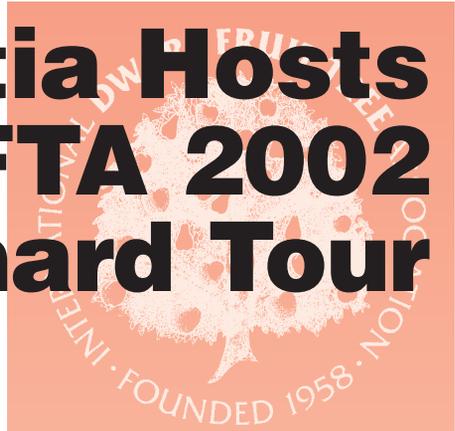


Nova Scotia Hosts IDFTA 2002 Summer Orchard Tour



The Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association (NSFGA) is pleased to be the host organization for the International Dwarf Fruit Tree Association (IDFTA) 2002 Summer Orchard Tour from June 22 to 25.

Nova Scotia's scenic beauty, rich heritage and vibrant culture will ensure tour participants have a truly unique tour and vacation experience.

The summer tour will follow the Canadian Maritime tradition of fellowship, food, and photo opportunities. The orchard tour will be centered in the Annapolis Valley, an area ranging from 2 to 10 miles wide and 80 miles long. The majority of Nova Scotia's apple production is located within 25 miles of Kentville, which is at the eastern end of the valley.

Headquarters for the tour will be the Old Orchard Inn in Wolfville (902-542-5751). Wolfville can be reached by car from Halifax (65 miles), from Halifax Airport (75 miles) or Yarmouth (140 miles). High speed ferries (1 hour 30 min) from Portland, Maine, arrive at Yarmouth.

Sunday, June 23, will feature an all-day tour to the scenic and historic coastal towns such as Lunenburg and Peggy's Cove. Monday, June 24, and Tuesday, June 25, will include orchard and research station visits in the Annapolis Valley.

Nova Scotia growers have had a presence at IDFTA meetings and tours from IDFTA's inception and, during the past few years, the number of Nova Scotia growers attending IDFTA events has increased steadily. This, along with additional touring both before and after conventions, has encouraged the establishment of new acreages.

Nova Scotia fruit production is primarily apples, with a small percentage of pears and limited stone fruit. The maritime climate is conducive to the production of a firm, red McIntosh, which still represents approximately one-third of the production in the province. Nova Scotia growers have been making the transition from older varieties and strains to varieties

such as Gala, Honeycrisp and Jonagold. Sizeable acreages of Northern Spy have been established to meet the demands from a local processor. Test plots and grower field trials are evaluating new varieties and rootstocks.

Semi-standard rootstocks were the mainstay of the industry through the 1970s and '80s and the 155 System was promoted as the most profitable, intensive orchard system. In the 1990s, M.26 and M.9 became the predominant rootstocks planted and tree densities increased to 300 to 600 trees per acre. The tour will take in some of the newer plantings and grower field trials where rootstocks such as G.30 are under evaluation. It will also take in rootstock trials and cover promising new apple and pear cultivars located at the Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research Centre.

With the changes in planting systems and rootstocks, growers have come to recognize the importance of proper site selection. A number of field trials are ongoing, looking at soil modification to address replant disease and soil moisture issues. These issues will be topics of discussion during the tour.

Recently, growers have revisited proper orchard site evaluation and soil preparation. Soil modification has been a part of this process as well. Site preparation by ripping, deep plowing to 1 meter, and ridging has been done depending on soil conditions. The necessity to irrigate has long been a question, and farm trials have been conducted to answer this unresolved question. Tours will visit plantings to see how we have adapted technology from other areas to suit our growing conditions and orchard management.

Nova Scotia is a destination for travelers from around the world and is known for its uncommon beauty. Vacationers can relax in the comfort of a cozy Bed & Breakfast (there are several in Wolfville and Kentville) or revel in the luxury of a state-ly seaside inn or well-appointed hotel.

*Nova Scotia 2002—
this is a must,
eh!*

Feast your taste buds on world-renowned lobster and take a hike through the rugged Cape Breton Highlands. Experience family adventures at a seaside park, an engaging museum or a lively music festival. Next door to the Annapolis Valley is the Bay of Fundy, known for its 40-foot high tides and whale watching.

You can drive the length of Nova Scotia in less than a day, and nowhere are you ever very far from the sandy beaches, vast

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tidal flats or rugged cliffs of our magnificent seacoast. Nova Scotia is a wonderful combination of beautiful scenery, lively festivals, quaint towns and villages, fascinating history and friendly, down-to-earth people. For fishing enthusiasts, there is opportunity to fish for trout and small mouth bass in the numerous lakes and rivers or take an ocean charter for deep-sea fishing.

For those who intend to vacation in Nova Scotia before or after the orchard tour and wish to obtain more information on travel and places to stay in Nova Scotia, check out these two websites: <http://www.checkinnovascotia.com> and <http://explore.gov.ns.ca>. Or phone toll free in North America 1-800-565-0000 for a free 400-page travel guide of Nova Scotia.

There is much to see and learn in Nova Scotia and the NSFCA is pleased, once again, to be able to host the IDFTA summer tour. Based on the past two IDFTA summer tours in Nova Scotia—this one is a MUST!

**45th Annual Conference
(program in this issue)
February 16-22, 2002
Grand Hotel (phone 250-763-4500)
Kelowna, B.C., Canada**

Kelowna airport is served by several airlines from Vancouver, B.C., Seattle, WA, and Calgary, Alberta. There will be an optional pretour on Saturday, Feb. 16. Excellent winter sports facilities are available nearby at Big White and Silver Star ski resorts.

**Summer Tour—Nova Scotia (see article in this issue)
June 22-25, 2002
Old Orchard Inn (phone 902-542-5751)
Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada**

**46th Annual Conference
February 2003
Orlando, Florida**

**47th Annual Conference
February 2004
Santiago, Chile, South America**