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CRANBERRY VINE

October 2001

Bog Management

Winter flooding for pest management: There is little data to back it up, but prolonged postharvest flooding might be a useful tool for bramble and girdler control. If you have a problem with either one of these pests and can flood your problem beds for 3 to 5 months – give it a try. We were not successful last year, however, reducing Purple Aster with winter flooding.

Dormant season herbicide applications: Winter broadcast of Roundup Ultra is labeled for cleaning up beds. We had some problems with vine damage in our plots last year and recommend caution. Do not go above a ¼ to ½ % mix. Try it out on some of your junky vines first. Stinger can be used for clover and lotus infestation during the winter if these weeds are visible.

MISCELLANEOUS

Pesticide orders: Here are a few items to think about before you place your pesticide order. For this coming year it is critical to be aware of surface water quality concerns related to insecticide uses. With that in mind you have several options. First, is a newly registered insecticide called Success. This product will be available for the 2002 spray season. We will talk about its use at winter workshops. Suffice it to say, our data and that of others have shown that this is a very effective reduced risk insecticide for fireworm control; probably more so than Confirm.

The cost will run about $550 to $600/gal and the use rate will be 4 or 6oz/acre (unsure until I see a label). This translates to $25 to 30/ac. This is an expensive control considering the current price of cranberries. However, if water quality is a concern on your farm it may be well worth the cost.

Second, is the fate and persistence of insecticides in our surface water. Our data indicate that our most commonly used insecticides are also some of the longest-lived insecticides in water with near neutral pH (our water averages 6.8 pH). This includes Diazinon, Lorsban and Guthion. Two shorter-lived alternatives that provide more than adequate fireworm control are Imidan and Orthene. There is limited grower experience with Imidan on cranberries, but research indicates that the efficacy on fireworm is fine. Many growers have routinely used Orthene in the past without experiencing any bee repellency effects. Our research confirms this lack of repellency, even when sprayed during bloom. Don't use repellencies as an excuse for not considering Orthene. Third and most important is price. The per acre cost is obviously lowest for products like Diazinon and highest for the newer insecticides like Success or Confirm. Survival these days means cutting costs is critical. Farming, however, is more than dollars and cents and growers who are at high risk for surface water contamination should consider alternative insecticides.

Don't forget that we have a new grass herbicide Select^{2E}/Prism. It is labeled on bearing cranberries. It only has a 30-day PHI and is a very good product.

BMPs and water quality. WSU and Pacific Conservation District were awarded $275,000 grant money from Washington Department of Ecology Centennial Clean Water Program and EPA for work on BMPs. We will start work once the money becomes available around the first of the year. It involves developing and implementing new cost effective BMPs and developing watershed maps to help with BMP implementation planning.

Cranberry variety data: We just finished our sixth year of harvesting from the variety plots at the PCCRF. The data indicate some clear winners and losers. Pilgrim has always been on the top for tonnage, but it doesn't fit the bill for fresh fruit and we are starting to see a decline in yield, relative to some of the other varieties. Three other varieties that you might want to consider for new planting are #35, Grygleski-1 and Wilcox. Wilcox appears to have the best fresh fruit keeping quality, but the fruit are small. Gryleski-1 and #35 are similar in yield year in and year out and both have decent fresh fruit keeping quality, but Gryleski-1 has consistently larger fruit. Dr. Bristow is running the fruit keeping trials for this year and that data will be presented at the winter workshops. What is also interesting to note is that some varieties (like Stevens) really started going down hill after the fifth year. I suspect this is due to greater sensitivity to continued Casoron use, but I have no data to back that hypothesis up.

This year's crop: It was a poor crop year for McFarlin. Many growers have commented that it has been the worst year they have ever had. The cool spring and summer delayed bloom until it was too late to effectively size anything that happened to get pollinated after the bees were pulled. That combined with the cool and cloudy summer made for small fruited McFarlins. Several studies in the past have shown that fruit sizes poorly under cool cloudy conditions. I am not sure if the growing degree days for June and July 2001 set a record, but they were way below average (see weather table) and most likely explain our poor crop. This is just another reason to yank out weather-challenged varieties like McFarlins.

Yield (bbl/ac) from the PCCRF Cranberry Variety Trials

Variety	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	1996 to 2001
Pilgrim	147	436	312	316	194	269	1680
#35	59	247	255	350	294	337	1548
Grygleski - 1	33	254	276	292	205	325	1389
Wilcox	35	284	267	263	234	304	1392
Ben Lear	83	337	211	219	256	178	1276
Franklin	75	237	217	207	150	218	1108
Grygleski - 3	33	209	242	233	46	160	927
Stevens	39	188	226	237	81	119	894
Howe	14	206	187	262	180	256	1109
Grygleski - 2	16	200	204	232	50	171	876
AJ	38	143	225	190	141	174	915
True McFarlin	24	179	195	149	142	167	860
McFarlin (McPhail)	15	136	146	183	198	251	933
Cropper	25	188	80	97	72	46	510
Beckwith	2	79	172	190	131	126	645
Bergman	6	30	84	246	107	142	615

Alternative crops for cranberry growers. I realize that many growers are too invested in cranberries to consider alternative crops. Some of you, however, may want to consider some supplemental crops. I have no guarantees yet, but some alternatives seem like they might be rewarding under the right circumstances. We have received a grant to work in this area and have begun putting in trials at the PCCRF. I am looking for more sites for trials with several aquatic, wetland and upland species. More at the winter workshops on this subject, but if you are interested in participating in these trials, let me know.

Walking away from your farm? Several growers I have spoken with lately have said –"I will grow no more – forever. Why pour my retirement down the drain? " This is a tragic and unfortunate situation. Spending years putting your heart and soul into the farm – only to find it for naught must be extremely difficult. You have my sympathy. At the same time, not to sound disingenuous, we are still looking for farms to perform research for pest management, insects, weeds, disease or BMPs. Abandoned farms would be ideal for several of our research projects. If you wouldn't mind putting your farm to one last good use – please consider letting us use your farm for a research site. Give me a call if you are interested.

Winter workshop and pesticide credit meetings. It is time to start planning for programs. If you have something in mind you want, let me know. Also as the season ends and you find yourself short of pesticide credits I can get them for you via on-line classes in our office. It is a painless process and takes about an hour per credit. Let me know if you need a last minute credit or two before the year's end.

Why the hiatus in the Cranberry Vine? Lots of good excuses, but the best is that I have been without a secretary for the past six months.

WEATHER

	Rainfall (Inches)					Growing Degree Days				
Month	2001	2000	1999	1998	20 year average	2001	2000	1999	1998	10 year 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	5.7	7.9	12.0	10.2	9.5	46	25	36	97	72
April	6.7	4.2	3.6	3.0	5.6	79	151	87	99	116
May	3.4	5.2	4.4	3.8	3.8	195	237	180	265	216
June	3.5	5.1	4.0	1.8	2.8	275	342	329	350	323
July	1.2	0.5	1.9	1.1	1.9	382	426	376	476	421
August	3.4	1.4	1.9	0.2	1.7	429	437	474	484	440
September	1.0	2.4	0.6	0.7	4.1	329	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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