Washington State University • Long Beach
Cooperative Extension
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# CRANBERRY VINE

March 2001

## MEETINGS

**Cranberry Pesticide Credit Meetings.**
Sunday, March 25, 2001at the North Beach Grange in Grayland at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 27, 2001 at PCCRF in Long Beach at 7:00 p.m.

**Long Beach Bog Tours.**
March 27, 2001at 7:00 p.m. at PCCRF
April 26, 2001 - Volunteer host needed
May 31, 2001 - Volunteer host needed
June 28, 2001 - Volunteer host needed

**Cranberry Field Day.**
Wednesday, August 8, 2001 8:30-2:00, at PCCRF on Pioneer Road in Long Beach. Pesticide Credits will be given.

**Pesticide Waste Pickup.**
August 20 & 21, 2001, see page 3 for more information.

## BOG MANAGEMENT

*Dormant broadcast applications of Roundup:* This was the first year we have had a supplemental label for this type of application. I have attached that label to previous cranberry vines. What I noticed this year and have heard from some growers is that vine damage may have been more significant than previous data would have suggested. I would like to get additional feedback from growers who used this type of application in order to adjust recommendations for next year. If you have any experience -- good or bad let me know.

*New grass herbicide for bearing beds*: Valent recently indicated to me that Prism/Select will be getting a label (Section 3) for bearing beds within the next month. It is a great herbicide that has a wider host range (annual bluegrass) than Poast. Before you do use it on bearing beds however, make sure the label has come in. Call if you are in doubt.

*Save money on weed control:* There is no special secret for saving money and getting good weed control, but the following is my 2-cents worth as far as cost effectiveness on bearing beds.
-Sandy soils, little to no weeds - preventive maintenance only - Casoron 25 to 40 lbs/ac @ one applications, early April.
-Sandy soils, very weedy - Casoron 35 to 50 lbs @ one application or split applications 30 to 35lbs/ac each, early to mid March and early to mid April.
-Peat/muck, preventive only - Casoron 50 to 60 lbs/ac @ one application late as possible
-Peat/muck, very weedy - Casoron 75 lbs/ac @ one application as late as possible
Adjust rates downward for Stevens and apply earlier.

To save money I would suggest reserving the use of more expensive Devrinol or Evital products on younger beds only, or target them specifically for the weeds they control. Also, use post-emergent products like Poast or Stinger where appropriate.

*Stinger:* We should be getting a 24C in 2002 for Stinger so this year will be our last Section 18. It is a great product for control of a few select weeds, especially during the next six to eight weeks before bud break. The following table is a breakdown of what seems to be its best uses.

Remember the rule of thumb for spot application of Stinger. If you spray to wet, approximately 100 gpa 2/3 pt/ac=0.6 teaspoon/gal of water, or 0.6 tablespoon/3 gallons.

**Table 1. Weed Control with Stinger**

| Weed | Control | Rate | Timing | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| False Dandelions and other similar composite species | excellent | 1/3 to 2/3 pt/ac | dormant best | The high rates needed in summer |
| Clover's - all species | excellent | 1/3 to 2/3 pt/ac | dormant best | The high rates needed in summer |
| Aster | poor to medium | 2/3 pt/ac or wipe | late spring to summer | New plants are susceptible, especially during early growth. Once growth has ceased, control is difficult. Wiping with Stinger is better that wiping with Roundup. |
| Lotus | fair to good | 2/3 pt/ac or wipe | late spring | Control will require more than one application. Best results occur in spring with new active growth. Some tip damage to vines may result, but this less of a problem that losses caused by lotus. |

*Disease Control:* Fungicides can be a significant part of your cost of production, especially the use of Bravo. You don't need to spend $90/ac however, if you only have a $15/ac problem. Below is a table that prescribes different fungicide usage based on the degree of disease infestation.

**Table 2. Disease Control on a Budget**

| Spray | Low rose bloom | Medium to high rose bloom | Low fruit rot | Medium fruit rot | High fruit rot | Low-med fruit rot + Low twig blight | High fruit rot + med to high twig blight |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kocide | | 5# preblm | | | | | |
| Mancozeb | | | 3-6# 1x postblm | 3-6# 2x postblm | 6# 2x 7/20 8/10 | 6# 3x | 6# 1x 8/10 |
| Bravo | | | | | 1x postblm | | 2x postblm +14 days |
| Approximate Cost per Acre | 0 | $15 | $6-15 | $30 | $70 | $45 | $90 |

*Imidan registration*: Several of you noticed a new insecticide labeled for fireworm control - Imidan. Should you use it? Here is the scoop. Imidan is an older generation organophosate insecticide recently registered on cranberries and therefore falls under all the same precautionary uses that Diazinon or Lorsban does. It will control fireworm. It is hot on aquatic invertebrates, ok on beneficial insects and hot on pollinators. It will not solve any of our surface water problems. The aquatic half life, however, is very pH dependant, lasting much longer in acidic water. Since our water is near neutral during the summer, it may have a shorter residual in water than other organophosphates.

*Native Bumblebees on the demise*: Several entomologists and biologists in the PNW have noted a significant decline in a common bumblebee species (*Bombus occidentalis* - ground nesting species with the white rear end) that used to be a significant pollinator of cranberries. My own observations in the past five years would concur. Speculations by scientists suggest that it is disease related such as *Nosema* or unique weather patterns - El Nino followed by La Nina. In any case, this could be of some significance to cranberry growers who have chosen to rely on fewer honeybees to save on cost.

*New direct pest of cranberry fruit? A* small worm has been showing up in fruit at harvest in Oregon. This "new pest" has been identified by Jim Troubridge and Sheila Fitzpatricks from BC as *Lotisma trigonana* (Walsingham). Det. J-F. Landry. It's native and usually found on other Ericacaea fruit like Salal. It is not likely to become a problem and may only have had a population surge in 2000. Infestation occurs late in the season and therefore, control may be problematic. If growers in Washington are finding fruit at harvest infested with worms let us know.

*Renovation of beds:* It goes without saying that with lower price per barrel and the 32% setback from the marketing order, now is the ideal time to renovate your junky beds. Survival in the next 10 years will be based on cost efficience and 50 to 100bbl/ac yields won't cut it in that regard. We are always looking for good research sites where destructive sampling or vine damage won't be a problem to the grower. If you are going to abandon or renovate and have perennial weeds, weevil or girdler problems please let us know.

*Save money on pesticides?* E-commerce may be able to save you some money on common cranberry pesticides. This is not an endorsement by any means, but only a suggestion on how you might be able to reduce your production cost. Go to *www.xsag.com* and/or *www.alexweb.net/mgc*, register and explore the site.

*Waste Pesticide pick ups*: If you have an old product that you need to or should get rid of there are several choices:

Grays Harbor on August 21, 2001 - notify by 7/14/01,

Long Beach on August 20, 2001 - notify by 7/12/01 and

Bremerton July 17, 2001 notify by 5/30/01.

Call toll-free: 1-877-301-4555 for more information or sign up at the web site *http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/pesticides/WasteSchedule2001.htm*. You must register in advance to use this service.

## FARM MANAGEMENT AND GOOD WEBSITES

*Profitable farming and/or minimizing the risk of farming:* These are tough times and surviving on the farm is difficult to say the least. I am not smart enough to offer prescriptions on how to make money farming, especially when you are tied into a crop like cranberries. For the bulk of the cranberry farmers we are producing an undifferentiated food product grown for

wholesale markets. It requires large capital investments to get unit costs down, high risk and generates low returns. Where we want to be is at the retail produce section in the supermarket or selling fruit and produce direct to consumers. The later is very difficult for us. Growers wishing to explore alternative supplementary crops should focus on this end of the market. To be profitable you'll need to know basic budgeting concepts so you can set out an array of alternatives with respect to their profit objectives, you need to understand marketing and the importance of making direct and personal connections with customers, and you need to understand the dynamics of the marketplace and how that is constantly changing. For more information on this and other guidelines for surviving agriculture go to: Evaluating a Rural Enterprise: Marketing and Business Guide on the ATTRA website. *http://www.attra.org/guide/toc.htm*

Risk analysis is another tools that farmers should consider analyzing. WSU has a great web site *@.http://pnw-ag.wsu.edu/risk/CurriculumManual.html* It helps farmers analyze their risk bearing capacity, identify and prioritize sources of risk, and learn new strategies to reduce risk.

This includes everything from managing credit, computerized decision aids for record keeping, and market analysis. It also has some great links to other sites.

Another great web site for agricultural financial management is *http://www.fbminet.ca/bc/budget.htm.* This has a host of information regarding budgeting and farm management from BC.

For what it is worth, here is another site that might be of interest. This is a check register system that helps you evaluate your spending habits so you can plan better for the future. *http//www.montana.edu/wwwpb/pubs/mt8703.pdf*

## WEATHER

Our balmy almost drought like weather could mean several things to growers: the need to conserve on water in order to flood harvest, reduce over wintering insect pests and bumblebee mortality and less surface water to be problematic during insecticide applications in the spring and summer months.

## WEATHER

| | Rainfall (Inches) | | | | | Growing Degree Days | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Month | 2001 | 2000 | 1999 | 1998 | 20 yr average | 2001 | 2000 | 1999 | 1998 | 10 yr average |
| January | 6.3 | 10.7 | 15.5 | 18.5 | 10.8 | 38 | 5 | 14 | 58 | 40 |
| February | 3.7 | 7.0 | 21.2 | 11.4 | 9.3 | 10 | 40 | 10 | 69 | 55 |
| March | | 7.9 | 12.0 | 10.2 | 9.5 | | 25 | 36 | 97 | 72 |
| April | | 4.2 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 5.6 | | 151 | 87 | 99 | 116 |
| May | | 5.2 | 4.4 | 3.8 | 3.8 | | 237 | 180 | 265 | 216 |
| June | | 5.1 | 4.0 | 1.8 | 2.8 | | 342 | 329 | 350 | 323 |
| July | | 0.5 | 1.9 | 1.1 | 1.9 | | 426 | 376 | 476 | 421 |
| August | | 1.4 | 1.9 | 0.2 | 1.7 | | 437 | 474 | 484 | 440 |
| September | | 2.4 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 4.1 | | 375 | 333 | 369 | 363 |
| October | | 5.1 | 5.6 | 6.2 | 6.5 | | 238 | 193 | 244 | 217 |
| November | | 4.4 | 16.3 | 19.6 | 11.4 | | 42 | 138 | 99 | 99 |
| December | | 6.6 | 16.0 | 20.3 | 12.6 | | 21 | 39 | 34 | 41 |
| TOTAL | | 60.5 | 103.0 | 96.8 | 80.5 | | 2339 | 2209 | 2644 | 2402 |

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