

## 2011 MAGA SUMMER TOUR

FRIDAY JULY 22, 2011

### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM CHANHASSEN, MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Apple Growers Association (MAGA) [www.minnesotaapple.org](http://www.minnesotaapple.org) invites you to attend its 2011 Summer Tour on Friday July 22. The 2011 Tour will be hosted by the University of Minnesota Horticultural Research Center / Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen, Minnesota.

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is located about 4 miles west of Chanhassen on State Hwy. 5, just one quarter-mile west of the intersection of State Hwy. 5 and State Hwy. 41. Please be vigilant as you wait to turn into the Arboretum. At the entrance to the Arboretum, attendees should state that they are with the Minnesota Apple Growers Association Summer Tour and the customary entrance fee will be waived for them. *Tour attendees need not pay this fee.*

Registration on the day of the tour will begin at 8:30 A.M. The program is scheduled to begin shortly before 9:30 and a lunch will be served around noon. A short program after lunch will officially kick-off the 2011 Minnesota apple harvest. At the conclusion of the meeting, attendees will be able to tour the Landscape Arboretum on their own or participate in a motorized tram tour for an extra \$3.00. Please RSVP on your registration.

Pre-registration cost of the tour for MAGA members is \$25.00 *per person* and includes one lunch ticket. (Non-members \$35.00) Children under 10 are free. Please note: Registration cost on tour day will be \$35.00 *per person*. (Non-members \$45.00) *Meals cannot be guaranteed for those who are not pre-registered.*

**Pre-register by July 19** with Ralph Yates, Secretary, MAGA at P.O. Box 23, La Crescent MN. 55947. Telephone (507) 895-2388. Fax (507) 895-8353.

In 1907 the University of Minnesota purchased 80 acres near Victoria, MN to create the Fruit Breeding Farm, best known for its efforts through the years to develop hardy apple varieties for our northern climate. Since its inception thousands of trees have been evaluated each year to see if they possess the characteristics necessary for production in the outside world. Among the apple cultivars that have been named are Haralson,

Fireside, Regent, Sweet Sixteen, Honeycrisp, Zestar! and recently Snowsweet and Minneiska/SweeTango. Over the life of the farm 100-plus cultivars of various fruits have been released to the public. These include plum, apricot, tart cherry, currants, grapes, gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries, as well as apples.

In 1967 the Fruit Breeding Farm was renamed the Horticultural Research Center to reflect the increasing diversity of plants grown on the 230 acres. The scope of the research has also increased to include breeding of landscape plants, plant cold hardiness research on woody perennials, techniques for propagating woody plants, apple rootstock research in combination with high-density apple production systems, ornamental grasses and restoration of wetlands. The research on wine making has expanded to include winemaking techniques for use with Minnesota grapes.

In 1985 the University of Minnesota Horticultural Research Center was administratively merged with the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. This joint entity continues to remain an important research arm of the Department of Horticultural Science within the College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences at the University of Minnesota.

The Arboretum features more than 1000 acres of unique public gardens. Its mission is to provide a community and national resource for horticultural and environmental information, research and public education; to develop and evaluate plants and horticultural practices for cold climates; and to inspire and delight all visitors with quality plants in well-designed and maintained displays, collections, model landscapes and conservation areas.

In addition to tours of the Horticultural Research Center, the MAGA Summer Tour will also feature various speakers from the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Industry vendors, sales representatives and consultants will also be available to growers during the tour.

## **DIRECTIONS TO THE MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM**

### **From Minneapolis**

Take **35W** to **I-494** west to State **Hwy. 5** (exit 11C)  
or Take **35W** to the **Crosstown** (62), go west and follow the signs to **Hwy. 212**, but **do not exit** the highway, and continue west on **State Hwy. 5**

Follow State **Hwy. 5** for about 9.25 miles past Chanhassen and past the intersection of **State Hwy. 5 and State Hwy. 41**. *Just past* the intersection of State Hwy. 41, look for the entrance sign to the Arboretum on the left.

Make a left-hand turn off **Hwy. 5** onto **Arboretum Drive**. Please be vigilant as you wait to turn into the Arboretum.

