

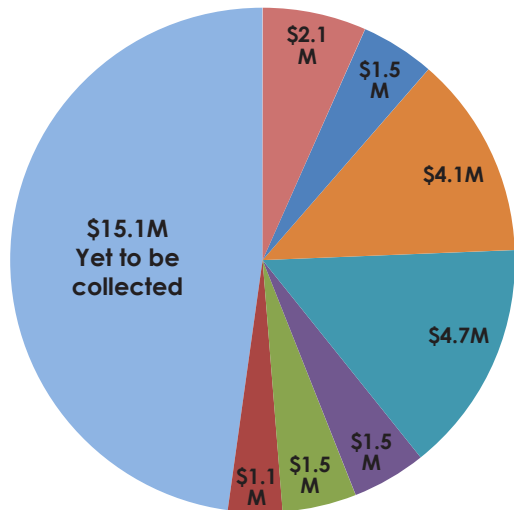


WSU Tree Fruit Endowment Advisory Committee Progress Report

December 2016

In 2013, Washington state fruit growers finalized a promise for a \$32 million endowment fund — the largest gift in Washington State University's history — with the goal of making WSU one of the top three tree fruit research institutions in the world. The endowments are intended to support new research and Extension positions and to enhance orchard operations, all focused on the Prosser and Wenatchee Research and Extension Centers. Here's a look at our progress:

WSU Tree Fruit Endowment Funding: \$32 Million



Endowment contributions are invested by the WSU Foundation in a diversified portfolio of equity, cash and fixed income securities.

Tree Fruit Extension (\$2.1M)

Tree Fruit Physiology (\$1.5M)

Information & Technology Transfer (\$4.1M)

Orchards and Facilities (\$4.7M)

Rhizosphere Ecology (\$1.5M)

Postharvest (\$1.5M)

To be allocated Winter 2016-17 (\$1.1M)

Tree Fruit Endowment Advisory Committee

Endowment activities are under the stewardship of the seven-member WSU Tree Fruit Endowment Advisory Committee (EAC).

Current members are **Tom Butler**, Washington Fruit and Produce Co.; **Sean Gilbert**, Gilbert Orchards; **Bob Gix**, Blue Star Growers; **Sam Godwin**, Chelan Fresh; **Alan Groff**, Foreman Fruit Co.; **Jake Gutzwiler**, Stemilt Growers; and **Jason Matson**, Matson Fruit Co.

Physiology and Management Chair

Internationally recognized pomologist **Dr. Stefano Musacchi** is an expert in tree fruit horticulture and orchard systems. As the Physiology and Management chair, he is leading the effort to position Washington growers to succeed in the planting of WA38 when trees are first distributed in 2017. He has taken over responsibility for managing the national NC-140 Apple Rootstock Evaluation Project and has set a goal for research and outreach to help pear growers improve fruit quality by understanding its variation within the canopy.

Photo credit: TJ Mullinax/Good Fruit Grower



Endowed Chairs

The Endowment Advisory Committee has identified six chairs, with hiring to take place in the first six years of the endowment funding period.

Year	Endowed Chairs	Status of Position	Funding
1	Physiology & Management	Filled (Dr. Stefano Musacchi)	\$1.5M
2	Soil & Rhizosphere Ecology	Search in progress	\$1.5M
3	Postharvest Systems	Search scheduled for FY2016-17	\$1.5M
Subject matter areas under consideration: Crop Protection Engineering & Automation Molecular Biology		Searches scheduled for FY2017-18, FY2018-19 and FY2019-20	Funds not yet allocated

Information & Technology Transfer

The Endowment Advisory Committee has tentatively identified these priorities for research and technology transfer positions:

Extension & Outreach Positions	Status of Position	Funding
Tree Fruit Extension Team Leader	Vacant	\$2.1M
Postharvest/Export	Filled (Rob Blakey, WSU Prosser)	\$4.1M allocated for Information and Technology Transfer positions
Food Safety	Search scheduled for FY2016-17	
Web Design and Development Applied Technology (End Effectors, Sensing, Conveyance) Entomology (New and Invasive) Plant Pathology Horticulture Engineering (Irrigation & Fertigation)	Positions under consideration	

Priorities after FY2016-17 may change in response to emerging industry needs identified by the EAC and WSU College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences.

**Priorities
for
orchards
and
facilities
endowments
are
currently
being
determined.**

Current WSU Tree Fruit Extension Team:

Tom Auvil Research Horticulturist, WTFRC
 Rob Blakey Extension Info. & Tech. Transfer, WSU
 Tianna DuPont Regional Extension Specialist, WSU
 David Granatstein Sustainable Agriculture Specialist, WSU
 Ines Hanrahan Project Manager, WTFRC
 Gwen Hoheisel Regional Extension Specialist, WSU
 Wendy Jones Web & Communications Coordinator, WSU
 Karen Lewis Regional Extension Specialist, WSU
 Tory Schmidt Horticultural Associate, WTFRC
 Tim Smith Regional Extension Specialist, WSU Emeritus

Find Extension Tree Fruit Team activities online at <http://treefruit.wsu.edu/>

The Endowment Advisory Committee meets four times each year. You are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Mike Willett at the Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission (509.665.8271) or Sam Godwin at Chelan Fresh (509.560.0024)



**WSU TREE FRUIT
ENDOWMENT**