Washington Fruit & Produce  Quincy, WA Miguel Cruz Summer 2022

Introduction

Washington Fruit is a family-owned company based in Yakima, Washington, that has been growing, packing, and marketing apples, pears, and cherries for over 100 years. They use innovation, efficiency, and sustainability in their operations and are leaders in the industry.

Tasks Performed

Many of the tasks that I was assigned included:
• Counted apples in trees to determine crop load management
• Helped install shade cloths in a block of organic Honeycrisp apples
• Removed branches and whole trees infected with fireblight
• Learned orchard management practices
• Took soil samples twice a month
• Helped mix pesticide and calibrated sprayers
• Summer pruning in organic Cosmic Crisp apples
• Helped manage a crew of workers
• Learned the technology aspect of farming using Phytech, Agworld, and WSU-DAS
• Pick up and purchase material and pesticides for the orchards
• Helped do pesticide inventory and installed codling moth and oblique-banded leaf roller traps
• Took the temperature on the surface of apples during the hot summer days

Summary

Overall, this was a great internship with WA Fruit. I feel that I was exposed to and learned essential factors to manage an orchard and grow the highest quality apples. This internship will further my knowledge and better prepare me for a career in the tree fruit industry. I was lucky to be mentored and trained by professional experts in their field.