



# FruitSmart®

The Smart Choice...Naturally

Fruit Ingredient Supplier and Processor

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**FruitSmart®, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 177  
14502 North Rothrock Road  
Prosser, WA 99350  
Phone: 509-973-3500  
Fax: 509-973-3501  
[www.fruitSMART.com](http://www.fruitSMART.com)

**Prosser, WA Corporate Office:**  
Jim Early - President  
Cell: 509-832-0724  
Email: [jearly@fruitSMART.com](mailto:jearly@fruitSMART.com)

James Gauley - Vice President  
Cell: 509-840-2457  
Email: [jegauley@fruitSMART.com](mailto:jegauley@fruitSMART.com)

Stephanie DeLorme -  
Customer Service Coordinator  
Email: [sdelorme@fruitSMART.com](mailto:sdelorme@fruitSMART.com)

**East Coast Office:**  
Keith Gauley - Regional Sales  
Cell: 781-690-6897  
Email: [kegauley@fruitSMART.com](mailto:kegauley@fruitSMART.com)

**Seattle, WA Office:**  
Becky Olsen - Sales & Marketing  
Cell: 206-963-7115  
Fax: 206-363-4941  
Email: [rolsen@fruitSMART.com](mailto:rolsen@fruitSMART.com)

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## Crop News: SW Michigan Grape Crop Suffers Significant Damage in Freeze

While the 2006 U.S. juice grape crop is already predicted to be smaller than average, a recent freeze on 4/26/06 in SW Michigan appears to have now made that number even smaller.

Spring had gotten off to an early start in SW Michigan, with April providing mostly warm temperatures. Grape and tree fruit development was about a week ahead of normal, when a cold front moved through the area and dropped temperatures roughly 20° F. The temperature drop was followed by a clear night with lows ranging from 24° F to 29° F.

The tree fruit that were blooming at that time were all hurt by the freeze; however, damage was reported to be less than expected considering that any temperature lower than 28° F is low enough to cause significant damage. Tree fruit growers are still predicting full crops.

Grapes were hit the hardest by the freeze and suffered severe damage. More advanced in their development, juice grapes showed more damage than wine grapes. Grape shoots were from one to two inches in length and had many leaves showing.

Almost all of these grape shoots died. New "secondary" grape shoots will grow, but will bear only about half of the amount of fruit as the primary shoots would have, which means that the potential juice grape crop in SW Michigan may have been reduced by half or more. A more accurate assessment can be made when the flower clusters appear on the secondary shoots around the end of May.



Growers with large areas of good growth have been encouraged to continue their disease control programs. Growers with smaller, more scattered areas of growth have been encouraged to wait until closer to bloom to decide if they wish to continue to protect their crop, which needs to be determined in time to allow for the pre-bloom spray.

(Source: Longstroth, Mark, Bill. Shane, & Al. Gaus. Michigan State University Extension Van Buren County, College of Agriculture and

## FruitSmart® Donates Hawaiian Trip for Two

Jim Gauley played in the Southern California IFT Charity Golf Tournament and Poker Tournament in Anaheim, CA in March. His golf skills were not quite strong enough to win, but his passion for poker paid off. Jim finished first in the No Limit Hold'em poker tournament and won a trip for two to Hawaii. We are proud to announce that he do-

nated the prize back to the SCIFT and the Orange County Food Bank (his staff thought the prize should be raffled off to the employees, but No!).

Bob Moore with RDM International ([www.rdmintl.com](http://www.rdmintl.com)) did a fantastic job organizing this event. Thank you Bob for all your hard work!

### Featured Inventory:

- 65° Apricot Juice Concentrate
- 65° Red Raspberry Juice Concentrate
- 28° Red Raspberry Puree Concentrate
- Apple Essence
- Red Raspberry Essence
- Grape Seed Oil
- Cranberry Seed Powder

Please call us for a quote.

### IFT Suppliers' Night Gift Basket Winners!!

We are pleased to announce the following winners of our "Made in Washington" Gift Basket drawing:

#### IFT New York:

Deris Bagli - Director  
Blue Planet Foods, Inc. - Collegedale, TN

#### IFT Northern California:

Rachel Zemser - Manager Creative Development  
Kagome, Inc. - Foster City, CA

#### Congratulations!

Your gift baskets will be shipped to you shortly.

### Event Calendar

- **NYSCC Suppliers' Day**  
**May 16 - 17, 2006**  
New Jersey Conventions and Exposition Center  
Edison, New Jersey
- **IFT Suppliers' Night - Northeast**  
**May 24, 2006**  
DCU Center - Worcester, Massachusetts
- **SupplySide West International Trade Show and Conference**  
**October 18-20, 2006**  
The Venetian & The Sands Expo  
Las Vegas, Nevada

*"Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there."  
- Will Rogers*