

IFTA Annual Conference
Monday Feb 26, 2018
Napier Conference Center

8:00am **Networking Breakfast/Registration** – Coffee, Tea & Continental Fare

Morning Session

Session Moderator – *Wanda Heuser Gale*, International Plant Management. Lawrence, MI, USA

9:00 a.m. **Welcome** *Rod Farrow*, IFTA President. Waterport, NY, USA

9:15 **Welcome to New Zealand –A rich history and promising future**
John Paynter and Paul Paynter, Yummy Fruit | Johnny Appleseed. Hawkes Bay, NZ

9:50 **Wallace Heuser Presidential Lecture**
Innovations for Horticultural Industries
Steve Saunders, PlusGroup Horticulture Ltd. Bay of Plenty, New Zealand

10:40 **Developing Robot-Ready Canopies: Panel Discussion**
Moderator - *Dan Steere*, Abundant Robotics. Hayward, CA, USA
Panelists - *Jeff Cleveringa*, Starr Ranch. Quincy, WA, USA
Craig Hornblow, AGFirst. Nelson, New Zealand
Mark Trzaskoma, Battunga Orchards. Victoria, Australia

11:20 **Sponsor Update**

11:30 **Lunch**

Afternoon Session

Session Moderator – *Hank Markgraf*, BC Fruits Cooperative/Growers Supply Co Ltd.
Kelowna, BC, Canada

1:00 p.m. **Carlson Lecture**
Moving Beyond Calcium Sprays: Practical Horticultural Strategies for Reducing Bitter Pit in Apples
Dr. Lee Kalcsits, Washington State University. Wenatchee, WA, USA

1:35 **Sponsor Update**

1:45 **Business Meeting | Board Elections | Board Introductions**
Rod Farrow, IFTA President. Waterport, NY, USA

2:00 **Eight Years On: What We've Learned about German Spindles, Aussie Bushes, Slender Italians, and American UFOs in the NC140 Sweet Cherry Trials**
Dr. Greg Lang, Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI, USA

2:50 **Sponsor Update**

3:00 **Break**

3:30 **Benefits and Risks of Integrating Protective Netting into Apple Production**
Dr. Lee Kalcsits, Washington State University. Wenatchee, WA, USA

4:00 **Benchmarking for Improved Knowledge and Performance**
Ross Wilson, AGFirst. Hawkes Bay, New Zealand

4:45 **Wrap up**