Greetings To Growers

It's always good to start the New Year off right. In this vein, I wish to welcome everyone to my first South Coast Growers’ Newsletter. In the newsletters, which will come to you 2 to 4 times per year, I will provide you with information on growing practices, new research, upcoming events, and other information which I believe will be useful or informative to local growers. Much of the information will relate to the primary crops that I work with—cranberries, blueberries, Easter lilies, grapes, and nursery crops—however, the newsletters will not be limited to only these commodities.

Please feel free to give me feedback and suggestions on the newsletter and its contents. I want the newsletters to work for you!

I’m looking forward to working with you

Linda White

Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS)

It's January and time to start thinking about the upcoming year. Starting this year, anyone who uses a pesticide in the course of business, or for a government entity, or in a location intended for public use or access, is required to report those uses to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). For many of you, this is no surprise. Originally passed in 1999, the Oregon Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS) was partially implemented during 2002, but then suspended due to funding issues. The 2005 Oregon Legislature fully funded PURS, with half of the funding coming from General Funds and the other half coming from a $40 increase in pesticide product registration fees. Examples of pesticide users required to report include agricultural users, foresters, government agencies, utility companies, pest control companies, residential landlords, and managers of hotels, motels, restaurants and other business properties.

What may be a surprise to some people are changes made to PURS by the 2005 Oregon Legislature through Senate Bill 290 (SB 290). These changes include additional confidentiality requirements and how to report the location of pesticide use. In order to fulfill the additional confidentiality requirements of SB 290, the PURS system has been separated into two databases. One database contains the pesticide user’s demographic information (user registration database). The other database contains pesticide use reports filed by users (pesticide use reports database). In addition, access by ODA employees is strictly limited to specific staff working in PURS. SB 290 also restricts ODA from “…[collecting] pesticide use data…that would reveal the identity of the owner or lessee or the specific location of property where a person has applied a pesticide.” Therefore, the specific sites within general site categories are less detailed. The three general site categories that have specific sites are Agriculture, Urban/General Indoor and Urban/General Outdoor and the specific sites are much less specific than before. The list of site categories and current specific sites is presented below:

(cont. on page 2)
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**Agriculture**
- Field Crops
- Fruits/Nuts
- Livestock/Poultry
- Nursery/Christmas Trees
- Oil Crops
- Pasture/Forage/Hay
- Seed Crops
- Vegetables
- Other

**Aquatic**

**Forestry**

**Public Health/Regulatory Pests**

**Research**

**Right-of-way**

**Urban/General Indoor**
- Dwelling/Residence
- Site with Non-public Access
- Site with Public Access
- Other

**Urban/General Outdoor**
- Site associated with Dwelling/Residence
- Site with Non-public Access
- Site with Public Access
- Other

**Other**

Previously, when site descriptions were more detailed, gathered information was expected to aid US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in risk assessments and other evaluations associated with pesticide product registration activities. Gathering pesticide use information by these less detailed site descriptions may reduce the usefulness of the information.

SB 290 also changed how the location of a pesticide use is to be reported. Each pesticide use in an Urban/General Indoor or Outdoor site is to be reported by ZIP code. All other uses, including agricultural sites, are to be reported by water basin. Established by the United States Geological Service using third-level hydrologic unit codes, Oregon has been divided into 15 distinct water basins. Reporting pesticide use by these locations may simplify reporting for some users by facilitating the aggregation of information. As long as applications are made during the same calendar month to the same site category and specific site, within the same water basin or ZIP code, one report with the total quantity of undiluted product(s) can be filed.

Sunny Jones, PURS Specialist with ODA, encourages users to go online to learn about the system. “Users should be visiting the PURS Web site to see what resources are available. There is a statewide map of water basins, as well as county-by-county water basin maps.”

ODA continues to work with pesticide users to help them understand the requirements. Outreach efforts are ongoing especially to groups that do not traditionally work with the Department. The goal is to make sure no one is surprised now that the system is up and running. “Those users that don’t have to be licensed by ODA are the most difficult for us to reach,” Jones stated. “Some folks may not even realize they are using a pesticide.” Users have until January 31, 2008, to file all their pesticide use reports for 2007. For the purposes of PURS, pesticides that need to be reported include all EPA registered pesticides, regardless of general or restricted use designation, except for antimicrobials. Reportable products include insecticides such as bug killers, ant baits and insecticidal ear tags for livestock; herbicides such as weed control, “weed and feed” and moss control products; and rodenticides such as mouse and rat baits.

Go to the PURS web site, [http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/purs_index.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/purs_index.shtml), to see the available information and to register and file reports in PURS. For additional information or questions, call the PURS Information Line at 503-986-6472 or email purs-info@oda.state.or.us.

Information provided by Sunny Jones, ODA
Cranberry Watch

Yellow Tip: Cranberry growers may be seeing some bright, almost fluorescent, yellowing of cranberry shoot tips in their beds at this time of year. If so, this may be a condition called – you guessed it – ‘yellow tip’.

The cause of yellow tip is not yet known, but it is thought to be some type of temporary nutrient deficiency. It is most commonly seen on stressed beds, so it is most likely a secondary condition to some other underlying problem, such as too little or too much water.

If you believe that you have yellow tip in your beds, monitor the plants closely. The yellow tip should disappear as new growth appears in the spring. If the yellow tip does not go away, some other issue is causing the problem. If the problem is yellow tip, look at the area of the bed where the yellow tip was most prevalent. The area may be a low spot, or receive inadequate water during the growing season. There may be a pest problem.

If you have any questions or concerns about yellow tip, or any other concern, please contact me.

DNA Fingerprinting: Dr. Nahla Bassil, of the USDA-ARS in Corvallis, has been busy this last year at fingerprinting cranberry DNA. The results were not as straightforward as hoped for, so continued work is underway. If all goes well, by this time next year, growers will be able to send in cranberries for DNA cultivar typing.

Lonicera caerulea

A potential new berry is being tested in the Pacific Northwest, Lonicera caerulea, commonly referred to as blue honeysuckle or “haskap”. The plants are native to Russia and Japan. They are a bush, similar in shape, but smaller in size, to a blueberry. They are extremely cold tolerant and bloom in the early spring. The berries are small, football-shaped fruit that ripen in May/June. While the fruit may be eaten fresh, it is especially good as a processing berry.

Breeding work is on-going, but advanced selection trials have recently been planted in Sand Point, ID, the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora, OR, and at a local cranberry growers’ farm in Bandon, OR. Growth and yield information will be monitored in all of the locations for at least 4 years. Additional photos of the plant may be seen under the Commercial Horticulture portion of the Coos County Extension web-site.

Pesticide Update

Cranberries:

Callisto. A Section 18 exemption has been requested from the Oregon Department of Agriculture for the use of Callisto for cranberries in Oregon. If approved, Callisto may be applied at the same rates, and at the same pre-harvest interval, as in 2006. If the request is approved, notification will be sent to all cranberry growers.

Indar. A Section 3 registration is anticipated for the new fungicide, Indar. This fungicide is for the control of fruit rot and cottonball. Dr. Kim Patten, WSU, trialed Indar in 2006. He was not able to show that it was any more effective than current available fungicides—but good fruit rot data is difficult to obtain. Growers should consider using Indar if a fungicide for fruit rot or cottonball is needed.
Extension Bulletins

Primarily for cranberries and blueberries where acidic soils are important, EM 8857, "Acidifying Soil for Crop Production West of the Cascade Mountains". Available on-line through the Oregon State Extension website, [www.oregonstate.extension.edu](http://www.oregonstate.extension.edu), or through the Coos County Extension Office.

New this month. EM 8918, "Nutrient Management for Blueberries in Oregon". 16 pages of valuable information for successful blueberry production. Available on-line or in your local Extension Office. Cost is $5.00.

Washington State University has done a lot of research on wine grape varieties that do well in cooler Coastal environments. This information has been compiled into a bulletin entitled "Growing Wine Grapes in Maritime Western Washington". While some of the information in the bulletin is specific to Washington, it is still an excellent source for Oregon wine growers. The publication, EB2001, may be purchased from the WSU Bulletin office, 1-800-723-1763, or on-line at [http://pubs.wsu.edu](http://pubs.wsu.edu).

More information on grape rootstocks is available in the OSU Extension bulletin, "Grape Rootstocks for Oregon Vineyards". This bulletin, EM 8882, is available on-line through the Oregon State Extension website [www.oregonstate.extension.edu](http://www.oregonstate.extension.edu), or through the Coos County Extension Office.

Northwest Berry and Grape Information Network

The Northwest Berry and Grape Network is a valuable resource for information on blueberries, caneberrys, strawberries, grapes, kiwifruit, huckleberry, gooseberries and currants. The network is in the process of being revamped, and I am pleased to announce that once the new and improved website is up and running cranberries will be added to the site.

For those who don't know about the NW Berry and Grape Network, it is an on-line source of information relating to growing, marketing and research of northwest berry crops. The web-site is a cooperative effort between Oregon State University, Washington State University, the University of Idaho and the USDA-ARS.

If you need information on NW berries or grapes, this website should be one of your first stops. If you already know about the website, but wish to check out the new and improved site once it is up in February, the url is:

[http://berrygrape.oregonstate.edu/](http://berrygrape.oregonstate.edu/)

9th International *Vaccinium* Symposium

The 9th International *Vaccinium* Symposium is coming to the Northwest in July of 2008. The Symposium consists of a 3-day scientific program that will be held on the Oregon State University campus. Cranberry, blueberry, and lingonberry researchers will be coming to the event from around the globe. Prior to the official start of the symposia, there will be a pre-conference tour that will cover grower sites and farms from the Portland metro area to the southern Oregon coast. The tour will remain in the Bandon area for approximately 2 days.

The International *Vaccinium* Symposium is held every 4 years, and rotates between northern and southern hemisphere sites. It is anticipated that the 2008 conference will be very well attended. 250-500 people are anticipated.

As the Symposia draws closer, I will provide more information. To access the conference web-site go to:

[http://oregonstate.edu/conferences/vaccinium2008/index.html](http://oregonstate.edu/conferences/vaccinium2008/index.html)
Small Farms Conference

The 7th Annual Extension Small Farms and Farm Direct Marketing Conference is scheduled for Saturday, February 17, 2007, from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM. The one-day conference will be held on the Corvallis campus of Oregon State University at the LaSells Stewart Center. The keynote speaker, Dr. Marion Nestle of New York University, will examine what individuals, agribusiness, and the government can do to build a better food system. Lucy Norris, of the Hartman Group, Inc. is the capnote speaker and will focus on understanding consumers. Find registration materials on-line at: <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/> or call the Benton County Extension Office at 541-766-6750 or toll free at 1-800-365-0201.

The conference includes 9 concurrent sessions, covering a range of topics of interest to growers who market their production directly to the public, for farmers' market managers, and for community food advocates.

- Novel Crops for Niche Marketing
- Women and Small Farms: Exploring an Oregon Women's Agriculture Network
- Soil Fertility Management
- Farm to Cafeteria: How Small Farms Can Sell to Big Institutions
- Farmers’ Markets: Finding Your Best Fit
- Explore Diverse Direct Marketing Opportunities
- Conversation with Marion Nestle
- Organizing Community Support for Local Agriculture
- Debit and Food Stamp Electronic Programs: What You Should Know

Pre-registration is $30 or $50 for two registering together, and includes lunch; $40 at the door.

This event is sponsored by Oregon State University Extension Small Farms Program; Oregon Department of Agriculture; Wait and Lois Rising Lectureship Fund and Department of Horticulture, OSU College of Agricultural Sciences; Western SARE; Extension Family and Community Development Program, OSU College of Health and Human Sciences.

Mailing List and Mailing Options

Keeping a current mailing list is an ongoing project. Since I am fairly new to my position, my mailing list needs even more work than usual, so if you know someone who has not received this newsletter, and would like to, please contact me or Rhonda Fischer, so that we may add to our mailing list.

Are you tired of receiving paper copies? Maybe you’re a tech hound who prefers computer mail to snail mail? Is your filing system only on your computer? If you answered yes to any of these questions, I have good news for you. This newsletter can be electronically sent to you. Just contact myself or Rhonda Fischer to advise us of this mailing option, and to confirm your e-mail address.
2007 Oregon Cranberry School
February 21, 2007
Sprague Theater
1202 11th St. SW, Bandon, OR

9:00 am-9:05 am  Welcome, introductions and updates

9:05 am-9:50 am  "Fingerprinting Basics in Cranberry"
~Nahla Bassil,
USDA Germplasm Repository, Corvallis, OR

9:50 am-10:00 am  DNA Testing at FloraGenex
~Nathan Lillegard, President

10:00 am-10:30 am  "Irrigating for Frost and Heat Protection: When and How Much?"
~Dave Bryla,
USDA-ARS, Corvallis, OR

10:30 am-10:45 am  Break

10:45 am-11:30 am  "Two Major Root Pests of Cranberry: Black Vine Weevil and Cranberry Girdler"
~Sheila Fitzpatrick, Research Scientist
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Agassiz, B.C.

11:30 am-12:00 pm  "Cranberry Pesticide and Herbicide Update"
~Linda White, Commercial Horticulture
Coos County Extension

12:00 pm-1:00 pm  Informal Question and Answer with Presenters
Upcoming Events and Workshops

February 21  Oregon Cranberry School
9 am-1 pm  Sprague Community Theater, Bandon
(See announcement in this newsletter)

Watch for Announcement or contact Coos County Extension Office for more information

February 13  Wine Grape Nutrition  March 6  Wine Grape Pest and Diseases
6 pm-8 pm  Coos County Extension Office  6 pm-8 pm  Coos County Extension Office

March 1  Cranberry Nutrition Workshop  March 12  OCGA Annual Meeting
6:30 pm-8:30  Ellen Warring Learning Center,  7 pm-9:30 pm  VFW Hall, Bandon
    New River, ACEC

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Linda White, Commercial Horticulture
Coos County OSU Extension
Ohlsen Baxter Building
631 Alder St.
Myrtle Point, OR 97458