Maintaining Orchard Sustainability in an Era of Climate Change: Lessons from Blueberry, Apple and Asian Pear

Perennial crop production relies on average temperature and rainfall during the year. Recent changes in weather resulting in climate change have increased abiotic and biotic stresses to commercial orchards. In addition to climate change, Maryland fruit growers are changing their crop mix as they increasingly rely on direct-market sales. This has led growers to plant a range of crops and varieties and plant new orchards in suburban counties. Dr. Walsh’s seminar will discuss the identification and field testing of novel genotypes to enhance the survival, sustainability and productivity of 21st Century orchards in the Mid-Atlantic region.