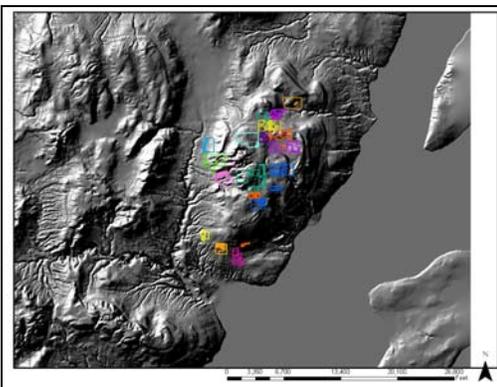


Bayfield Fruit Trials

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The climate and soils of the Bayfield area create a wonderful place to grow fruit, as locals and tourists have known for many years. In cooperation with Bayfield fruit growers, a series of fruit trials have been established to generate data on the performance of some fruit crops that are not yet being produced in the region; but may someday prove to be a welcome addition to the orchards of the region.



◀ **Photo 1.** The unique soils, climate, and topography of the Bayfield fruit growing region makes it ideally suited for a range of fruit crops. Lake Superior moderates the climate, reducing the chances of killing spring frosts while extending the growing season well into October. The sandy soils and high elevations provide excellent water and cold air drainage, while the snows provide a blanket of insulation. The Bayfield Fruit Trials are intended to provide data on other commercially viable fruit crops that could some day play in important role in the Bayfield orchards.

Bayfield Wine Grape Trial

Unlike other agri-tourist areas, the Bayfield area does not have a vibrant grape or grape-based wine industry, at least not yet. The biggest challenges to producing high-quality wine grapes in our region are the low winter temperatures and the relatively short and cool growing season. The famous wine grape cultivars of France and California, for example, won't survive our winters.

There are a great number of cold-hardy wine grape cultivars available, but growing wine grapes commercially requires finding a cultivar that wineries want to buy and that will consistently ripen in our short and cool growing season. Recently, the University of Minnesota has released cultivars that may do quite well in the Bayfield area.

The Bayfield Wine Grape Trial planting was established in 2008 at an



Photo Credit: Joe Ogradnick
- Cornell University

orchard in Bayfield. The trial includes 19 red grape cultivars and 7 white grape cultivars and will provide data on what cultivars will work for the region.

Over the coming years, the planting will be used for field days for growers. Stay tuned for more information.

Trial Cultivars

Red Cultivars	
Alpenglow	Mars
Baltica	MN 1200
Castel 19637	Petite Jewel
Frontenac	Reliance
Frontenac Gris	Sabrevois
Jupiter	Somerset Seedless
Leon Millot	St. Croix
Marechal Foch	Swenson Red
Marechal Joffe	Trollhaugen
Marquette	

White Cultivars
Brianna
Edelweiss
LaCrescent
LaCrosse
Louise Swenson
Prairie Star
St. Pepin

Red and White Currant Trial

Red and white currants may be an option for fruit growers throughout Ashland and Bayfield County, but it is unknown which cultivars have the best flavor and which perform the best in our soils and climate. Six white cultivars and 4 red cultivars were established in 2009 at two sandy locations in the Bayfield area and one clay location in the Sanborn area. The trials will be used to assess winter survival, overall vigor, berry yield, consumer preference, and disease and insect pests.



Field days are planned for 2010 and beyond.

Black Raspberry Trial

Black raspberries are managed much like red raspberries and can provide a nice product offering for pick-your-own or retail sales. To evaluate the flavor and performance of a range of available cultivars, a trial was established at two orchards in Bayfield. Two new true blackberry cultivars were included, as well. Much like for the currants,



the trials will be used to assess winter survival, overall vigor, fruit yield, consumer preference, and insect and disease pests.

Trial Cultivars

Red Cultivars
JVT
Red Jade
Red Lake
Rovada
White Cultivars
Blanca
Imperial
Pink Champagne
Primus
Swedish White
White Pearl

Trial Cultivars

Black Raspberry
Bristol
Blackhawk
Huron
Jewel
MacBlack
Munger
Blackberry
Prime Jim
Prime Jan

Thanks to Eric Carlson, Bruce Derauf, Rick Dale, Chris Dale, and Fritz Hauser for hosting the trials and providing more than generous in-kind assistance with site preparation, weeding, watering, and everything else necessary to keep the plants alive! Thanks to Mark Hart for grape cultivar recommendations and for providing plants. The trials are supported, in part, by funding from the UW-Extension Fruit Crops Team.