



## Organic High Tunnel Peach and Outdoor Apple Production Field Day

Sunday July 14, 2024 10 am  
Down Home Farm, Readstown, WI

Join the [Organic Fruit Growers Association](#) and hosts Jesse Downs and Liz Voz at Down Home Farm for a look at organic production of high tunnel peaches and outdoor apples. Jesse and Liz have twelve years of experience growing high tunnel peaches and are in their ninth season of growing outdoor apples. They market their fruits locally at farmers markets and to restaurants and food processors.

The tour will start with a look at the high tunnel peach plantings. The high tunnels protect the peaches from cold temperatures during winter and spring bloom and also provide protection from fungal diseases and some insect pests. We'll hear about success with high tunnel peaches as well as challenges with managing excessive vigor, long-term soil health in the tunnels, and problem insects such as scale and spider mites.

Then we will see a 1.5 acre outdoor planting of high density apples. The bulk of this planting is in its ninth growing season, with some rows planted in recent years. Trees are planted at 4x14' spacing on a trellis constructed from black locust posts, and the orchard is enclosed with deer fence. Groundcover is managed using the Swiss Sandwich system, with a cultivated strip on both sides of each row. The diverse apple orchard contains about 50 varieties, with an emphasis on Honeycrisp, Arkansas Black, and a selection of disease resistant varieties. There is also an unusual selection of Appalachian heirloom varieties planted for trial purposes. Rootstocks are Bud 9, G.41, Bud 10, M.26 and others. We'll hear about challenges with organic management of plum cuculio and codling moth, as well as apple scab in this extremely wet growing season.

This event includes a two-part tour as well as a catered lunch:

- We will start at 10:00 at the home farm, E9106 Lyster Road Readstown, for an introduction to the farm and a tour of the high tunnel peaches.
- Then we will make a short one mile drive to S6263 North Lyster Lane to view the outdoor apple orchard and enjoy a catered lunch from [Maybe Lately's](#) in Viroqua.

**Registration:** Pre-registration is required! OFGA Members pay only \$10 to attend this event (including catered lunch); the cost for non-members is \$25. If you're not a member, or you have not renewed your membership for 2024, join or renew [here](#).

Members, click [here](#) to register for \$10

Non-members, click [here](#) to register for \$25

## Registration deadline is July 7th