



NOVA SCOTIA FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION
Agricultural Centre, Kentville, NS B4N 1J5
Tel: 902-678-1093 • Fax: 902-678-1567
www.nsapples.com

PRESS RELEASE:

For immediate release

25 July 2014, Kentville

Tropical Storm Arthur's unexpected impact on apple orchards.

The Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association is concerned about the effect that Tropical Storm Arthur has had on spread of fire blight in the Annapolis Valley's apple orchards.

"Arthur was very much the perfect storm. Its high winds and rain have caused fire blight to be spread much more quickly and farther than in the past. We are just beginning to realize the impact it has made on our orchards," says Dawn Sutherland, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association.

Fire blight is not new. It has been an ongoing problem in orchards for many years but had been managed and contained effectively prior to Arthur. It is caused by bacteria and does not affect humans or animals. It can be found on apples trees, as well as pears and crab apples trees and hawthorns. It is easily recognizable. Trees look as if they have been scorched by fire. If left unchecked, it can severely damage an orchard.

"We are unsure of the impact that this will have on this year's crop but we are working aggressively with producers and professionals to mitigate the impact," says Rob Peill, President of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association.

Peill urges all apple growers to attend a workshop on fire blight management to be held on Monday, 28 July at 7 p.m. at Rene Penner's RJ Farm in Grafton, 4631 Route 221.

Contact:

Rob Peill
President
Phone: 902-679-9166
Email: robertpeill@ns.aliantzinc.ca
Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association

Dawn Sutherland
Executive Director
Phone: 902-678-1093
Email: dsutherland@nsapples.com