



CHRIS WALSH

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

Fall 2020 PSLA

LECTURE

SERIES

November 16, 2020

**SEMINAR takes place
live via**

[UMD Zoom](#)

Time:

12PM

Chris Walsh earned his BA in Chemistry at Middlebury College, worked as an orchard foreman in Vermont, and then earned his MS and PhD degrees from Cornell University. After completing his doctorate, he joined the faculty of the University of Maryland in 1980. He has co-authored more than 30 refereed journal articles in fruit production and produce safety, holds two patents and received a number of awards for his work. As an emeritus professor Dr. Walsh continues to seek extramural funding for produce-safety education and maintains an apple breeding program. His breeding efforts focus on improving heat tolerance, fruit quality, tree architecture, and field tolerance to fire-blight, which is a particularly devastating bacterial pathogen of pome-fruit trees.