

Cranberry

Crop Management Newsletter

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EARLY SEASON PEST MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS AN- NOUNCED

The WSGA Education Committee and UW Extension have a series of two workshops for growers focused on early season pest management. The first session will focus on insect pest management and the second will feature information on weed management for the growing season.

Insect Pest Management Utilizing IPM April 22

Two on marsh sessions have been scheduled for April 22. The first session will begin at 9:30 AM and the second at 1:30 PM. Both sessions will last two hours. Topics will include insect pest identification, sweeping techniques, life cycles, tips on finding and identifying tricky insect pests, label changes and updates on registrations and more. Sessions will be lead by IPM Consultants for the industry with support from UW-Extension entomologist Dan Mahr.

The sessions will be held as follows:

9:30 AM – Russell Rezin and Sons, Warrens

1:30 PM – Elm Lake Cranberry, Cranmoor

Weed Management – May 20

Two on marsh sessions will be held to discuss current topics in weed management including test plots, new registrations and other pertinent topics. Jed Colquhoun, UW-Extension Weed Management Specialist, will lead the two sessions.

The sessions will be held as follows

9:30 AM – City Point Cranberries, City Point

1:30 PM – Leola Cranberry, Plainfield

Both sessions are free of charge. However, we would ask that you pre register with WSCGA so we can have an adequate supply of materials prepared for you. Contact Jane Anderson at 715-423-2070 Extension 2 to register for the workshops.

Experience shows us that love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking together in the same direction.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

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WEED MANAGEMENT UPDATES

Callisto receives supplemental label for cranberry

Callisto herbicide is now labeled for use on cranberry. The label is in the form of a supplemental label to the full Section 3 label, which means that users need to: 1) have the supplemental label in their possession at the time of application; and, 2) follow all instructions also included on the full Section 3 label. The full and Section 3 label can be found on the CDMS web site:

<http://www.cdms.net/LabelsMsds/LM-Default.aspx?pd=5253&t>.

While we are excited about this valuable new tool, as with any new pesticide, we suggest that growers remain conservative and get to know Callisto on a small-scale first. Compared to several other herbicides labeled on cranberry, Callisto is active at very low doses, and therefore must be applied with a carefully calibrated sprayer delivering an accurate amount of herbicide.

More details on Callisto use and weed control spectrum will follow in the near future. Also, please consider attending one of the early-season workshops listed in this newsletter, where we will discuss Callisto and other herbicide updates.

Comparison of Devrinol formulations

Several growers and consultants have inquired about the differences between the traditional granular Devrinol 10G and the new dry flowable Devrinol 50-DF. Similar to Callisto, a supplemental label to the full Devrinol 50-DF label has been issued for cranberry. These

labels can be found on the United Phosphorous web site:

http://www.upi-usa.com/upi-crop-protection/Devrinol_herbicide.asp.

In our research trials, we have not observed any differences in weed control or crop response between granular Devrinol 10G and the sprayable Devrinol 50-DF. Neither formulation will control established weeds. Devrinol that remains on plants or the soil surface can degrade rapidly. Applications with ground spray equipment should be incorporated by rainfall or irrigation within 24 hours of application to avoid degradation.

Jed Colquhoun and Jack Perry, University of Wisconsin-Madison

SPRING FLOODING FOR INSECT CONTROL

Is it possible for cranberry insect pests to survive a flood?

Have you ever seen larvae/worms wearing a snorkel or scuba gear? Me either!!!!

Let's talk about flooding for insect control this spring.

In 2007 a fair amount of growers experimented on their own marshes. Some flooded the entire marsh while others chose to be more selective because of cultivar differences and plant stages. Growers experimented with vines being under water for 10 - 16- 20 - 24 - 36 and 48 hours. In our observations it appeared to be more effective to flood for 24 to 40, with 36 hours as a goal. I personally did not scout marshes that were under for 48 hours, I believe those marshes were under the supervision of my colleges, I can not share with you my observations.

In 2007 the buzz word was that flooding did INDEED control the 1st generation of Cranberry Pests. Yet many questions followed....with the main emphasis on; "Even though we know the insects were controlled, did we have crop reduction because of the flood?"

We carefully monitored one particular marsh because it was flooded the longest and conditions were not typical. The flood waters were dark, murky, and warm, due to excessive windy conditions and unfortunately the days were sunny and the nights were pleasant without any frost protecting. The flood did not come off as quickly as the grower had intended therefore it was on for at least 40 hours. When the vines and soil was dry enough to resume scouting we did not find economic levels of concern and as a matter of fact it was difficult to find anything in the larval stage. We maintained control right up until Cranberry Fruit worm challenges (from May until July). In addition to that, we were pleasantly surprised to discover that as the season progressed the sparg flights were noticeably lower than non flooded areas. In 2006 the sparg flight peaked with 125 in the flooded area and in 2007 we peaked with 108 while a bed nearby that was NOT flooded peaked in 2006 with 121 and in 2007 peaked at 221! NOW, that is noticeable.

We did notice that the plant stage was slower than the unflooded areas. This lethargic growth lasted a few weeks but then things caught up and remained strong for the growing season – Yes we harvested at the same time as other beds plus the crop was favorable.

So in 2007, the crop in Stevens vines was not affected by 40 hours of flood waters.

Here are some of grower comments on flooding for insect control:

- 1) Timing is everything – look for a cool, cloudy stretch with possible frost watch.

- 2) Amazing to see dead worms align the dike. Awesome to witness the number of birds that swarmed the flooded beds to feed.
- 3) Plant stage is vital – My Ben Lear are more advanced than my Stevens vines so I am not sure if the hook would survive underwater for 36 to 48 hours? I chose not to flood my Ben Lear.
- 4) Remember that flooding with the pipes already in the beds creates a bit of a challenge – floating, disconnecting ect.
- 5) Trash layers are inevitable and clean up may take a few extra hours depending upon how much you flood. Disease pressure may be less because of the clean up.
- 6) Even though my Stevens vines were slower to start, they actually caught up and the crop was right up there with the rest of the marsh.
- 7) I flooded areas that I did not use granular forms of herbicide as I wondered just where the herbicide would be after the flood.
- 8) I had an early infestation of spanworm and I allowed them to get a bit large before I flooded because I wanted to get the Sparg hatch as well. I did not have to take any other means of control after my 36 hour flood until July when the CFW hatched out. My insect populations were at an all time low.
- 9) I was targeting the Blueberry Looper/ Black Spanworm but as a bonus I was shocked at how many June Beetles my crew and I forked up with the trash layers. Let me tell you it was REAL HARD WORK as we wanted to get as many of the beetles out of the beds as possible. We are anxious to see just what the populations look like this June. We have tried chemicals against White Grub/June Beetles but nothing we tried worked, so if this decreases the populations it may very well be another cultural practice we could

bring back.

- 10) I would encourage my fellow growers to do sections of the marsh. If this is your 1st try at flooding for insect control, you might be surprised at how much time it takes to flood and then take the flood off. As far as insect control, it was amazing.
- 11) With new herbicides in place I am not afraid of flooding for insect control because I won't spend the money on granular herbicides and fear that it was in vain – washed away from the weed seed or root zone.
- 12) I find that flooding is weather dependent. I would never hesitate to flood the marsh during cold spells as a means of frost protection and if it would only coincide with insect control I would be willing to leave it on for 36 to 48 hours knowing it does indeed work. Typically I find that in cool/cold springs insects are not present until much later so the flood would not control my target pests. Again, it depends upon the weather and how my plants are growing.

I wish to preach, not the doctrine of ignoble ease, but the doctrine of the strenuous life.

Theodore Roosevelt

Take home message. You will never know how flooding works unless you are willing to try. I have never seen larvae/worms doing the back stroke on flooded beds. Flooding works....

Jayne Sojka, Lady Bug IPM

NEWSLETTER CONTINUES

With generous support from the industry the cranberry newsletter will continue in 2008. We'll mail the newsletter 3rd class to all known Wisconsin marshes. We'll send it out via e-mail to those who wish to receive it, and we'll post it on the Internet as well. (www.hort.wisc.edu/cran)

We're publishing this early edition this year to get information to you about herbicide registrations and some pest management training opportunities.

If you'd like to receive the newsletter via e-mail please send me an e-mail containing your first and last name and I'll add you to the list. We've not had any spam generated from this list because of the way it is set up.

We're looking forward to volume XXI.

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