WEEDAR 64 (2,4-D)

RECEIVED STATE LOCAL NEED LABEL FOR CONTROL OF WOODY WEEDS IN CRANBERRY

A state special local needs label (24c) was issued on August 11, 1995 to allow WEEDAR 64 (2,4-D) to be used for control of woody weed species in cranberries. This label will be in effect from August 11, 1995 to December 31, 2000. This registration is number WI 9500007. The manufacturer of WEEDAR 64 is Rhone-Poulenc Ag. Co., Research Triangle, NC.

Use will be permitted in all Wisconsin counties a grower must be in the possession of the label for this use and application when applying WEEDAR 64 for this use. Endangered plant species do occur in the counties where cranberries are grown. Due to the conditions and locations where cranberries are grown, endangered species are either not found in close proximity to any cranberry operation or are unlikely to be affected by this use.

Herbert J. Hopen, UW-Horticulture

Talent without Character, beauty, money, power, influence, eloquence—anything without character—is a hazard and a cause of concern. Character will always be found the best safeguard of virtue—and of all else that makes life safe and satisfying.

R.L. Evans

NEW PATHOLOGIST BEGINS

Dr. Patricia McManus has been hired by the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a fruit pathologist. Her duties officially began September 1, 1995.

A native of Columbus, WI, Dr. McManus received her bachelor degree from UW-Madison in botany. She then received her master's and doctorate degrees from Michigan State University in botany and plant pathology. There she worked in fruit pathology with Dr. Alan Jones.

Dr. McManus has joined the Plant Pathology faculty as an assistant professor with a 75% Extension, 25% research appointment. She will focus on diseases of fruit crops. She will also address other issues such as integrated pest management, pesticide use and food safety, the environment and alternative agriculture.

Dr. McManus can be contacted at the Dept. of Plant Pathology, 1630 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706 (608) 265-2047.

LADY BUG TIDBITS

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE FIELD

Girdler outbreak

Once again the Girdler are showing their "dirty work". Brown uprights severed from the vines can be spotted this time of the year wherever Girdler are working. In digging, we're finding some very close to the surface while others are 3 to 4 inches down in the duff area. Remember that it is not enough to just treat these critters with either nematodes or Diazinon, we must sand these areas this winter.

We sand for two reasons: one is to cut down on the pest activity in 1996 and the other is to help the vines recuperate. ½ to ¾ inch of sand is adequate for our vines to establish a new root system if needed. You see sometimes this pest does not chow the vine in half, it just injures it, but when we sand we cover up the injury and assist in rooting, thus gaining back vine density and plant health in general.

Field rot

Wisconsin's weather has provided an ideal environment for rots this August. In gathering crop forecast fruit we were seeing some strange patterns. For example: we always chose sites that so with the trained vines--two that run east to west and two that run from west to east per bed.

Surprisingly the vines that ran from west to east showed more rots than the vines that ran east to west! (Does the sunshine and drying time after all the rain come in to play here?) In another situation, an individual had a difficult time getting surface water off the beds and his injury (rot) was very high. A grower that had beds completely covered showed little to no rot at all! In lush growth areas, where the vines seemingly never dry out, the lower crop has serious rot.

Crop forecast

The latter part of August the Lady Bud team harvested 408 square foot samples in an attempt to forecast the crop for our growers. These samples represent 102 Wisconsin beds and eight cultivars. The square foot sample was harvested, counted and weighed. These are the averages from those sites:

The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook.

William James

Table 1. Crop forecast for Wisconsin, 1995. Results from 408 samples.

Cultivar	Berries/ sq ft (#)	Weight/ sq. ft. (g)	Mean wt per berry (g)
Stevens	162	188	1.20
LeMunyon	256	290	1.13
Pilgrim	205	216	1.05
Ben Lear	172	180	1.05
Searles	141	125	0.89
McFarlin	167	140	0.84
Howes	142	106	0.75
Crowley	123	88	0.72

Always remember that the crop is sold by weight and this year we have an advantage over the 1994 fruit size. August did not show any early signs of dormancy and thus the plants are still thriving and fruit sizing. The growing season is not over yet!

Table 2. Crop forecast for Wisconsin, 1994. Results from 352 samples.

Cultivar	Berries/ sq ft (#)	Weight/ sq. ft. (g)	Mean wt per berry (g)
Stevens	182	191	1.05
LeMunyon	191	197	1.03
Pilgrim	192	216	1.13
Ben Lear	178	177	0.99
Searles	192	175	0.91
McFarlin	207	151	0.73
Crowley	147	98	0.67

Jayne Sojka, Lady Bug IPM

It's good to have money and the things that money can buy, but it's good, too, to check up once in a while and make sure you haven't lost the things that money can't buy.

George Horace Lorimer

HAIL CANNONS

Recently advertisements and articles have appeared in regional fruit publications regarding the potential of protecting crops from hail by cannons. I forwarded what information I could to Dr. Bill Bland, Agricultural Climatologist in the Department of Soil Science and asked for his opinion. He recently responded to my inquiry indicating that he knew of no data that supported the claims of the promoters. He included an article outlining the history of hail cannons at the turn of the century in Europe.

The prospect of protecting crops by firing cannons into thunderstorms is not new. Large scale trials were conducted around the turn of the century in Europe. Over 10,000 hail cannons were fielded in upper Italy. Optimism about the new technique ran high during 1898 and 1899 when almost no losses to hail occurred. Confidence in the technique, however, waned quickly in 1900 and 1901 when substantial losses to hail were suffered throughout Europe. The cannonading of thunderclouds quickly was abandoned. Following World War II a major rocket industry developed in Italy where annually a million dollars worth of rockets were sold to farmers. Farmers would shoot them into thunderclouds and the shock waves were supposed to break up hailstones that might be forming. The rockets were finally outlawed in the early 1970's. No data supports that the rockets were effective.

We now know that major hail losses are random events, often occurring alone or in pairs after two, three, four or more years of little or no loss. Apparently the favorable evaluation of hail cannons in Europe in the late 1800's occurred during one of these lulls in hail events. When damaging hail returned in 1900-1901 the cannons were ineffective.

Hail cannons did not work at the turn of the century and we have no confidence that they will work any better today.

Teryl Roper, UW Extension Horticulturist with information supplied by Dr. Bill Bland

ILLEGAL RESIDUE

Some of you may be interested in what happened in Connecticut two weeks ago. A routine inspection of a blueberry farm by the Dept. of Ag. detected 0.3 ppm residue of Mesurol on blueberries. *[Mesurol was labeled as a bird repellent on blueberries until a couple of years ago*.] Word got out to the new ambitious Commissioner of Consumer Protection that illegal residues were detected on a blueberry farm. He then held a press conference denouncing the farmer and telling people to dump out their blueberries from that farm so their kids wouldn't be poisoned.

A few days later, 3 more blueberry farms were found to have Mesurol residues on the fruit. All 4 farms were closed down, fruit was recalled from supermarkets, and growers were forced to give rebates to customers. This has triggered the FDA to get involved throughout the New England states.

One farmer I spoke with told me their credibility was ruined with customers, and they did not think they could survive in farming anymore. All of this was the result of one application of a chemical with an expired label. Although just a few years ago Mesurol was used up to a tolerance of 10 ppm, customers assumed that Mesurol was "banned" because of health issues, not because of the cost of reregistration.

It's just not worth it to apply an unregistered product, regardless of how easy it is to rationalize. The wrong person in a powerful position can cause endless grief if it is found that something illegal has been used.

Dr. Marvin Pritts, Cornell University

"Those who can't remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

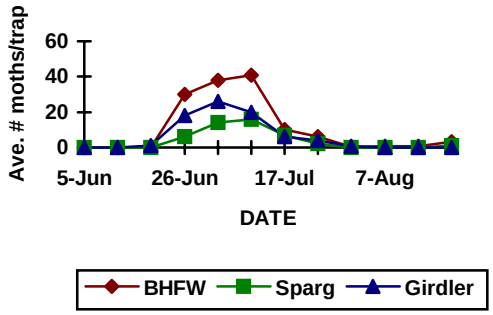
Santayana, 1905.

1995 Pheromone trap counts

Cranmoor area includes:	Adams, Portage and Wood counties
Warrens area includes:	Jackson, Juneau and Monroe counties
Northeast area includes:	Forest, Lincoln, Oneida, Price, and Vilas counties
Northwest area includes:	Barron, Burnett, Douglas, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn counties

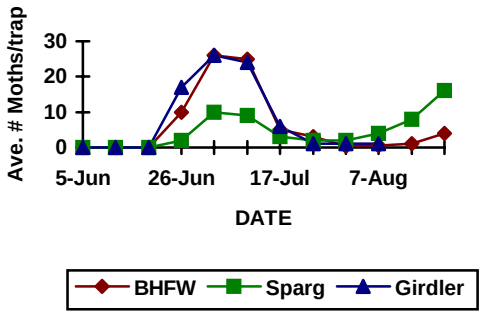
Please note that different regions may have different scales on the left axis. Doing this allows greater accuracy in determining actual values within a region. However, comparisons between regions are more difficult. Please use caution in making comparisons of these averages to trap counts on your marsh.

Northwest Area



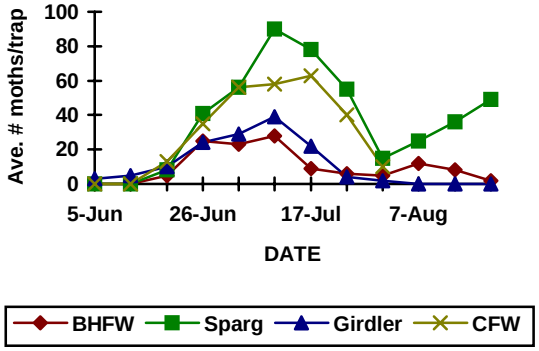
Means from 7 growers

Northeast Area



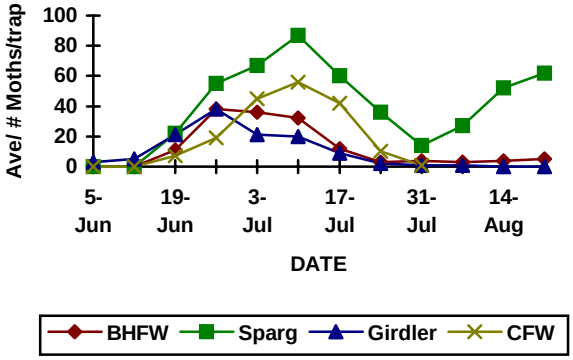
Means from 2 growers

Warrens Area



Means from 23 growers

Cranmoor Area



Means from 31 growers

Cranberry Crop Management Newsletter
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