Fruit Farm. George has been retired from Penn State for 15 years plus and resides in an assisted living facility. Many of you will remember George as one of the experts on bitter pit in apple and correction with foliar calcium sprays. We had a great visit bringing many apple and peach cultivars to sample and discuss. For more pictures and video, see <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCtLU3> If anyone would like to be in touch with Dr. Greene, drop us a note and we will put you in touch.

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