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Wisconsin Cranberry Fungicide Update 2023

By Leslie Holland

This article provides some recent updates on fungicides currently registered for fungal disease control in cranberries. Specific usage instructions such as rates, timing, and precautions can be found on the fungicide labels, the 2023 Cranberry Pesticide Chart from the Cranberry Institute, and the 2023 Wisconsin Cranberry Pest Management Guide. Please make sure you have the most up-to-date versions of these documents and get rid of older versions. If you notice an inconsistency between the product label and the UW spray guide or Cranberry Institute chart, always follow the instructions on the label. Check with your handler about rule changes and restrictions. REMEMBER, the label is the law, read and follow the directions on the label.

Chlorothalonil and mancozeb are still in registration review. The interim decisions for these drafts are very behind schedule, so they could come out anytime. It is likely that there will be many changes. While many Wisconsin growers do not rely on these chemistries for fungal disease control, these fungicides still represent important tools for cranberry disease management in other production regions, especially the northeast. I will provide updates once I learn more about their status.

There is a Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) date for a fungicide chemistry that could be registered for cranberry fungal disease control. The EPA is expected to release a decision on the applications of this chemistry for tolerances and/or new uses by October 2023 (assuming this date is not pushed back). It is possible that we could have a new fungicide registered by next growing season. This product is a pre-mixture of two FRAC groups not currently registered in cranberry. This product will be used in future Use Pattern trials in Wisconsin to find the best fit with current disease management practices. The introduction of new FRAC groups will expand the cranberry fungicide tool kit, offer new modes of action for disease control, and reduce the reliance on a limited number of FRAC groups. Hopefully, an update will be available by this fall, and I will share that information here in the Cranberry Crop Management Journal. Additional fungicide chemistries, representing current and new FRAC groups are at various stages in the pipeline, including ready for submission to the EPA for consideration and completion in IR4 trials.

Introducing Dr. Shinya Ikeda, USDA–ARS Cranberry Food Scientist

By Shinya Ikeda

Hello, I am Shinya Ikeda. I recently joined the USDA–ARS as a research chemist. The main objectives of my research are to elucidate how cranberry fruit quality is related to cranberry product quality and to assist the development of processing technologies that improve cranberry product acceptability and nutritional value. I also plan to look into how cranberry product quality is related to genetic characteristics of different varieties and field conditions/practices in collaboration with other scientists in our group. I am very excited to have this opportunity for multidisciplinary collaboration involving cranberry growers and processors.

I am a food physical chemist by training. I earned my Ph.D. in Agricultural Chemistry from the University of Tokyo. After that, I worked as a postdoctoral researcher at North Carolina State University and the University of Tennessee, as a research scientist at a food ingredient company in California, as a faculty member of 3 different universities in Japan, and as an Assistant Professor of the Department of Food Science at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. During this time, my primary research focus has always been on to improve the quality and health impact of food products based on physicochemical approaches. Additionally, working with food manufacturing companies to help their product development/improvement efforts was also an integral part of my job while I was in academia. In the past several years, I collaborated with soil scientists and plant biologists to understand how fertilization practices on the farm impact the quality of potato-based food ingredients and products such as potato starch and fries. This research made me realize the importance for a food scientist like myself to go out to the farm and understand how food quality depends on what happens on the farm.

Please feel free to contact me via email at shinya.ikeda@usda.gov or sikeda2@wisc.edu. My office is located in the Department of Food Science of the University of Wisconsin–Madison at 1605 Linden Drive in Madison

Grower Updates

Flying Dollar Cranberry

By Seth Rice

Hello everybody! This time of year we have already sprayed for our first round of bugs before our wonderful bees get here. We should be seeing blossoms on our hybrids and soon after on our Steven's. I'm curious as to see how things play out with our issues from last year with our side shooting from the growers that had been hit with a good amount of hail. Things have been really dry so far this year and we could use some rain for sure. Some growers are dealing with drought issues with this heat. We have also transitioned out of our frost protection mode and now are in irrigation mode. Everybody deals with it different.

Soon we will be looking for an opportunity to see our first fungicide shot of the year when in bloom. It's always tricky working around the bees and we do our best to keep them out of harm's way. Without our bees, it's very hard to have a crop of our beautiful berries. Stay safe everybody and please "bee" safe.

Vilas 51

By Jeremiah Mabie

Hello everyone hope you are all doing well and survived the last spell of frost watch we had. She was a long one up here with 9 out of the last 14 days of the month we were protecting. Everyone is pretty excited to see the recent dragon fly hatch to help combat the mosquito population! Bug pressure seemed to come on pretty fast in the past week with most if not all marshes having applied something by now. Vines up north seem to be perking up well from the long winter they had, lots of hooks are starting to show on most if not all varieties.

It seems like this is the time of the year when we can all come back up for a quick breath of fresh air before things get busy again. It won't be long and the bees will be arriving in full force, hopefully this nice warm weather sticks around and we catch a few more of these spotty rain showers that seem to be missing us.

Update from the Wisconsin Cranberry Research Station

By Wade Brockman

Memorial Day weekend ended up being very cold at night as we made ice on our beds by early morning. But with the warm temps the following week things have really started to move along.