


 Text Box: Cranberry Crop Management Newsletter

 Text Box:  
Integrated  
Cranberry Crop  
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## WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection continues to do some spot checking for compliance to the Worker Protection Standard. Each year some growers are selected at random for compliance checks. This year action has been taken against some agricultural producers and other actions are pending. Average fines plus costs for these cases are about \$3900. Here are a few items to consider as you ensure you are in compliance with the law.

**Employee training.** All employees who handle pesticides or who work in areas where pesticides are applied must be trained about pesticide safety. Persons who handle, mix, load, or apply pesticides should be certified pesticide applicators. Training associated with obtaining an application license fills the need for training. For other field employees there are training videos available that would provide the necessary information. You should maintain records showing when and how employees were trained and have the sign the records.

**Notification of pesticide application.** This is commonly called posting. All pesticide applications must be posted at a location where employees have access. This posting should include the area treated, when treated, pesticide used, and the date when re-entry is allowed. Depending on the nature of the application and your location in relation to “sensitive areas” such as schools, churches, playgrounds, roadways, and residential areas you may have to post the perimeter of treated fields. Normal access areas to treated fields should be posted. Signs indicating a pesticide has been applied must meet federal standards, must be removed after the REI has expired, and are available from numerous agriculture supply houses.

**Personal Protective Equipment.** Pesticide labels for agricultural use chemicals all have a boxed section describing the personal protective equipment that must be worn when mixing/loading or applying the material. It is the responsibility of the owner to provide PPE to his/her employees. The PPE must be in good working order and must be available to workers. Don't store PPE in the same facility as pesticides to avoid contaminating the equipment.

**Restricted Entry Intervals.** All pesticide labels now show the restricted entry interval for applications of that product on labeled commodities. There are provisions for some early entry, but this is usually for “non-contact” work and usually requires full protective equipment such as rubber boots, coveralls, rubber gloves and perhaps breathing protection. Check the label of your products for details.

**Decontamination equipment.** Workers must be provided with decontamination supplies and equipment. This includes fresh water, soap, single use towels, clean clothing, and eye wash. These supplies must be available in the immediate proximity of where pesticides are being applied. Commercial decontamination kits are available.

**Emergency Medical Assistance.** Owners are required to post where the nearest emergency medical facility (hospital) is. Further, should a worker be exposed to pesticides you are required to provide transportation to the emergency facility.

In addition to these requirements WDATCP may also spot check compliance with maintenance of pesticide application records. While these are not strictly part of WPS, the data are clearly complimentary. Keeping good pesticide records is as important for you as they are for other reasons.

More complete information about the Worker Protection Standard is available from the WDATCP and from the USDA. The complete text of how to comply with the standard is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/agency/oce/oce/labor-affairs/comply.txt>

A summary is available at:

<http://www.usda.gov/agency/oce/oce/labor-affairs/wpssumm.txt>

More information is also available through your local county Extension office.

Teryl Roper, UW-Madison Extension Horticulturist

## WEED MAPPING

Now that harvest is over it is a good time to map problem weed areas on your marsh. Mapping the problem areas will allow you to treat just those areas, or to give them extra attention next spring.

Weed mapping and scouting are key parts of an effective weed IPM program. Weed maps can serve several functions including communication between scouts and the manager, location of weed problems, quantification of weed populations, and assessment of the effectiveness of control programs. Weed maps can also help growers prioritize to manage the most invasive or problematic weeds first.

Since most of the troubling cranberry weeds are perennial, marking the weeds one year will clearly indicate where problems will be in subsequent years. Mapping may not have to be done every year for perennial weeds. Alternate years may be sufficient.

Mapping requires some sort of a paper or digital representation of each bed or section. Locations of weed populations in each bed can be noted on the map with appropriate dimensions noted. An example of this is shown in Figure 1. Weeds could be noted by species or by priority for control. Figure one shows them by priority.

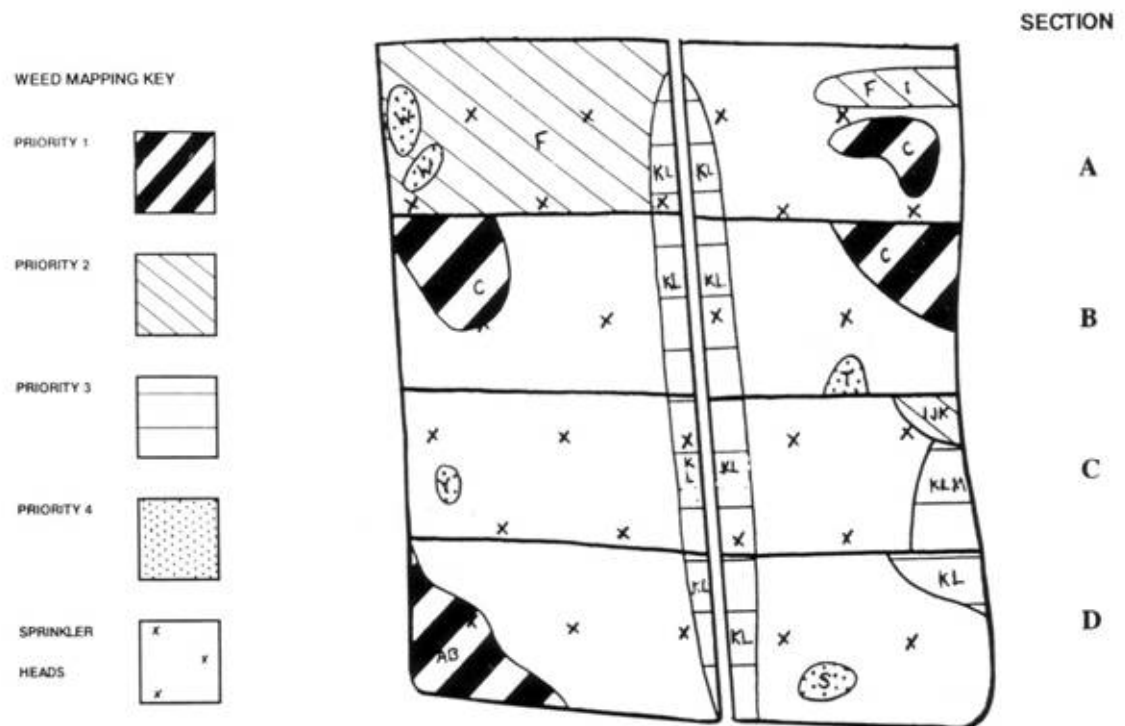


Figure 1. An example of weed mapping of cranberry beds. (from Else, Sandler and Schluter, 1995)

Unless exact measurements are taken and noted on the maps it may be difficult to find the exact location in the spring. That kind of detail in mapping is very time consuming. Some have used GPS equipment to note weed locations, but reasonably priced commercially available GPS units don't have the resolution required for accurate mapping. Most of these units are accurate to 3 meters (10 feet).

In our research we often need to locate the exact corners of plots a second or third year after we lay them out initially. We have been using whisker flags. These are small tufts of vinyl set in a U shape. These are anchored into the bed with long metal spikes. The whisker flags are flexible and won't interfere with harvest equipment and they aren't affected by winter floods or ice like regular wire stake flags are. We have found that orange and yellow whisker flags show up the best in cranberry beds. These flags are available from several sources including Blackburn Flag ([www.blackburnflag.com](http://www.blackburnflag.com)) and Shurmark, Inc. ([www.shurmark.net](http://www.shurmark.net)).

Once the location of weeds are noted in the bed control measures can be taken in the spring before re-growth begins.

You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.  
You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.  
You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.  
You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.  
You cannot help the poor man by destroying the rich.  
You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.  
You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.  
You cannot establish security on borrowed money.  
You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence.  
You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.  
Attributed to Abraham Lincoln

## **BE PREPARED...Before the Storm Strikes**

### **At home and work...**

Primary concerns are the potential loss of heat, power, telephone service, and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day.

Have available:

- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Battery-powered NOAA Weather and portable radio to receive emergency information. *These may be your only links to the outside.*
- Extra food and water. High energy food, such as dried fruit or energy bars, and food requiring no cooking or refrigeration is best.
- Extra medicine and baby items.
- First-aid supplies.
- Heating fuel. Fuel carriers may not reach you for days after a winter storm.
- Emergency heating source, such as a fireplace, wood stove, space heater, etc.
- Fire extinguisher and smoke detector.  
-Test units regularly to ensure they are working properly.

### **When CAUGHT in a Winter Storm at home or in a building...**

- Stay inside. When using ALTERNATIVE HEAT from a fireplace, wood stove, space heaters, etc.:
  - use fire safeguards.
  - properly ventilate.
- No heat:
  - close off unneeded rooms.
  - stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors.
  - cover windows at night.
- Eat and drink. Food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat. Keep the body replenished with fluids to prevent dehydration.

### **When CAUGHT in a Winter Storm outside...**

- Find shelter:
  - try to stay dry.
  - cover all exposed parts of the body.
- No shelter:
  - prepare a lean-to, wind-break, or snow cave for protection from the wind.
  - build a fire to heat and attract attention.
  - place rocks around the fire to absorb and radiate heat.
- Do not eat snow. It will lower your body temperature. Melt it first.

**DRESS TO FIT THE SEASON.**

Wear loose-fitting, light-weight, warm clothing in several layers. Trapped air insulates. Layers can be removed to avoid perspiration and subsequent chill. Outer garments should be tightly woven, water repellent, and hooded. Wear a hat. Half your body heat loss can be from your head. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from extreme cold. Mittens, snug at the wrist, are better than gloves. Try to stay dry.

### **In cars and trucks...**

Plan your travel and check the latest weather reports to avoid the storm!

- Fully check and winterize your vehicle before the winter season begins.
- Carry a winter storm survival kit:  
blankets/sleeping bags; flashlight with extra batteries; first-aid kit; knife; high-calorie, non-perishable food; extra clothing to keep dry; a large empty can and plastic cover with tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes; a smaller can and water-proof matches to melt snow for drinking water; sack of sand (or cat litter); shovel; windshield scraper and brush; tool kit; tow rope; booster cables; water container; compass and road maps.
- Keep your gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Let someone know your timetable and primary and alternate routes.

### **When CAUGHT in a Winter Storm in a car or truck...**

- Stay in your car or truck. Disorientation occurs quickly in wind-driven snow and cold.
- Run the motor about ten minutes each hour for heat:
  - open windows a little for fresh air to avoid [carbon monoxide poisoning](#).
  - make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked.
- Make yourself visible to rescuers:
  - turn on the dome light at night when running the engine.
  - tie a colored cloth (preferably red) to your antenna or door.
  - raise the hood indicating trouble after snow stops falling.
- Exercise from time to time by vigorously moving arms, legs, fingers, and toes to keep blood circulating and to keep warm.

*From the National Weather Service*

## **STORING SPRAYERS OVER WINTER**

Sprayers are used only a few weeks in a year. When not in use, protect them against the harmful effects of snow, rain, sun, and strong winds. Moisture in the air, whether from snow, rain, or soil, rusts metal parts of unprotected equipment. The sun helps reduce moisture in the air, but it also causes damage. Ultraviolet light softens and weakens rubber materials such as hoses and tires and degrades some tank materials.

The best protection from the environment is to store sprayers in a dry building. Storing sprayers in a building gives you a chance to work on them any time during the off-season regardless of weather.

If storing in a building is not possible, provide some sort of cover. Remove the hoses, wipe them clean of oil, and store them in a building. Do not hang them over a nail or sharp object. This causes a permanent crease that reduces flow through the hose. Coil hoses around a basket or other large round object to prevent sharp bends.

When storing trailer type sprayers, put blocks under the frame or axle and reduce tire pressure during storage.

A few other things have to be taken care of when it is time to store the sprayer:

1. Add a small amount of light weight oil, depending on the size of the tank, to the rinsing water before the final flushing. As water is pumped from the sprayer, the oil leaves a protective coating inside the tank, pump, hoses and other parts.
2. To prevent corrosion, remove nozzle tips and strainer, dry them and store them in a can of light oil such as diesel fuel or kerosene.
3. Drain all cleaning water from all parts to prevent freezing.
4. Pumps require special care. After draining the water, add a small amount of oil, and rotate the pump four or five rotations by hand to completely coat interior surfaces. (Make sure that this oil is not going to

damage rubber rollers in a roller pump or rubber parts in a diaphragm pump.) Check the operators manual. If oil is not recommended, pouring one tablespoon of radiator rust inhibitor in the inlet and outlet part of the pump also keeps the pump from corroding. Another alternative to put automotive antifreeze with rust inhibitor in the pump and other sprayer parts. This also prevents freezing in case all the water is not drained.

5. Cover all openings so that insects, dirt and other foreign material cannot get into the system.
6. Finally, check the sprayer for scratched spots. Touch up these areas with paint to eliminate corrosion.

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By: Vernon L. Hoffman, NDSU Extension Agricultural Engineer.

## **WISCONSIN CRANBERRY SCHOOL**

The annual Wisconsin Cranberry School will be held January 18-19, 2005 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. This is a significant change from our traditional locations of Wisconsin Rapids and Stevens Point. The school has again outgrown the facilities at Hotel Mead. Chula Vista has ample room that is of good quality. There should be good seating and plenty of space for exhibitors. Please put these dates on your calendar and plan to attend cranberry school in 2005.

