

Grower & Marketer

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Turf Tree

Maple Producers: Farmers Of A Different Variety

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BOYNTON (Somerset Co.) — Maple syrup producers in Somerset County are farmers of a different variety, but their concern for their crop is no different than any other operation.

"The maple producers are dealing with several management issues, including the succession of their businesses and homesteads and the succession of their forests," said Michael Wolf, a Cambria County extension agent and

forester who served as a guest speaker at a recent workshop. "These people are all interested in improving the health and growth of their woodlots, and

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Chris and Susan Maust of Boynton in Somerset County have been in the maple producing business for the past several years. Here, they show Michael Wolf, a cooperative extension agent from Cambria County, how tubing saves time and energy in the collection of sugar water.



Tall maple timbers are high above a group of Somerset County maple producers who recently attended a workshop about maple production. Here, Michael Wolf, a Cambria County Cooperative Extension agent as well as a regional forester, shows some Somerset County maple producers how to manage their sugar tree woodlots during an informal workshop at the Chris and Susan Maust farm near Boynton. Wolf shows how a smaller tree is just as old as a larger, more dominant tree.

Photos by Sandra Lepley, Somerset Co. Correspondent.

Growing Trees A Tough Job

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Bedford Co. Correspondent
BEDFORD VALLEY (Bedford Co.) — Sam Bussard and Delores Foor of Christmas Tree Lane find growing trees, both Christmas and apple, challenging — but a challenge they love. Learning the Christmas trade from his father, Sam Bussard has been raising Christmas trees since the early 1950s and he finds being successful takes experience and a lot of hard work.

With at least 58 acres in fir, spruces, and pines, Bussard markets his trees wherever he can and finds word of mouth is the best tool for advertising.

"Lots of people go into business retailing Christmas trees," he said. "But only a few last. You have to hope you find the latter."

You are at the mercy of Mother Nature. "Years of drought caused us to lose a lot of trees. This year, with more than ample

rain, we thought everything was going smoothly, when the hurricane hit. We lost trees and had to go out and stake them back up." A constantly growing deer population caused a big expense with the installation of fencing.

"Christmas trees need trimmed during the hottest months of the year," Bussard said. "We fight bugs and humidi-

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Christmas Tree Growers Learn Of New Threat To Douglas Fir

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LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — At a recent meeting of the Southeast Christmas Tree Growers, a new pest infestation was brought to light in Pennsylvania: the Douglas fir needle midge.

More than 50 tree growers gathered at the Berks County Ag Center, Leesport, for the meeting.

Rayanne Lehman, entomologist for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), spoke about this latest pest, what PDA is doing to help growers, and what to look for to identify it

in comparison to other pests.

Douglas fir needle midge was confirmed in Pennsylvania in 2002. After its initial detection in Lehigh and Northumberland Counties, PDA began a monitoring program in 2003. This year, PDA has detected the needle midge in Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Northumberland, Schuylkill, and York counties. Other states that have confirmed needle midge include New York, New Jersey, and Michigan.

As for its arrival in Pennsylvania

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