

Designing Diverse Orchard Systems

1st API-tree workshop

February 2nd, 2018

9:00-17:00

Hosted by: Marco Tasin

Where: The Swedish Agricultural College, Alnarp Campus (SLU Alnarp)
Location: V-seminar room, V-house, Växtskyddsvägen 3, 230 53 Alnarp, Sweden

Summary of Morning Sharing Session

What are the existing biodiversity features in your orchard?

Group 1: Jan Jensen (Apple orchard in Solnäs.)

- a. Challenge: Increase biodiversity in an old plantation
- b. Began increasing species diversity using diverse species within the hedges. Unfortunately, Länstyrelsen monitors hedge thickness rigidly, and if a hedge is beyond a certain thickness, they will reduce the land counted as 'under agricultural cultivation' which reduces land eligible for compensation in the EUs CAP.
- c. Trying to integrate diversity in the water (stream / brook) on the property
- d. When clearing old trees, we can have an intermediate crop for a few years so that the soil can rest from apple trees, in order to have intermittent diversity
- e. We can create a bio diverse herb garden close to the gårdsbutik house, which would also be of interest to the visitors.
- f. Create islands of other species inside the plantation.
- g. What species to choose as hedges to break the wind.
- h. We can help other insects and other varieties of bees, not just honey bees
- i. Plant [Tagetes] Marigold flowers that kill nematodes
- j. Strips of flowers in the plantations
- k. A banana fly has migrated to Sweden that reproduce in elderberry flowers.

Group 2: Märta (Apple orchard in Blekinge)

- a. Planned it in 2012, and weeded thoroughly beforehand.
- b. Has strips of "bovete" and "honungsört" on two sides
- c. Increasing diversity around a stony area inside the plantation
- d. Using the end of the steel wire where there is an empty triangular space between the top of the pole and where the wire is staked to the ground. Plan to use to use that currently unused space as a spot to plant gooseberries.
- e. Using bins to hold (rain)water.
- f. New wind breaking hedge, but not using poplar trees because of the roots. Instead they are including hazel and gooseberry.
- g. When a pollinator tree dies, they can be replaced with bushes on a stem like gooseberry or currant.