



Cooperative Extension
Coastal Washington Research & Extension Unit
Long Beach, WA 98631

CRANBERRY VINE

January 1998

MEETINGS

Cranberry Winter Workshop. January 28 at the Community Building in South Bend. Coffee and doughnuts will be served from 8:00 - 8:30. The meetings will go until 2:30. Pesticide credits will be given. (The Ocean Spray Winter Workshops in North Bend, OR and Pitt Meadows, BC will be held on January 26 and 30, respectively; call your receiving station for more information.)

Northwest Agricultural Show. January 27-29, Portland Expo Center. This is a great place to look at new "farmer" toys. If you have never been, try it!

Cranberry Weed Control and Supplementary Crops for Profit and/or Ecological Benefit on Associated Wetlands and Farm Ponds. March 9, 7:00 pm, North Willapa Grange for Grayland and North Beach; March 10, 7:00 pm, Ocean Spray Receiving Plant, Long Beach at 7 pm. Kim Patten will be the speaker. Pesticide credits will be given.

For those of you who are wondering what I am referring to by supplementary crops, cranberry growers need to focus on growing cranberries but sometimes there are other opportunities that go begging. All farms have ponds; some have wetlands, streams and associated farm land which can be used to grow plants that complement cranberry farming (such as bumble bee plants), or as supplemental income. What are these crops; where and how do they grow? Come and find out.

Cranberry IPM Workshop for Insect (especially fireworm) Control. April 6 at North Willapa Grange and April 7 at the Ocean Spray Receiving Plant in Long Beach. Both meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. Topics to be discussed will be timing, chemical selection, alternative controls, monitoring, application,

and decision making. What do growers think about IPM? Does it really work? Are you doing it right? Speakers to be announced. Pesticide credit will be given.

BOG MANAGEMENT

Weed Control. I will have more on weed control in the next Cranberry Vine. For now, buttercup can be partially managed by spot treating with full label rates of Devrinol in mid to late February. Some growers prefer the WP formulation for this. You will need to follow up with Casoron in March to have good success.

As of the first of the year (1-1-98) Stinger cannot be legally used on cranberry. The old Section 18 expired and the new one has not been granted. Do not use Stinger until the new Section 18 is granted by the EPA. Hopefully, it should be by February.

Pruning. A good pruning program is a must for continued high production. Most growers feel like they have a good handle on the level of pruning they need to do. Research on pruning suggests that, over the long term, light pruning is better than heavy pruning. Very heavy pruning has a tendency to remove a lot of fruiting uprights. If your vines are so dense that bees can't penetrate the canopy to pollinate, then a positive effect from heavy pruning may be possible, otherwise yield, especially in the year of pruning, could be impaired. None of the pruning experiments, however, have been done under Washington's conditions and, therefore, may not be as relevant. I would like to do a series of on-farm pruning experiments and so I need some grower cooperators. Here are the parameters. You prune your normal way, but leave a few small sections that are pruned lighter, or on alternate years, or not all. If you are interested in participating in this experiment, please let me know as soon as possible. I need 6 to 12 growers and I am mainly interested in Stevens.

Sanding. Sanding can stimulate root growth, improve aeration, stimulate basal shooting and new upright formation, help in the management of girdler, and provide several other positive benefits. Do all beds need sanding? No, I have seen some sites that have never been sanded and continue to yield 300 to 400 bbl/ac. Many beds, however, could benefit from sanding, especially those that have had a lot of girdler damage, those that are poorly rooted along the entire length of the primary runner (if you grab a handful of vines they should be firmly rooted close to where you are pulling; if, instead, they go for several feet before rooting, sanding may help), those that have vines that crunch when you walk on them, beds without good upright density, or beds that are poorly drained or have low spots. Other beds, of course, should be sanded, but the above would be my priority. As an aside, a new study from the University of Massachusetts (L. Romaneo et al.) looked at the uniformity of sanding applications. It showed that a majority of both barge and ice sanding operations lacked uniformity of delivery and did not provide the depth of sand desired. Remember, one acre inch is 134 cubic yards.

Bumble Bee Nest Boxes. This is the time of year to think about making warm and dry homes for the emerging bumble bee queens. Queens of the early species (*Bombus melanopygus*) begin emerging in late January to early February; other species become active from mid February to April. They need a warm, dry box (shoebox size) with a 1/2" hole, stuffed with real (not synthetic) cotton, set in a place they can easily find. Don't expect great success, unless they have nested nearby before. For growers who obtained commercial bumble bee nests last year, clean them out, sterilize them with a bleach solution, put in the cotton and try setting them out. If you have a lot of them, I would like to do an experiment at your site using various attractant scents in the boxes to see if it increases attractiveness for the nest-searching queens. Give me a call.

MISCELLANEOUS

New Publications.

The 1998 Cranberry Insect Disease and Weed Control Program is available. All cranberry growers in Washington should receive a copy with this mailing (These were paid for by the Washington Cranberry Alliance.) If you did not get one or need an extra copy,

they are available for \$2.00 at the WSU Research Unit on Pioneer Road in Long Beach.

The Cranberry Experiment Station at the University of Massachusetts has just released an excellent publication titled "Cranberry Production - A Guide for Massachusetts". This is a farmer-friendly 113 page guide on all aspects of producing cranberries. Some of the information is germane only to the East Coast, but most of it is very applicable to the Pacific Northwest. I strongly encourage all growers, especially new ones, to purchase a copy. It can be obtained for \$10 plus \$3.00 shipping costs from The Cranberry Experiment Station, PO Box 569, East Wareham MA 02538.

The Worldwide Web. Based on my last survey it still appears that a large number of growers are not on-line. For those of you who are, here are a few excellent web sites that I like:

- 1) <http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/links/index.html>. This site has an amazing number of interesting links to agricultural information around the world;
- 2) www.tidepool.org/. This site is must reading if you are interested in bioregional news, especially with reference to the environment. It has daily bioregional (Pacific Coast) news articles from all the major news sources, plus a great set of links. It is a great way to stay informed without too much effort.
- 3) www.e-answers.org/. This is a place to find answers to any agriculture-related questions.
- 4) <http://osu.orst.edu/dept/infonet/>. This is the best site for information on small fruit and agriculture in general in the Pacific Northwest. It also has great links to some really interesting information. A great place to spend a rainy day!
- 5) <http://www.snymor.edu/~drewwe/njc/>. This site is called "Not Just Cows" and is loaded with great stuff on agriculture.

If you are just starting out on the Internet and want more information, I recommend "The Farmer's Guide to the Internet", 1996, by Dr. David Freshwater, University of Kentucky, published by TVA Rural Studies.

Sites Needed for Weed and Fireworm Research. A few growers called about my last request concerning blackheaded fireworm research sites. I am still interested in more sites if you have one.

Also needed—some good silverleaf sites or any other weed that is giving you a hard time. I need to have an

area that is at least 30 x 30' and has uniform coverage of vines and weeds.

Cranberry Research Commission Projects. Results from the funded studies will be presented at meetings this winter. If you want a full report on the projects dealing with weed control, vine overgrowth, or pollination, let me know. In a nutshell, several new herbicides look promising, as does a growth regulator for reducing vine overgrowth. Differences in floral biology of Stevens, Pilgrim, and McFarlin as it relates to fruit set were elucidated. Biological control of black vine weevil and girdler using entomopathogenic fungus continues to show promise and may have commercial potential.

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



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WEATHER

Based on what happened last year, it may be prudent for growers to plan on farming as if there will be another El Niño winter, spring and summer. What does that mean? For the second half of winter, expect dry weather and mild temperatures. If this extends into spring, expect earlier weed and fireworm emergence and, therefore, earlier pesticide applications. Warm winters also mean greater survival of fireworm eggs and overwintering bumblebee queens. Evaluate your farm accordingly. Based on last year, my main concern with regard to management, would be overlapping generations of fireworm and excessive rain during the pollination window. For more information on the projected effects of EL Niño, consult the Climate Center worldwide web site @ <http://ocs.orst.edu>.

Month	Rainfall (Inches)					Growing Degree Days				
	1997	1996	1995	1994	20 yr av.	1997	1996	1995	1994	10 yr av.
January	14.9	9.8	14.9	8.1	10.8	43	51	108	76	40
February	5.6	13.1	7.4	12.1	9.3	21	86	84	26	55
March	16.2	3.4	8.3	6.4	9.5	38	108	90	137	72
April	6.5	12.9	7.4	5.6	5.6	91	190	133	164	116
May	4.7	4.3	2.8	3.4	3.8	344	231	280	276	216
June	5.1	1.8	3.0	2.9	2.8	362	315	372	340	323
July	1.2	1.6	0.9	0.7	1.9	476	460	516	440	421
August	2.7	1.0	1.6	1.4	1.7	543	440	418	503	440
September	6.9	2.7	3.9	1.8	4.1	477	385	514	439	363
October	15.6	11.5	10.0	8.5	6.5	229	245	268	171	217
November	6.5	14.2	17.3	17.0	11.4	144	67	183	25	99
December	9.0	18.4	13.7	17.6	12.6	38	20	82	15	41
TOTAL	94.7	94.7	91.2	85.5	80.5	2806	2598	3048	2612	2402