

High Density Fruit Production In Central Italy

Ferrara, Italy
Griffin Berger
Summer 2015



Securing one year old grafted gala plants

My internship took place in the province of Ferrara, Poggio Renatico. I had the great opportunity to work for Coser Dino & Sandro SS. During my internship I worked at many locations but spent most of the time in Poggio Renatico.

At the main site in Poggio Renatico there were 32 total acres of apples. Varieties included Modi (12.35 acres), Gala (5 acres), Golden Delicious (7.41 acres), and Granny Smith (7.41 acres). Besides the apples there were also 32 acres of plums of the variety Angeleno. All orchards consisted of grafted trees planted in high density.



This experience has greatly contributed to my professional growth. I learned much by immersing myself in the Italian tree fruit industry. The tree fruit industry in Italy differs from the United States. The main differences lying in orchard design, planting density, harvesting technology, and labor requirement. These differences had a great benefit of teaching me more ways to produce high quality fruit.

In the future I plan to own and run my own farm business as well as gaining and spreading knowledge from all over the world to the tree fruit industry in Washington. This experience was a great stepping stone to my career in the tree fruit industry in Washington.



High density Abate pear planting (left), drainage ditch/insect habitat (right)



Modi apple planting on M.9 rootstock

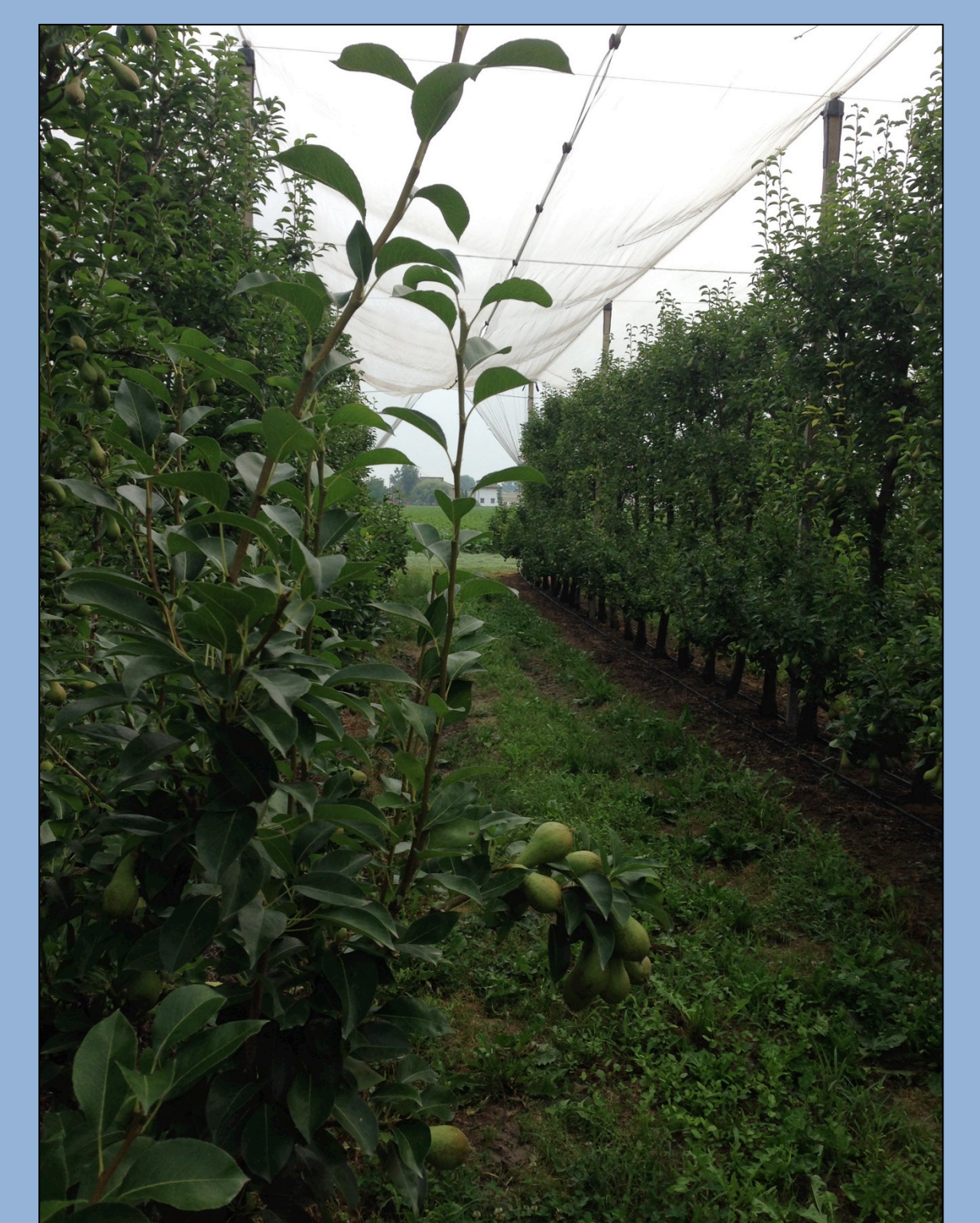
During my time in Italy I was actively involved in many tasks. I hand thinned apples and pears, pruned apple trees, trained apples, apply crop protectants as well as herbicides, and preformed machinery maintenance. Along with these tasks I also learned how to make management decisions based on IPM practices.



Securing apple branches hanging low with fruit



Maintenance on platforms and tractors



Abate pears interspaced with Comice as pollinizers



Cleaning up after a long morning of spraying



De-suckering one year old grafted apple trees in Cremola, Italy