

# Tree Fruit Seminar

Wed. October 29, 2014, 3:00 - 4:00pm

WSU Tree Fruit Research & Extension Center, Wenatchee, WA

(Seminar will also be live video broadcasted to WSU IAREC-Prosser)

## The Hows and Whys of Soil Testing

**Dr. Joan R. Davenport, Professor and Soil Scientist, Dept. of Crop and Soil Sciences, Irrigated Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Prosser, WA**

Soil testing is a tool developed to estimate nutrient availability over a single growing season. But soil is a complex system and soil sampling technique plays a very important role in determining the utility of a soil test. Dr. Davenport will discuss the chemistry behind traditional soil testing, what a soil test does and does not tell you, and provide some information about other types of tests that are being promoted for use. She will also discuss how soil moisture and water management influence nutrient availability as well as root system considerations.

Dr. Davenport earned a B.S. of Plant Science from Rutgers University and continued to Iowa State for an M.S. in Soil Management and the University of Guelph for a Ph.D. in Soil Chemistry. After post-doctoral work on mineral nutrition in apples at WSU-TFREC in Wenatchee, she worked for 9 years at Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., in the field of soil, water and nutrient management. She then returned to WSU at IAREC-Prosser, where she has worked in soil fertility and management in both vegetable and fruit crops. She is an active member of the WERA-103 Western States Nutrient Management Group and the American Society for Horticultural Sciences. In addition to her research, Dr. Davenport specializes in on-line teaching at WSU, with her courses ranging from introductory to graduate level soil science.



This is the second in a series of educational opportunities focusing on soils in perennial fruit systems. A session on “Roots” is planned for the Wash. St. Hort. Assoc. meeting on Dec. 3, 2014, in Kennewick, and a more general workshop on “Building Soils for Better Crops” is planned for Dec. 10, 2014, in Moses Lake.

Dr. Davenport’s presentation will be digitally recorded and made available on the TFREC website afterward for those interested persons not able to attend either site in person. For more information, please fee free to contact David Granatstein [granats@wsu.edu](mailto:granats@wsu.edu) or Des Layne [desmond.layne@wsu.edu](mailto:desmond.layne@wsu.edu)