

Tukey Orchard

Pullman, Washington

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Introduction

- The apple trees located at the site worked at were planted in 1946.
- The orchard is a Washington State University orchard, with access given to students and faculty for teaching and research.
 - Excess fruit is used to sell to the public, which the money is then used for operational costs.
 - The orchard has been moved multiple times now since its beginning.
- The new site is now located about two miles from the Pullman campus at Spillman Farm, from the old site next to the airport.
- Varieties such as McIntosh, Gala, Fuji, Golden Delicious and Red Delicious are grown at the orchard, along with other varieties of fruits such as cherries and plums.



WSU Orchard in 1925

<https://magazine.wsu.edu/web-extra/gallery-tukey-orchard-through-the-years/>



Apple Tree Prior to Pruning

<http://www.moon-acre-farm.com/moon4/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Winter-Apple-Tree2.jpg>

Responsibilities

- Pruned multiple varieties of apple trees
- Cleared root suckers from inside the tree rows
 - Gathered scions for future grafting
- Discussed the importance of scheduling and calculating spraying
- Ensured that pruning cuts were done correctly so that wounds could heal correctly
 - Checked that pruning loppers were sharpened
- Kept an eye out for infection, damage and nutrient deficiencies



Golden Delicious Apple Tree

<https://www.plantingtree.com/>



WSU Orchard in 1910

<https://magazine.wsu.edu/web-extra/gallery-tukey-orchard-through-the-years/>

Summary

Working on the orchard has given me hands-on experience that I would not have been able to gain in the past. I was able to learn the basics of proper pruning of apple trees, which will directly apply to my future career. Just by being on the orchard, I was able to observe the amount of work that goes into managing an orchard from all of the constant work that the manager, Deb Pehrson, was tasked with. Growing up, and all the way through high school, I had no idea that I wanted to go into agriculture in college, let alone my career. It wasn't until I worked on a farm during the beginning of my college career that I found a love for agriculture. This taught me that you really do not know if you enjoy something until you try it. Working on the orchard was just another experience such as that. I found that working on an orchard is now my new career goal and want to aspire to manage an orchard one day.