FINAL 1995 ISSUE

This is the final issue of the Wisconsin Cranberry Crop Management Newsletter for the year. We hope that you found it interesting and informative. We give a hearty thanks to all those who contributed articles, announcements, data, ideas or other information to the newsletter. We especially thank those who sent in address corrections. We assume funding will be provided again next year and we publish Volume X.

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE FIELD

TACY

The first have of September has proven to be most interesting. With only two frosty nights, our crop just isn't coloring. Most of the Tacy tests are coming in less than 17 which is not adequate for harvesting. Our vines are starting to show a dormant cast, buds are hardening off, and preparing for the long winter ahead, but we need more cool weather now. *(Note: Jayne's wish has been fulfilled. By the time you get this it will be cold.)*

UPRIGHT DIEBACK

Unfortunately we are also seeing what appear to be signs of upright dieback. Samples have been sent to labs for proper analysis. When our plant pathologists have determined the cause of the symptoms, we can address what potential remedies we can pursue in 1996. Pay close attention to your crop, even if you are a fresh fruit grower with several fungicide applications. True upright dieback must be treated at bud break with Bravo (according to recent studies this has been shown to be the most effective control for the disease). We have observed a steady increase in the incidence of upright dieback symptoms on vines in the last three years. It is unique because it is so spotty. One runner can produce numerous uprights, but not all uprights along a runner show symptoms, sometimes as low as 1 in 10. Thus, the problem can go unaddressed for years or until it is widespread, and very obvious.

EXPERIMENTAL CRANBERRY FRUITWORM LURE

I am pleased to share that the 1995 cranberry fruitworm lure has shown to be most effective in attracting moths. Lady Bug IPM had about 50 lures in place this year and the catch in sticky traps was true cranberry fruitworm and not miscellaneous insects. In assisting my supplier (Great Lakes IPM) I have computerized 30 flight graphs showing it's efficacy. this is the fifth year that we have hard copy documentation supporting this specialty crop lure and we feel that we are now close to patent. Some have generalized fruitworm into one category, but I feel that it is important to be specific. To clarify the presence of cranberry pests and record the potential pressure prior to larval activity gives us an insight into types of control and just what to expect.

Jayne Sojka, Lady Bug IPM

TELEPHONE HERBICIDE SALES

Several Extension agents have received phone calls from farmers wondering if the "great deal" they were hearing over the telephone really was or not. In one case, the sales reps wouldn't take "no" for an answer so the product was shipped to the farmer. When he refused delivery, the delivery person said, "You're not the first one to refuse this product. What's going on?" The farmer called the 800 number the sales rep provided and the person on the other end was from a titling company in Michigan and had received several other calls from frustrated farmers. So a case like this is clearly suspect. The claims of "killing weeds for six years and yet is safe as water" also tells you something isn't right.

So what do you do when these calls occur? First, demand that they send you a product label before placing an order or accepting delivery. Based on the active ingredients and the cost of the product, you can determine if this is a "good buy" or a "good bye". Secondly, call the WDATCP to verify that the company is licensed to sell pesticides in Wisconsin. Call Ed Bergman at 608-224-4546 and he will see if they are legal to sell pesticides in the state or not.

Jerry Doll, UW-Madison, Dept. of Agronomy

I believe that we are here to work, and I believe that there is no escape from it. I think that we cannot get into our brain that desire too soon. Work we must if we shall succeed or if we shall advance. There is no other way.

J. Reuben Clark

BUMBLE BEE BOXES

Dr. Macfarlane requested that the following diagrams for bumble bee nest boxes be provided since several growers had asked for them. He did not leave much descriptive language, so what is written here is based on my recollections of having seen some nest boxes and his notes on the diagrams he provided.

Two types of boxes may be built: above ground and underground. The above ground boxes (Fig. 1) are 8 to 12 inches square. The lid should fit over the sides and should be covered with aluminum to provide a water tight seal. The lid should fit below the top of the box by 1.5 to 2 inches. Centered on side wall at the bottom of the board bore a hole 1 inch in diameter. Underneath this hole provide a ledge about 1 inch wide for the bees to land on. The basic dimensions and directions for an underground box are the same as for the above ground box. Bore a hole in the same location as an entrance or exit. No ledge is provided for the below ground box. Instead a tunnel 1 foot long is provided (Fig. 2). The tunnel should slope upwards away from the box and should be about 1 inch higher at the open end than at the box. The internal dimensions of the tunnel should be about 1.5-1.75 X 1.5-1.75 inches. Underground boxes should have "blueboard" or equivalent glued to the exterior to provide insulation against temperature changes. The lid should also be watertight. The boxes I saw were painted white and the location was marked with a flag.

Place cotton upholstery batting inside the boxes as nesting materials for the bees. It should be loosely folded in the box so there are "folds" to nest between. Placing the boxes at the appropriate time appears important (Fig. 3). Broad generalizations cannot be made, but it appears most species begin nesting in early to mid-May.

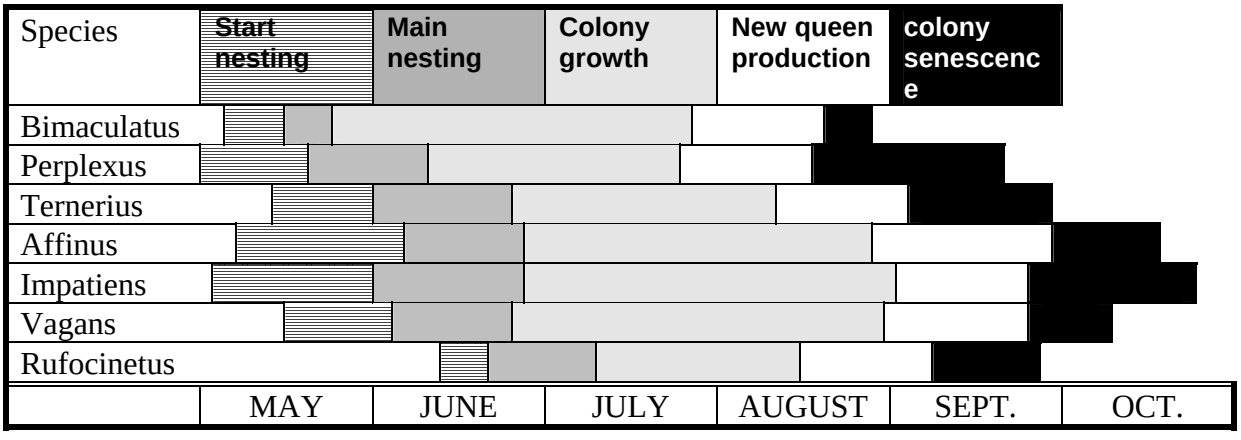
Just because we may have taken one step down a wrong road is no reason we have to take two.

R.L. Evans

Figure 1. Diagram of an above ground bumble bee nesting box. Dimensions are roughly 9 to 12 inches square. After a design by Dr. Rod Macfarlane.

Figure 2. Diagram of a below ground bumble bee nesting box. Dimensions are the same as for Figure 1. The sides and bottom of the box should be covered with "blue board" insulation. It is critical that below grade boxes have a tunnel leading to the box with an opening at the surface.

Figure 3. Growth and colony habits for 7 bumble bee species in Wisconsin, 1995.



Wisconsin Cranberry Crop Management Newsletter
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