



Code-A-Phone Message for 2/9/2010.

The following information is intended for commercial fruit growers only and is brought to you by Colorado State University Research Center and Extension staff. It is current as of Feb 9th, 2010. Backyard and homeowner information is available by dialing 244-1706.

1. Our unusually cold winter weather in the Grand Valley has really slowed down the fruit bud rest completion process there. As of Feb. 9th, only apricots, European prune plums, and Elberta peaches had completed rest; Redhaven peaches, cherries, pears, and apples all still needed additional chilling units (50 - 60 chill units more for Redhaven peach and Bing cherry and 400 more for pears and apples). In Delta County, only apples and pears have not completed rest at Cedaredge and only apples, pears, and tart cherries (only 40 more needed) at Rogers Mesa; apples & pears still need about 200 and 400 chill units at Cedaredge and Rogers Mesa, respectively. It is possible that apples and pears might not get enough chill units in Mesa County and the lower areas of Delta county this year IF temperatures were to suddenly warm up to the 60's or above. Temperatures above 55 °F actually will subtract chill units from the amount already accumulated. The phenology model output for the Feb. 9th run has been posted on our website.

2. A pruning workshop for the public will be held at WCRC-Orchard Mesa in Grand Junction from 1-4 pm on Sat., March 6th. The workshop will be limited to the first 45 who register and will cover both fruit trees and grapes. The registration form is available on both at the research center and on our website (look for the "Upcoming Events" link on the right side of the home page). Go to:

<http://www.colostate.edu/programs/wcrc/>

Cost is \$25 / person for those who register on or before Feb. 26, 2010 and \$30 / person at the door (if space is available).

3. Grape growers: Results of freezer tests for bud hardiness through the winter to date are posted on our WCRC website's viticulture page:

<http://www.colostate.edu/programs/wcrc/pubs/viticulture/viticulturehome.htm>

If you have any questions or need more information regarding these subjects, call the Extension office at 244-1834 or the Western Colorado Research Center - Orchard Mesa at 434-3264. This concludes the message for Feb. 9th, 2010. Thank you.

