

## NEWSLETTER CONTINUES

Hopefully you have already noticed some changes in the Wisconsin Cranberry Crop Management Newsletter for 1998. We redesigned the masthead and we're using different typefaces to give us a fresh look. The contents of the newsletter will be about the same. UW faculty, pest management consultants and handler scientists will contribute material. This year we are not going to include trap count graphs in the newsletter. There is significant variation between and within growing areas so the value for an individual marsh was limited. There was also the issue of a significant time delay between data collection and publication.

Again this year I will be sending out the text of the newsletter via the cranberry-list e-mail list. If you want to receive the newsletter in this fashion please send me a message ([trroper@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:trroper@facstaff.wisc.edu)) and I'll add you to the list. Very shortly the newsletter will be accessible on the Internet at the Dept. of Horticulture home page. There will also be links from the WSCGA home page ([www.wiscran.org](http://www.wiscran.org)).

Once again we appreciate the moral and financial support of the Wisconsin Cranberry Board, Ocean Spray Cranberries, Northland Cranberries and Cliffstar for funding this newsletter. Their contributions allow this newsletter to be distributed at no direct cost to all known cranberry marshes in Wisconsin.

We wish you a very successful season!

Teryl Roper, UW-Madison Extension Horticulturist

## DISEASE AND FUNGICIDE UPDATE FOR 1998

### Cottonball

**Orbit (propiconazole)** has again received a Section 18 Emergency registration. In order to use Orbit, you must have the Section 18 Emergency Exemption label. It is printed elsewhere in this newsletter and is also available from agrochemical suppliers. 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 my report in WSCGA News, April 1998). The pre-harvest interval is 45 days, but check with your handler for any special restrictions.

If A is a success in life, then  $A=x+y+z$ . Work is x; y is play; and z is keeping your mouth shut.

Albert Einstein

What about all that **Funginex (triforine)** you've been hoarding in case Orbit didn't come through? You may use existing stocks of Funginex, but as in past years, you need the 24c Special Local Needs label. In the mean time, Orbit appears to be superior to Funginex in controlling cottonball.

### Upright Dieback

The time to spray for upright dieback is during shoot elongation, but before spraying fungicides to control upright dieback, consider long and hard all the possible reasons that uprights die back (see my article in CMM newsletter, June 5, 1997 or call and I'll mail it to you). Fungi are probably to blame in some but not all cases. **Bravo 720 (chlorothalonil) previously from ISK Biosciences Corp. and now from Zeneca** is available by a 24c Special Local Needs label at least until the end of 1998 or until the EPA says "nay." You must have the 24c label on hand when using Bravo 720, and it is only the Bravo 720 formulation that is permitted.

**Champ Formula 2 (copper hydroxide)** is newly labeled for control of upright dieback. Does it work? According to a study by Dr. Peter Oudemans in New Jersey, a single prebloom spray controlled upright dieback as well as a single Bravo 720 spray applied at the same time. These are data from one year only, however, and we do not know that upright dieback in New Jersey behaves like upright dieback in Wisconsin. Thus, I cannot tell you whether Champ will work as well as Bravo in Wisconsin.

If you have questions about fungicide use in 1998, feel free to contact me  
(phone: 608-265-2047; fax 608-263-2626;  
e-mail psm@plantpath.wisc.edu).

Patty McManus, UW Department of Plant  
Pathology and UW-Extension

1998 HERBICIDE UPDATE

There are a couple of new herbicide products available for Wisconsin cranberry growers this year. First, we were successful in obtaining a 1998 Section 18 label for **STINGER**. A copy of the label is enclosed. **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. If you must treat during the season wait until after fruit set. The pre-harvest interval is 50 days.

Before using this product on cranberry growers must sign a Waiver of Liability. Agrichemical dealers who service cranberries have these forms. You must also have a copy of the supplemental label in your possession at the time of application. Growers will also be required to report their use of **STINGER** at the conclusion of the growing season.

Another new herbicide product labeled for cranberry is **SCYTHE**. This is a "natural" herbicide. It is actually a soap that disrupts the plant cuticle and defoliates treated plants. It is to be applied only as a wiper application. It is not systemic and even annual weeds may regrow after treatment. I'm not sure how this will fit into our weed management programs, but I wanted to make you aware of the product.

Teryl Roper, UW-Madison Extension Horticulturist

**GYPSY MOTH UPDATE FOR  
WISCONSIN**

In 1997 twenty-four sites covering 13 counties totaling 36,895 acres were treated twice to control gypsy moth infestations using the bacterial insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *Kurstaki* (Btk). In 1998 we have a total of 64 sites in 20 counties totaling 37,980 acres that will be treated with Btk. Some of the counties that are close to cranberry growing areas are: Adams (2 sites), Juneau (1 site), Portage (3 sites), and Wood (2 sites). It is projected that 47,000 traps will be set throughout Wisconsin this summer.

Once again I would like to warn you that Gypsy Moth larvae can and will feed on cranberry. Be ever watchful for this pest because its feeding habits are devastating. Should you have any questions concerning the sites of the Gypsy Moth program or the Btk treatment sprays, please call 800-642-MOTH. This program is a cooperative effort between WDATCP, WDNR, USDA Forest Service, USDA APHIS and UW-Madison.

#### Observations from the Field

On April 22 & 23, 1998 we swept Blackheaded Fireworm larvae, first instar, in hot spots and areas that have had a history of activity in previous years. This is early, but our buds are also swelling and some young plantings are showing even more growth. There is a rule of thumb that we hold true: Insect activity goes hand in hand with plant development. The edges, pipe lines, young beds, early cultivars are ahead of late cultivars, heavy soil beds, cooler locations and older plantings with dense vines. So, keep an eye on the areas of your marsh that appear to be early if this weather continues to be unseasonably warm.

We are observing bronzed tips on the marshes that we tour. This bronzed look is from severed uprights, perhaps ice shear but in most cases the mouse infestation of this past winter is an all-time high. After studying the patterns, we found nests, trails, holes and many, many mice. When you are checking on your own property, please note just where the chewing has occurred before you come to a conclusion. You may have had a cranberry girdler infestation last fall that is now showing its symptoms. If this is the case I strongly encourage you to trap these areas to

monitor peak flights. This practice will assist you in the timing of your control measures.

#### Pioneers

In a game of word association, what comes to mind when I say Pioneers? Perhaps "early settlers, covered wagons or Wild West". Webster defines the word as "A person who experiments and originates, or plays a leading part in the early development of something." We should consider *ourselves* as being pioneers. The cranberry industry is in a fascinating age. Biotechnology, Bt genes associated with plant breeding, herbicide resistance experimentation, mating disruption, new pheromones and the list goes on. I see pioneers as people who are not afraid of going ahead. There is an old cliché that says it all, "a turtle will get nowhere unless it sticks its neck out."

You are fortunate to be living in this age of progress. We are so lucky to have researchers working with us in the field on our own properties trying to find answers to our many questions. As a word of warning to you, please read product labels carefully. Do NOT put anything out there on our crop that does not specifically state "for cranberry" on the current (1998) label. Anything else MUST be left of to those individuals who have permission to "experiment" with them.

Within the next few years we are going to see a decrease in the availability of certain chemicals. That is why we will be pioneers in using natural products that may be very unfamiliar to you today. So please keep an open mind if someone tosses you an idea your way that may sound a bit far-fetched. It may very well be tomorrow's only means of controlling insects, weeds or disease.

We wish you the best growing season ever.

Jayne Sojka, Lady Bug IPM

### CRANBERRY MINI-CLINICS

Two mini-clinics are scheduled for cranberry growers on May 27 and 28. On Wednesday May 27 we will be at the Tamarack Flowage Cranberry marsh near Three Lakes.

We'll provide you with a map or directions in the next newsletter. On Wednesday May 28 we will be in the Buena Vista area east of Wisconsin Rapids. We will give you the exact site in the next issue of the newsletter. Mini-clinics are informal gatherings where growers, consultants, and faculty can gather to exchange ideas and concerns. We hope to see you at a site near you.

## **NEW GROWER IPM WORKSHOP**

An IPM workshop for new growers is scheduled for Thursday May 14 at Northland

Cranberries Biron Marsh. We will discuss principles of IPM, specific pests and scouting techniques. The afternoon will be spent doing actual scouting in the field. Pre-registration is required and there is a fee of \$15.00 to cover lunch and materials used during the day. Contact the Wood County Extension office for details (715-421-8440).

## **SUMMERHELP SAFETY SEMINAR**

A short seminar on equipment safety for summer youth help will be held at Dexter Lake County Park on Wednesday June 17 from 2-4 pm. We'll emphasize hand power tools. More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

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