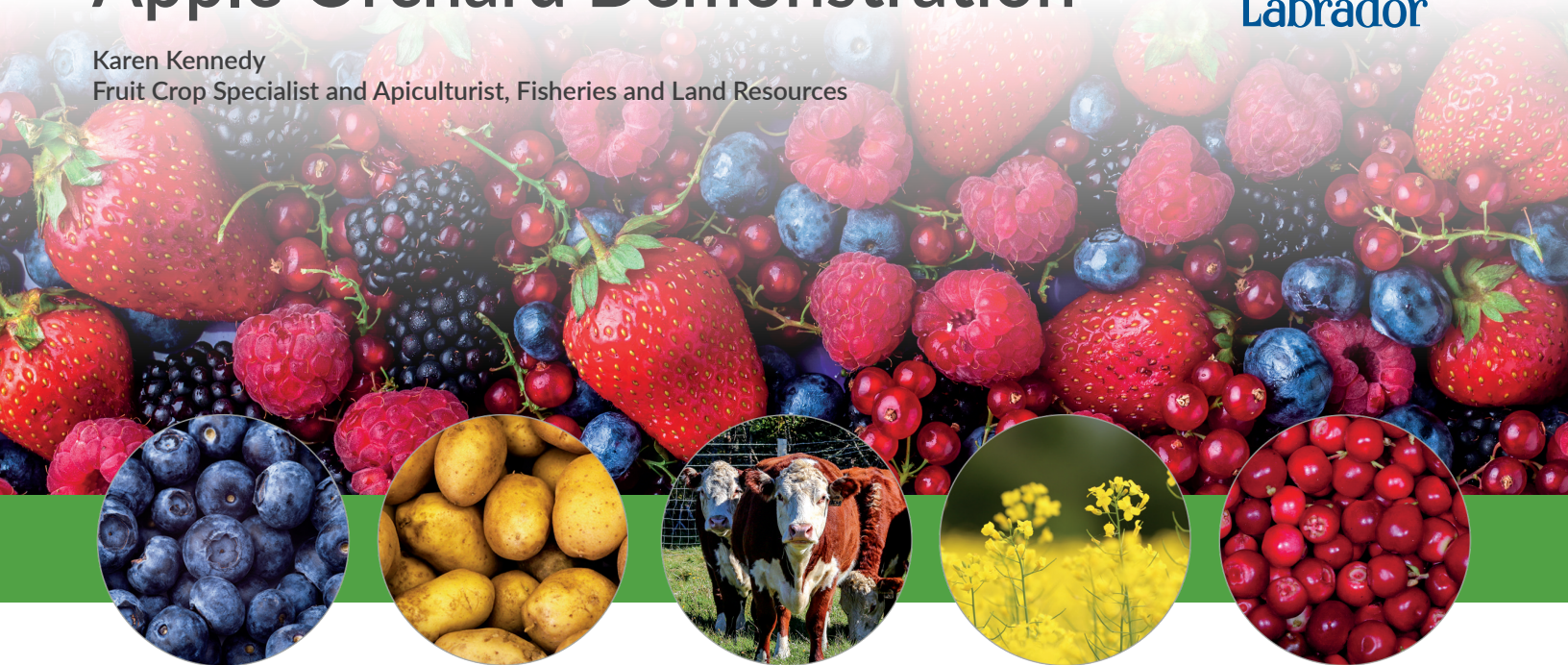


Apple Orchard Demonstration

Karen Kennedy

Fruit Crop Specialist and Apiculturist, Fisheries and Land Resources



Project Objectives

- Establish a scab-resistant apple orchard
- Determine fruit size and yield of different varieties
- Provide apple whips to commercial producers

Background

Traditionally in Newfoundland and Labrador, homeowners have planted apple trees in their backyards for personal consumption. Though it is known that apple trees can grow well in the province, there are currently no apple orchards in commercial production. The prevalence of apple scab, which infects foliage, blossoms, and fruits of apple trees has been a deterrent as severely infected trees become defoliated and infected fruit are not marketable. Newly developed varieties of apple trees that are resistant to this disease can minimize labour and capital while increasing economic profitability. Scab-resistant apple varieties will be assessed to increase production and supply parent material to fruit growers in the Newfoundland and Labrador agriculture industry. Providing a solution to this disease will promote and diversify the Newfoundland and Labrador fruit industry and increase the supply of nutritious locally grown produce.

Technical Details

Apple trees were planted at the Western Agriculture Centre: Agriculture Research Station in Pynn's Brook for

demonstration purposes. The following apple varieties (Enterprise, Crimson Crisp, William's Pride, Nova Spy, Freedom, Goldrush, Nova Mac, and Honeycrisp) were planted on dwarf rootstock as a production management technique and have been growing for over four years.

Agriculture Industry Benefits

From this site, varieties that were successful were chosen to be planted in a demonstration orchard at the Centre for Agriculture and Forestry Development in Wooddale. These varieties will be planted in the fall of 2018. Once the orchard is established, the goal is to provide scab-resistant apple whips that are grafted onto dwarf rootstock to commercial growers to help develop a commercial apple industry in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

For more info please contact:

Sabrina Ellsworth, M.Sc., P.Ag.

Manager, Agricultural Research

Fisheries and Land Resources

Agriculture Production and Research Division

Fortis Building, P.O. Box 2006

Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J8

709.637.2089

sabrinaellsworth@gov.nl.ca