

Kershaw Fruit and Cold Storage Company

Naches, WA

Lauren Brandt

Summer 2015

Introduction:

My internship was mainly based out of the Yakima Valley. Kershaw Fruit and Cold Storage has 10 different ranches between Naches, Sunnyside, Quincy and Othello. I worked with Dave Gleason, the chief Horticulturist, throughout the summer. There are a vast number of different job opportunities under the Kershaw umbrella. There are jobs with Sales including being a sales manager, an account manager, or a sales assistant. There are jobs with Sales Coordination, Accounting, Human Resources, Marketing and DSG Logistics, a transportation company owned by Domex, Quality Assurance and jobs within the warehouse as well.

Responsibilities

My internship required me to stay very aware of what was going on at each orchard throughout the summer. I was required to gather data regarding crop load and estimated box sizes and communicate that information with the Chief Horticulturist so that he could inform sales about the estimated crop size as well as peak sizes for the upcoming season. I was required to have a knowledge of the Spanish language in order to communicate effectively with ranch managers as well as all employees in the orchards. I was required to effectively be able to scout a field for major insects and disease in order to allow effective management decisions to be made.

Summary

During this internship I learned the importance of communication, especially between the orchard and the sales department. I was also able to spend time in each of the many departments throughout the company in order to gain a broad understanding of how the company works as a whole. I gained a deep appreciation of all the work that must be done in order to grow, pack, sell and ship a single box of fruit.

Another important aspect of my internship was that of food safety. Part of my job was to help gather information that was necessary for Global GAP and Costco audits. I collected irrigation water samples, drinking water samples, checked spray inventories, and spent some time inputting information regarding sprays into a State Report. This internship showed me the many job opportunities available in the tree fruit industry from the perspective of a great company that treats their employees very well. I had a wonderful experience and I hope to keep in touch with many of the amazing people I met throughout the summer as well.



The picture above shows me using a hand lens, or loupe, in order to observe insect activity on a particular leaf. This was my main tool to identify key pests in a particular orchard.



This is a picture of insect larva. They were identified as native stinkbugs, *Euschistus conspersus*, but the larvae look very similar to that of the Brown Marmorated Stinkbug.



This is a picture of a codling moth larva that I found in an apple. Codling moth tunnel to the inside of fruit in order to feed on apple and pear seeds. They are a major orchard pest and large numbers will prevent a grower from being able to export their fruit.



This is a picture of some young galas with severe sunburn damage. Two weeks of prolonged temperatures above 100°F along with intense sunlight caused a lot of damaged fruit in the Yakima Valley

