Edible Fruit Trees for the “Ornamental” Industry

Steve Black
Raemelton Farm
What are you trying to produce?

- Not a flower
- Not fruit
- And not easy
It’s like getting a pet

I POOP
You pick it up
Any questions?
Caliper fruit tree for a backyard
Cultivars

- A marketing challenge
- Name recognition = disease magnet
- They don’t know what they want
Peaches

- Borers, Peach Leaf Curl
- Redhaven
- Bounty
- Desiree
- Japanese Beetles
Cherries

- Only sour varieties
- Montmorency
- North Star
Pears

- European (but Asian maybe easier)
- Blake’s Pride
- Magness
- Seckel
- Fire blight
Understock

- Size
- Pest and Disease resistance
- Vigor
- MANY choices for apples
Bearing vs Non-Bearing

- **Non-bearing:**

  “plants that will not bear fruit for at least one year”

- Impacts herbicides pesticides fungicides
Pruning

- They are not ornamental plants … but…

- Form *follows* function

- Cornell Central Leader System

- The older the tree the closer to production orchard pruning
Propagation

- Nearly all budded
- Stock compatibility
- Add three years
All the other fruits...and nuts

- Persimmons
  Diosp. lotus ‘Date-plum’
- Serviceberry
- Cornelian cherry
- Walnut and Pecan
- Pawpaw!
- Cornus kousa edible selections
But if that’s all too much

The easiest fruit....
One last option...
Questions?