Volume XIV, Number 8, August 5, 2000

FRUIT DISPOSAL

With the decision by USDA Secretary Glickman, cranberry growers are now faced with a decision about what to do with fruit that cannot be delivered to a handler. This poses a real dilemma for growers. They will incur the cost of harvest along with the cost of somehow dealing with the non-deliverable fruit while at the same time the fruit have little monetary value.

The University of Wisconsin-Extension and the WSCGA are working on guidelines to assist growers in disposing of fruit. These guidelines, when finished, will outline the available options and will give application rates etc. WSCGA has already initiated discussions with the Wisconsin DNR and WDATCP to get their input, approval and perhaps "blessing" for the guidelines. We hope to have these in growers' hands with a couple of weeks.

Until the document is ready there are still a couple of things for you to consider. Rather than waiting until the end of harvest and disposing of the last 15% of the crop, consider disposing of some of the surplus fruit early in harvest. Not only will this provide time to find appropriate means of disposal, but this early fruit will likely be less well colored and may bring a lower price from the handler than later harvested fruit. If fruit were to be land spread getting fruit onto land early before the soil is frozen will allow greater quantities of fruit to be spread.

You should be aware of a couple of cautions. Obviously, fruit should never be placed into surface water. The fruit has nutrients that can feed algae and the process of breakdown will require oxygen that could lead to anaerobic conditions in the water. Both are bad for wildlife and for aesthetic value.

The DNR have been most cooperative and supportive in discussion of means of fruit disposal. This is in part because of attempts at reconciliation with the Department. However, much good will would be lost with only a handful of situations where fruit were disposed of improperly.

Please watch for more information about fruit disposal. We hope the information will be useful for you as you make harvest plans.

Teryl Roper, UW-Madison Extension Horticulturist

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE FIELD BY LADY BUG IPM

The week of July 17 surprised us with frost watch and unseasonable daytime cool weather. Our plants and berries showed an instant change. Did you notice the blush out there on our fruit.

Cranberry flea beetle is early this year. We started sweeping them mid-July and saw some feeding as well. Look for berry chewing and leaf skeletonizing and eventually the leaves will be brown in color. With reduced insecticide use you will see more of the pests that are normally covered by fruitworm sprays.

Let's talk about fruitworm sprays. Remember that there are Spargaothis fruitworm as well as cranberry fruitworm. With sparg we have two generations per year, so we have two chances to cut the pest pressure down. But with cranberry fruitworm (CFW) we have only one generation—thus one opportunity for control. We base the timing of this pest in years of research (7-10 days from 50% out of bloom) but the question that I am asked every day is, "Is it necessary to follow up with that 2nd fruitworm spray 7-10 days following the first spray?" This is a question only you can answer. First look at the pressure, second look at the prospect of a breeding ground, third look at the whole picture and ask yourself this "Is the amount of fruit these stragglers eat worth the cost of another insecticide expense?" For example, if it cost you $1000.00 to buy chemical for your marsh, and the insects eating 100 barrels of fruit? Yet, remember, when we talk about a "fruitworm spray" our main target is of course fruitworm, but we are also combating flea beetle, tipworm, any late blackheaded fireworm, cutworm, tractor treads, and, and, and so you'd better be scouting for these other pests should you choose not to reapply.

CONFIRM: For a number of reasons our blossoms have hung on forever. When we started to see insect infestations we just were not willing to lose what natural pollinators we had plus the potential to burn our bloom. So many of us tried to time Confirm in such a was to control BHFW and some of the early Sparg. Growers that have had trouble with BHFW and used Confirm had fantastic success; and those that attacked Sparg are quite pleased.

What happens is that the pests eat the "hormone" then stop feeding, and we see discoloration, molting, and less damage. What more could we ask form a product—sickly pests, no feeding, if they make it to adulthood they are sterile so we have taken care of the 2000 pest problem and reduced the possibility of serious potential for 2001!

DROUGHT: Unbelievable as it may seem, we are seeing drought on the marshes. I feel that what has happened is this. Our plants have been so wet for so very long, that the first dry spell was a shock to them. We tried to dry things up, because every inch of our marshes was saturated, yet the wind and the heat just played havoc with our good intentions. Some have chosen to keep the water up in the ditches with others are concerned with rots and root trouble. So, what is the answer? Putting forth a little extra effort and touching the soil, probing the ground, and watching our plants daily is the only way to avoid such an event.

GIRDLER: Unfortunately we are seeing high flight on some of our properties. Remember that you have a number of choices. First, Diazinon 14G; second, nematodes; third flooding at the end of August; and fourth, sanding those questionable beds this winter. Maybe a combination of these choices would be in order. Again, this is a decision that you need to make based on your own experience, and what you feel comfortable with this year.

Jayne Sojka, Lady Bug IPM

Mating Disruption Workshops to be Held August 29-30

Two workshops on mating disruption will be held by the University of Wisconsin. The first will be held August 29, 9:00 a.m. to noon, at Bennett Cranberry Company in Cranmoor (5932 Hwy 54 West). The second workshop will be held August 30, 9:00 a.m. to noon, at Rayala Cranberry Company, 400 Cranberry Blvd., Manitowish Waters. There is no charge for these workshops, and all parties interested in cranberry pest management are invited to attend. However, to assure adequate seating and refreshments, **pre-registration (by August 21) is mandatory**.

Pheromone-mediated mating disruption relies on the application of pheromones to disrupt the normal mating behavior of insect pests, resulting in the reduction of egg production and thereby lowering the numbers of damaging larvae. Research on this approach for control of blackheaded fireworm has been conducted in Wisconsin for five years now, and for two years on sparganothis fruitworm. These workshops will summarize the results of that research and also demonstrate how this new technology is best used. The workshops will include both formal presentations by speakers as well as hands-on field sessions. The presenters include Dr. Dan Mahr and Carolyn Garvey, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Dr. Tom Baker, Iowa State University, and Dr. Sheila Fitzpatrick, Agriculture Canada, British Columbia. The following topics will be covered:

- An introduction to mating disruption
- Point-source application methods
- Sprayable pheromone
- Application and evaluation methods
- Blackheaded fireworm results in British Columbia
- Blackheaded fireworm and sparganothis fruitworm results in Wisconsin
- Field demonstration of point-source applicators
- Field demonstration of monitoring and evaluation methods

Register by calling the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association at 715-423-2070, or email the Association at wiscran@wctc.net. Or, you can mail in the registration form below. **Please register by August 21.**

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Cranberry Insect Mating Disruption Workshop – Pre-registration Form

Note: there is no charge for this workshop, but pre-registration is necessary (by August 21).

Name _____

Name of business_____

Address_____

_____

Phone numbers Home:_____Office or shop:_____

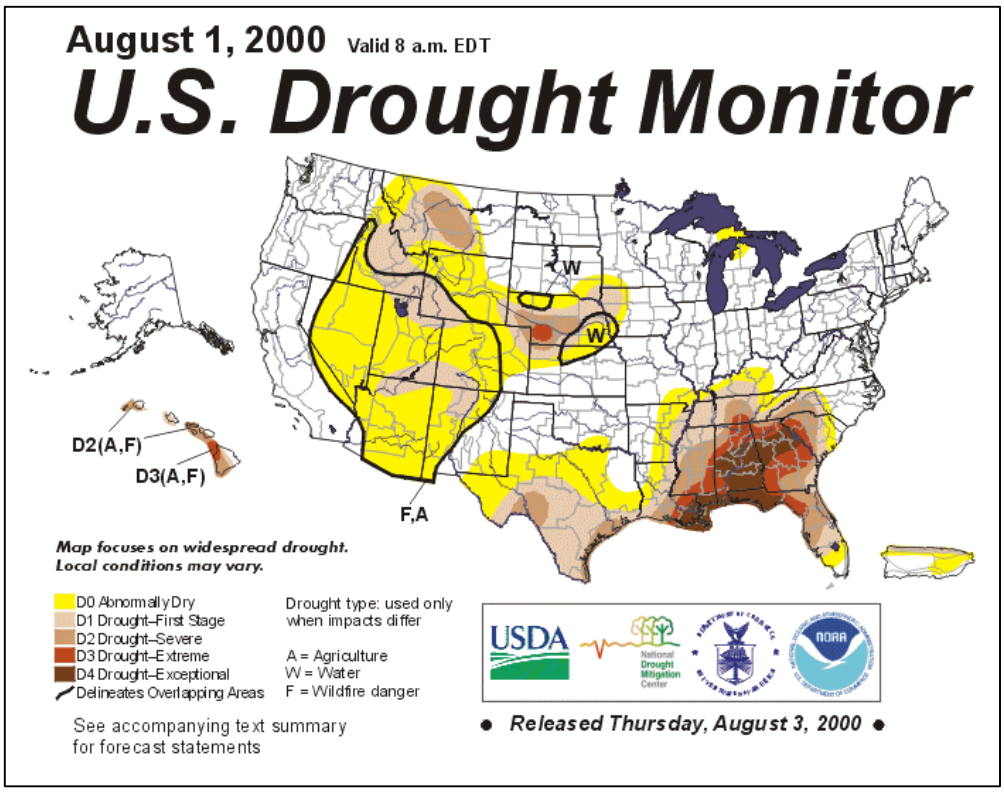
How many will be attending? _____

Which location will you be attending? (please check): _____Northern Wisconsin (Manitowish Waters)

_____Central Wisconsin (Cranmoor)

Mail this form by August 21 to

Insect Control Workshop
Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association
P.O. Box 365
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495



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