

University of Minnesota Cider Trials

Jack Tillman, University of Minnesota - St. Paul, MN

In the Summer of 2019 the University of Minnesota Extension was awarded a Minnesota Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant to evaluate Minnesota-adapted and European cider apple cultivars for Minnesota cider production. The grant-funded research seeks to evaluate the sensory and chemical attributes of Minnesota-adapted apple cultivars, evaluate the growth and production of 10 European cider apple cultivars, and from this research develop recommendations for growing and using cider apples in Minnesota. Jack will be presenting preliminary data from the first full year of the grant funded portion of the project, as well as talking about cider research and projects taking place within the apple breeding program.



John (Jack) Tillman is a researcher with the University of Minnesota apple breeding program. He joined the breeding program in 2013 following eight years in the Army Reserve and a year working within the U of M Department of Horticultural Science on cold hardy Prunus. As a member of the apple breeding program Jack oversees the development and use of genetic tests and testing. He has strong interest in fermented apple cider and has brought this interest to the apple breeding program. For the last several years he has lead fermentation trials and cider evaluations at the Horticultural Research Center and is a part of the team of researchers that received a Specialty Crop Block Grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to research Minnesota apples and their cider potential.