

# COMPACT FRUIT TREE

THE INTERNATIONAL DWARF FRUIT TREE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2002

## A WORD OF THANKS AND THE 2000 KELOWNA CONFERENCE

First a word of thanks: The 2001 IDFTA European study tour visited orchards and research stations in France, Switzerland, Germany and Italy. The cover of this issue features the photos of European tree fruit specialists who were among the many hosts for the 2001 study tour. The tour would not have been successful if it were not for their gracious hospitality and their willingness to share the latest techniques in fruit growing. There is not a more friendly and more open group than the worldwide community of fruit growers, advisors and research and extension pomologists. Their willingness to share is legendary. The IDFTA thanks our hosts throughout Europe who took time and who shared their ideas with us.

**Conference 2002** in Kelowna, B.C., February 16-20 (see program in this issue), features three international authorities on tree fruit production who will discuss important topics including rootstocks, thinning, hail netting, training systems and organic production.

**Dr. Tony Webster** has just retired from Horticultural Research International, East Malling, England, after a long and productive career in pomology with an emphasis in the study of tree fruit rootstocks. He will discuss the latest developments in tree fruit rootstocks as well as thinning strategies for apples and pears and recent

thinning research trials in Europe. **Dr. Simon Middleton** from the Queensland Department of Primary Industries in Australia has as a major research and extension objective the evaluation of hail nets for tree fruit crops. Hail is not only a serious problem in Australia but also in many regions in North America and in Europe. He has studied the structural requirements for hail nets, the quality of the netting material, light penetration and tree growth and fruit quality under hail nets. Dr. Middleton is also member of a national research team studying orchard management systems in various environments throughout Australia. **Dr. Franco Weibel** from the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture in Frick, Switzerland, will discuss European trends in organic orchard management. His research includes many of the components of successful organic fruit production, including ground cover management, nutrition and pest control. He will also discuss the integration of new scab-resistant cultivars into organic production schemes.

The program will also include prominent horticulturists and orchardists addressing such varied topics as fire blight management, dwarfing cherry rootstocks, apple rootstocks, super spindle and other orchard management systems for apple and cherry, and organic apple production.

## Table of Contents

**2 45th Annual  
Conference Agenda**

**4 Nova Scotia Hosts IDFTA  
2002 Summer Orchard  
Tour**

**5 IDFTA Calendar**

**6 Performance of Four  
Semi-Dwarf Apple  
Rootstocks After Five  
Years at 24 Locations**  
*R. Marini*

**8 Does Rootstock Influence  
Apple Fruit Size?**  
*R. Marini*

**11 Conversion Chart**

**12 Using Rootstocks to  
Optimize Fruit Tree  
Water Use**  
*C. Atkinson*

**19 Pinova Apple Cultivar**  
*M. Fischer and C. Fischer*

**21 The Dresden-Pillnitz  
Long-term Apple  
Breeding Program  
and Its Results**  
*M. Fischer and C. Fischer*

**26 Survival Tactics for the  
Apple Industry**  
*T. Kalchik*

**29 Survival Tactics for the  
Apple Industry** *K. Waliser*

**31 Apple Growers' Survival  
Strategy** *M. Lynd*



Dr. Tony Webster



Dr. Simon Middleton



Dr. Franco Weibel