

# Internship Experience at Tukey Orchard

WSU-Tukey Orchard

Pullman, Washington

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## Introduction

Tukey Orchard is currently located near the Pullam-Moscow Regional Airport. Tukey Orchard was originally planted in 1974. This orchard consists of about 15 acres of various tree-fruits and berries. Tukey Orchard has 120 different apple cultivars, 8 pear cultivars, 4 plum cultivars, 8 apricot cultivars, 2 tart cherry cultivars, and 6 sweet cherry cultivars as well as cane berries and strawberries. Tukey Orchard is mainly used for teaching undergraduate students and as a research extension for graduate students and professors. Professors from the horticulture department like Cameron Peace and Amit Dhingra use Tukey Orchard in their genomics research. Tukey Orchard is also used to give tours to the public.

## Responsibilities

Some of the main duties that I was assigned during my internship at Tukey Orchard include pruning various apples cultivars, collecting hundreds apple scion wood cuttings from various apple cultivars, sorting good fruit from the bad fruit prior to the fruit sale, and removing fruit from the storage room and displaying it on the tables for Tukey Orchard's weekly fruit sale. I was also exposed to agricultural practices such as controlling pests in tree-fruit production systems, understanding how Tukey Orchard is irrigated, and learning about the importance of trellis systems on fruit trees.



Pruning is an agricultural practice that is implemented to remove wood that may harbor diseases and pests. Pruning also improves crop yield and fruit quality.



Here, we worked our way down a row of Golden Delicious. This image shows how vigorous this apple variety gets during the growing season.



These are some of the scion wood cuttings that were collected from one of the largest variety block at Tukey Orchard.



This image depicts the Decision Aid System (DAS). DAS can be implemented to monitor pests such as codling moths and spotted wing drosophila. DAS will also suggest methods to control such pests.

## Summary

Upon completing the duties that I was assigned during my internship at Tukey Orchard and having covered topics such as pest management, irrigation systems, and trellis systems, I believe that I have gained the knowledge and abilities that will allow me to compete for a tree-fruit consultant role in Washington's Tree Fruit Industry, where I plan to utilize my agricultural knowledge and abilities to assist growers in producing high quality fruit.



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