

Cranberry

crop management newsletter

Integrated
Cranberry Crop
Management
For Wisconsin

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NEWSLETTER VOLUME XIII

With gracious funding from the Wisconsin Cranberry Board, Ocean Spray Cranberries and Cliffstar we can once again publish the Wisconsin Cranberry Crop Management Newsletter. We send this newsletter to all known cranberry operations in Wisconsin at no direct cost. We make every effort to maintain an accurate mailing list. If the address on this newsletter is wrong, please contact Teryl Roper (608-262-9751) with the correct address.

The target audience for this newsletter is the marsh managers. These are the people who make the day-to-day management decisions about fertility, pest management, irrigation, frost protection, etc. In an effort to reduce costs we try to send only one copy per marsh operation.

If it is more convenient for you the newsletter will be available on the Internet. Because of the time required for printing and postage it will likely be on the Internet prior to hard copy delivery. The URL is

<http://www.hort.wisc.edu/cran>

The newsletter will also be sent via e-mail to the cranberry-list. If you would like to be on the cranberry e-mail list send me an e-mail (tropere@facstaff.wisc.edu) and I will gladly add you to the list. There has not been much traffic on the list, so don't fear that this will swamp your account with excess messages.

Hopefully this newsletter will be of value in providing information and analysis that you can use as you make decisions on your marsh. If there are topics that you would like covered or if you have an observation to share please contact me.

Teryl Roper, Extension Horticulturist, UW-Madison

ATTITUDE

For the first time in the 11 years I have been involved with the cranberry industry prices have dropped—precipitously. While no one wants to see the price for their commodity fall, these things happen. When supply and demand meet, agricultural prices drop (ask local pork producers).

In the short run there is perhaps little that any of us at this level can do to directly improve the price structure. We do have choices, however. We can choose to point fingers and place blame with other parties. We can choose to become angry and demand that heads roll. My experience is that looking for a whipping boy makes us feel good while we vent our frustration (remember, I work for the government, I'm familiar with frustration). In the long run it is counterproductive because it diverts our attention from the things we can do.

We could also manage what is within our control the best we know how, hold the line on costs and weather the storm.

I'm not proposing that growers bury their head in the sand, but lets be proactive, search for meaningful, workable approaches with confidence that better days will come. This is a productive attitude that will, in my opinion, serve us far better than anger and finger pointing. Older growers remember previous price drops and realize that businesses run in cycles. What goes down must come up, eventually.

One feature of the cranberry industry that has always impressed me is the cooperative nature of the growers. A century ago this cooperative nature led to cooperative marketing that improved grower prices. This movement began in Wisconsin. The positive attitude and clear thinking that will sustain the industry through this crisis can also come from Wisconsin.

Teryl Roper, Extension Horticulturist, UW-Madison
(this article is my opinion and may not represent the views of contributors or others in the industry)

Whatever the situation, and however disheartening it may be, it is a great hour when a man ceases adopting difficulties as an excuse for despondency and tackles himself as the real problem. No mood need be his master. Remember others. Emotions are contagious and can infect a whole household

Harry Emerson Fosdick

DISEASE RESEARCH IN 1999

Looks like we're off to an early start again this year. When I was growing up in southern Wisconsin we were excited if we could find a few violets blooming by May 1, because they were a nice touch for the May Day baskets we gave to senior citizens. In 1998 and again in 1999, by mid April there were enough violets to sink a ship. (Hmmm...maybe it wasn't an iceberg that sunk the Titanic after all!). If we stay

"ahead of normal" well into June as we did in 1998, we could see a repeat of some of last year's diseases.

My cranberry research will be focused on two problems in 1999: i) field rot of fruit; and ii) stem gall (canker). For some background on these problems, see pp. 22-28 in the 1999 Wisconsin Cranberry School Proceedings. Nobody knows what caused the increase in field rots last year, but I think the fact that fruit set early and had a long time in the field was a factor. This year we will be testing fungicides for fruit rot and cottonball control. Also, we will start experiments to see which fungi are causing the problems, how we can most efficiently sample fruit for these pathogens, and compare rots in upland vs. lowland beds.

I have a new graduate student who will be working on stem gall. As I've written previously, we think stem gall is caused by a soil bacterium, *Agrobacterium*. We will do lab and greenhouse tests to confirm this. After we have a good method to identify the pathogen, we will test plants and marsh soils to see just how common or rare *Agrobacterium* is. I am asking for your help in solving this mystery. If you see stem gall symptoms on your marsh, give me a call. I don't have a cure, but the more information we can get from growers and scouts, the sooner we can figure out which cultural practices contribute to the problem.

Patty McManus, Extension Plant Pathologist, UW-Madison

To go about your work with pleasure, to greet others with a word of encouragement, to be happy in the present and confident in the future; this is to have achieved some measure of success in living.

Edwin Osgood Grover

PESTICIDE RESEARCH

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at UW-Madison was a recipient of some pesticide overcharge funds obtained by the State Dept. of Justice. The project supported by these funds is called "Pesticide Use and Risk Reduction" or PURR for short. The cranberry industry was the recipient of two major awards under this program. PURR funds were supplemented with further funding from the Wisconsin Cranberry Board, Cranberry Institute and Ocean Spray Cranberries. This consortium of funds from multiple sources required only moderate funding from any single agency. Both projects are urgent because of the prospect of losing organophosphate and carbamate products under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA).

The first project is for pesticide screening. A number of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides have been evaluated in the greenhouse or in small field plots in other states. Most of the products are registered on other crops and are considered "reduced risk" products by the EPA. Our goal this summer is to further screen promising materials for efficacy and phytotoxicity (plant injury) under field conditions in Wisconsin.

We have hired a research specialist to make the applications and to collect the data. There will likely be a number of plots in various locations. We will be looking for plots for all three types of pesticides. Since these are not registered these will all be crop destruct studies.

The second project is a large scale trial of controlling Black headed fireworm using mating disruption. A research specialist has also been hired to work on this project. Dan Mahr is the research leader on this project. This will be the last

step to assure that the pheromone product will work suitably in a regional setting. If this is successful the number of insecticide applications for BHFV could drop significantly.

These are exciting projects and hold the potential to provide significant benefit to the industry. Having funds from several sources allowed us to hire technical staff to do the day to day field work, freeing Dan, Patty and Teryl to do work that only they can do.

If you have part of a bed that you would be willing to allow us to use for these pesticide trials in a crop destruct protocol please let us know. Perhaps you have a bed of Crowley that could stand some post-emergent herbicide!

Teryl Roper, Extension Horticulturist, UW-Madison

PESTICIDE UPDATES

Section 18 Special Local Needs exemptions were once again granted by the EPA for two products in Wisconsin. These products are Orbit and Stinger. Section 18 labels for both products are included in this newsletter and are available from chemical dealers. You **MUST** have the current (1999—1998 won't do) label in your possession at the time of application.

ORBIT (propiconazole) has again received a Section 18 Emergency registration. Use pattern is similar to previous years: 4-6 oz/acre in 20-50 gallons of water for ground application or 5 gallons of water for aerial application. Do not apply through irrigation systems. Four applications are permitted. The first application is most effective when about 50% of the shoots show about ½ inch new growth; the second application should be 7-10 days later. The third application

should go on at early bloom (10-20%); the fourth application should be 7-10 days later. Limited research indicates that the bloom applications are more important than budbreak applications and that Orbit does not decrease yields (see Patty's report in WSCGA News, April 1998). The pre-harvest interval is 45 days, but check with your handler for any special restrictions.

STINGER is a very potent herbicide. It is not intended as a broadcast application for post-emergent weed control. This is a rescue material for areas that are severely infested with susceptible weeds. The Wisconsin label is primarily for narrow-leaved goldenrod and clover. It is also effective against Joe-Pye weed and ragweed. It is not effective against brambles such as dewberry.

Growers who use STINGER should expect some crop injury and yield reduction in treated areas. However, in some cases where weeds are severe, injury in the short run will be compensated by long-term weed reductions. Injury can be minimized with proper timing and low rates. Applications when cranberry vines are dormant are best. Spot treatment of clover has also been effective. If you must treat during the season wait until after fruit set. The pre-harvest interval is 50 days.

Before using STINGER on cranberry growers must sign a Waiver of Liability. Agrichemical dealers who service cranberries have these forms. You should also contact your handler for any prohibitions for using STINGER on fruit that may be exported out of the US.

Growers who use either of these materials will be required to report your usage at the end of the season. The data are used to assure the EPA that the application targets were not exceeded and to determine the number of treated acres. Part of the application process for these

exemptions requires making estimates of usage. Reporting allows us to see if we are "good guessers". Reporting forms will be mailed to all Wisconsin growers towards the end of the season.

Hopefully these products will receive full labels in the near future so their use can be planned well in advance. Data are being collected which should allow full registrations.

CRANBERRY WEATHER PRODUCTS ON THE WWW

On the back page of this newsletter you'll find a graph showing accumulated degree-days so far in 1999. The information that supports these graphs is available on the WWW. The URL for the cranberry weather stuff is:

<http://bob.soils.wisc.edu/wimnext/cranberry/cranberry.html>

One feature is a table showing daily max & min temperatures for different growing regions for the past 11 days and a calculation of degree-days for the season along with last years accumulation for comparison.

The UW frost forecast is also available at this location. The forecast is updated twice daily.

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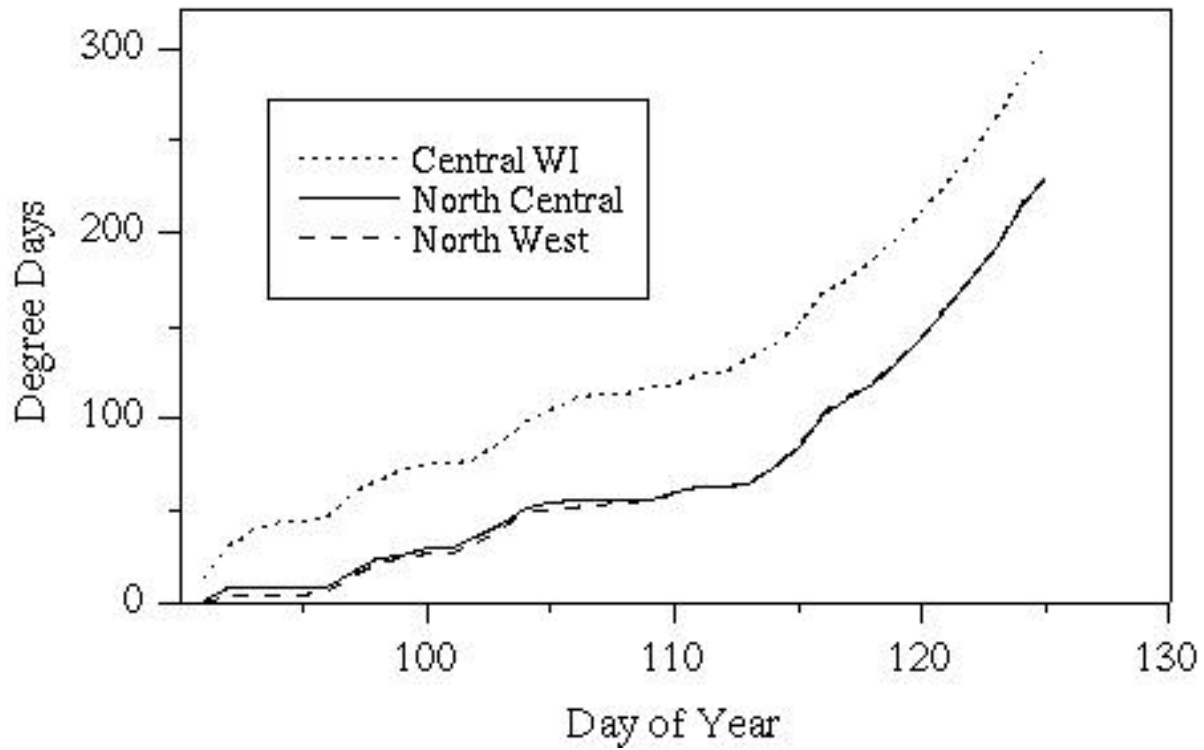
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Cranberry Degree Days – 1999



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