# **Grafting Yields**

(Continued from Page 2)

#### Espalier Design

Habegger's own orchard looks like a study in orchard bonsai art. He takes his cue from Europe, where, to shield the trees from the cooler climate, growers plant their trees on the south side of buildings or walls.

This has brought about the "Espalier" technique, which results in a two-dimensional tree that is carefully trained into two horizontal U's. Care of these trees is easier, since the branches are within easy reach, and takes less spray, since it is two-dimensional. The trees are planted on dwarf rootstock.

In choosing varieties to grow, Habbeger looks for, of course, variety. "I try to have summer, fall, and winter apples. You can really extend the season." The Habeggers, in fact, enjoy the apples stored in their basement throughout the winter and

into the spring months.

As the season progresses into September, which Habegger said is the biggest month for apples, the fruits tend to get sweeter. "After it gets into the fall, we don't add sugar, since the apples are sweet enough," he said.

Because of the abundance of small and large, green and red, pink and yellow or any combination thereof, "we've never had pure applesauce," he said.

Jellies, applesauce, pies, and simple fresh fruits are commonplace on the Habegger's table. The couple does not market the fruit but shares with their family and friends.

To share his knowledge, Habegger volunteers at the nearby Landis Valley Museum, where he helps with the grafting and pruning seminars, along with working on the museum's heirloom seed project.

## Pennsylvania's 2001 **Fruit Production**

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania's 2001 commercial apple production is estimated at 480 million pounds, up one percent from last year's crop, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. The value of the apple production (based on first utilization) was set at \$82 million.

The 2001 peach crop totaled 75 million pounds, up 25 percent from the 2000 peach crop. The value of utilized peach production was set at \$24.8 million.

Pear production in the state totaled 5,500 tons for the year, up 900 tons from the previous year. Utilized production of 5,200 tons was valued at \$3.0 million.

Sweet cherry production in 2001 was 580 tons, up 16 percent from 2000. Utilized production of 580 tons was valued at \$1.3 million.

The State's tart cherry crop decreased in 2001, from 6.1 to 3.9 million pounds. The 2001 price and value estimates will be published on July 8. Last year's grape production of 61,500 tons was down two percent from 2000 production. Utilized production of 61,500 tons was valued at \$16.9 million.

Nationally, the 2001 utilized apple crop totaled 9.21 billion pounds, down 11 percent from 2000. Washington state — the leading producer reported 5 billion pounds, down 17 percent from the previous year.

Utilized U.S. production of other fruit crops and the percentage change from 2000 were peaches, 2.34 billion pounds, down seven percent; pears, 968,300 tons, up two percent; sweet cherries. 219,440 tons, up eight percent; tart cherries, 308.1 million pounds, up nine percent; and grapes, 6.5 million tons, down 15 percent.

### USDA Announces Crop Insurance Deadline

RALEIGH, N.C. - Pennsylvania farmers are reminded that the final date to apply for crop insurance on most spring-planted crops for the 2002 crop year is March 15, 2002, according to the Raleigh Regional Office, USDA Risk Management Agency.

Current policyholders likewise have until March 15 to make any changes to their existing contracts.

As a result of significant

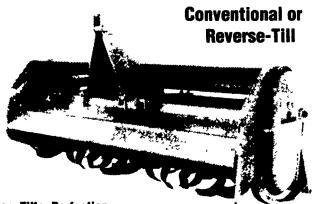
premium subsidy increases in 2000, crop insurance is now more cost effective than ever before, especially at the higher levels of coverage. Crop insurance provides protection against losses in crop production because of natural perils such as drought, hail, or excessive moisture.

In addition, new revenue products such as Crop Revenue Coverage and Indexed Income Protection are also

> available, providing additional protection against declining grain prices at harvest.







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