Mount Adams Fruit

White Salmon, WA
Reid Donaldson
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Introduction

Mount Adams Fruit is a conventional and organic Pear, Apple, and Cherry grower in the Washington-Oregon Gorge with ranches in both states. The company hosts an H2A program and will rent out the work to help neighboring small ranches needing help. The goal is to produce and distribute the highest grade fruit to consumers.

The pictures above show my size survey that I conducted every Monday. I created the size surveys and measured the growth of apple and pears across all four of our ranches, which includes 81 trees and around 850 individual fruit. I entered the data into a spread sheet where the growth of fruit could be tracked week by week and block by block.

The picture above shows a cherry with "little cherry" disease or "X disease". This is a terminal disease that doubles its reach each year. I scouted for this disease and tagged trees with symptoms. These trees will then be removed later in the year.

This is a picture of a sizing card for cherries. During harvest, I worked on the cherry bins by sizing and performing quality control on the product. I would then keep note of average size and quality before they were sent to be packed.

Summary

This experience has given me a glimpse into the operations of a commercial orchard. I learned how to identify different pests and diseases on apples, pears, and cherries, different chemical applications to take care of them, and methods to eliminate or reduce the negative impact on the crop. I monitored the growth of the crop throughout all our ranches. I gained the understanding of how each position throughout the operation contributes to a successful growing year and producing the best crop. Putting everything I learned together gives me a strong base for my future career. Along with just these few points, the on-site everyday learning experiences gave me the ability to understand and solve problems that I may encounter in my future endeavors. This will aid me in becoming a well-versed competent individual in the tree fruit industry.