



UMPQUA VALLEY Hort News

Horticultural Newsletter for The Umpqua Valley

September & October 2008

Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

Extension
Service
Douglas County

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*Layout, Design,
& Distribution*
Mary Hoffmann

Agriculture, 4-H Youth, Family & Community Development, Forestry, and Extension Sea Grant Programs. Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture, and Douglas county cooperating. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.

Please note: The contents of this newsletter are provided for educational purposes, and are not intended to be taken as strict recommendations for treatment of any orchard pest or condition. ALWAYS READ THE MATERIAL LABEL PRIOR TO APPLICATION.



Calendar of Coming Events



- Sept 6** **Oakland Wine Festival.** The Umpqua Valley Winegrowers Association members will be representing their individual wineries at this all day event. I will be at the UVWA booth representing the group to answer questions about growing grapes in the Umpqua Valley. The festival runs from 11am until 10pm.
- Sept 11** **Nursery Day at the North Willamette Station in Canby.** Jim Owen, OSU nursery crop research specialist will be having an extensive field day for nurseryman from around the state. The field day will run from 8am-3pm and will cover many topics including irrigation, fertilization, substrate discussions, pest control, using organic methods for landscaping and nursery production and more. Call the station to reserve your place. 503-678-1264
- Sept 13** **Table Grape Field Seminar.** The seminar will be held at Broadacres Nursery, 9993 Broadacres Rd. NE in Hubbard, Oregon. The class will run from 10am-1pm. The instructors will be Ray Ethell owner of the nursery, and Lon Rombough, grape authority and author of "The Grape Grower". The class will cost \$10 and preregistration is required. Call the Marion County Extension office for more details. 503-588-5301
- Sept 27** **Umpqua Wine and Music Experience.** A concert featuring Country Western Band BlackHawk will be held at UCC's new Swanson Amphitheater. The concert is a fundraiser for the new Southern Oregon Wine Institute at UCC. The institute is preparing vineyard and winery workers for the Southern Oregon wine industry. Local wineries will be pouring. Proceeds are going to the program. Concert time 5:30pm-8:30pm. Tickets at UCC call 440-7700 or go to <http://tickets.umpqua.edu>
- Oct 2, 9, 16, 23** **Octoberpest at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora.** Every Thursday from 9am until noon great classes related to IPM will be held at NWREC. I am working with the organizers to arrange a remote link that will allow people to attend at our office in Roseburg. The first class will discuss Phytophthora management in nurseries, the second class will be pesticides and water quality, the third class will be biological controls for greenhouse pests, the fourth class will be invasive species of disease and insects, and the fifth class will be pesticide applicator training in Spanish. Contact the Extension office in mid September to verify the schedule. 672-4461
- October 22** **Sustainable Living in Douglas County.** The Douglas County Global Warming Coalition and OSU Extension bring you an evening forum on sustainability. The forum will enlighten you on what can be done locally in the home, in your landscape, and at work to live a sustainable life style. Key speakers will be Sarah Mazze who will talk about Climate Masters at Home and Climate Masters at Work, and Steve Renquist who will talk about the Oregon Certified Landscape. The forum will be held at the DC library Ford Room from 4:30pm-7pm. Refreshments will be served. Exhibits will be displayed by local businesses. For more information call 672-9819 or 672-4497.

Cutting Fire Blight from Infected Pear and Apple Wood

**This information is being provided by
OSU Pathologist Ken Johnson.**

Is sterilizing tools necessary when cutting fire blight infection from apple and pear trees? The short answer is no. Of course, there are many considerations when deciding whether to cut blight in the summer or wait until the season is over. In young orchards, or with wood sensitive varieties like Bosc and Comice, cutting early and cutting quickly may make the difference between saving or losing whole trees.

For summer blight cutting, the question often asked is, "what is the best way to sterilize the tools?" Last summer during a tour of the Hood River Valley for fire blight researchers the importance of cutting as soon as symptoms appear and working quickly was widely agreed upon. The topic of sterilizing tools was roundly discussed, and the consensus was that sterilizing tools while cutting blight provides little if any benefit in reducing the spread of fire blight, even during the summer, if careful attention is paid to how the cuts are made.

Typically, cutting far enough below the infection to remove it means, cutting through older wood. For a number of reasons, the chances of creating a new infection at the cut are extremely low, even if there are residual fire blight bacteria cells on the cutter. Disinfecting tools by dipping them in bleach or alcohol between each cut may have value if cuts are being made in young wood directly through diseased (discolored) tissues, especially if the branches could get wet in the next day or so after cutting. Dipping tools can significantly delay the work, however, and quick dipping, more often than not, is ineffective at killing bacteria on the tools.

Dipping tools in bleach or alcohol can be effective at killing cells if tools are immersed in the solution for adequate time. The amount of time depends on the active ingredient and concentration of the sanitizing solution. There is likely little benefit from treating cut branch surfaces with bleach or alcohol. The most effective way to treat tools or cut surfaces is with heat, for example with a hand-held propane torch. For a more complete guide to cutting blight, see Cutting Fire Blight from Infected Apples or Pears by Tim Smith: <http://www.ncw.wsu.edu/treefruit/blightcut.htm>.

Dutch Elm Disease Strikes in Douglas County

If you missed my column about this subject in the News Review about a week ago, be advised that we have found two Dutch Elm disease infected trees within the city limits of Roseburg in the month of August. The first tree was in front of the pavilion in Stewart Park. Local arborists Mark Michell and city parks arborist Ron Edwards spotted the rapidly dying tree and the OSU lab verified the disease. A second tree near Douglas Electric off north Stephens was called in by a homeowner who read my column.

The Dutch Elm disease is a fungus, originally from Asia with a stop off in Europe, that is spread by European elm bark beetles. All North American Elm species are susceptible to this disease. Chinese Elms are resistant to this disease and are rarely damaged. Sanitation is about the only way to combat this disease. Minimizing the time infected trees stand around making it possible for the beetles to spread the disease to healthy trees is our best defense. Keeping infected wood for firewood is also prohibited. We need to be quick spotting wilting elms that are yellowing on one branch or the whole tree. If you have a doubt to whether a tree is infected

call me at the Extension office. If we are pretty certain the tree is infected with Dutch Elm disease we can collect a branch with symptoms to send to the plant disease lab at OSU.

Protecting the Courthouse Elm is one of the primary reason we are concerned and want to work together to control the spread of this disease within Douglas County. The county asked Mark Michell to do an injection of fungicide to the Courthouse Elm to help protect it for a few years. If you know of clients interested in doing the same to their elms, call Mark to discuss the details. If you have a client with a dead or dying elm we should test it for the disease. If it is positive you will need to take the diseased wood to the landfill where we have set up a system to have it chipped and hauled to a facility to be burned for fuel. You will need to tell the landfill operators at the scale that the wood is diseased and needs to be chipped. They will direct you where to dump. If the tree died of another disease or cause it can be used for firewood or chipped by your business.

Glyphosate Resistance is Increasing in Perennial Crops

Many field crop areas of the country that use Roundup Ready seed in producing soybeans, cotton, and corn have seen an increase in the number of resistant weed species growing over the past few years. It isn't surprising since the same ground will often get repeated applications of the same herbicide. Rotating the fields to other cropping systems is one way to prevent or minimize the risk of developing herbicide resistance in the local weed populations.

However, when you are raising a perennial crop like orchards and vineyards, crop rotation is not an option. The only farm management tool you have in this case is to switch the herbicide you are using on occasion. By switching the herbicide or tank mixing another herbicide with roundup on occasion you are introducing another variable to the resistance

formula making it much less likely resistance will develop.

In California vineyards rigid ryegrass (*Lolium rigidum*), horseweed (*Conyza Canadensis*), and hairy fleabane (*Conyza bonariensis*) have all developed resistance to glyphosate (roundup). Since glyphosate is such an important tool for keeping your orchards and vineyards clean during the growing season it is critical to find other options to rotate with. A couple of options that are registered for vineyards and orchards are Gramaxone, Rely, Goal, Poast, and Chateau. These products all have different active ingredients so they will not be a straight substitute for Glyphosate. You will need to read labels or discuss with me the safe time to use them around your vines.

Light Brown Apple Moth Quarantine

A nineteen square-mile area in Napa and Sonoma Counties has been quarantined to fruit and plant shipments since a Light Brown Apple Moth was recently trapped. The quarantine is to keep any additional moth pests from traveling out of the area. The relevance of the quarantine for growers in Douglas County is to note that any plant nurseries that lie in this area may be restricted from shipping plant material for awhile.

The Light Brown Apple Moth is a pest native to Australia, and found in New Zealand, Hawaii, and the United Kingdom. The pest is found to attack over 250 different crops including all types of fruit and vegetables as well as forest tree crops. California is currently in the midst of a major program to control the spread of this insect that has now been found in twelve counties from Santa Barbara County to Sonoma County.

A recent editorial in the journal *California Agriculture*, quoted a retired entomologist from California who

states all logical information known about the presence of the Light Brown Apple Moth points

to the fact that the insect has probably been in California for some time and is much wider spread than recent trapping indicates because of the large amount of interstate trade between Hawaii and California. He also states "The onset of damage that is not attributable to a known cause is the most common way that pests are discovered. Dangerous pests are not routinely discovered serendipitously by one of the few people in the world who can identify them." Since this pest has probably been present for some time and no dramatic increase in crop damage has been reported, the entomologist feels this pest scare may not ever materialize. Even so it is a good idea to continue to inspect any plant material you order from California very carefully before setting it out in your nursery or on your farm.



(Photo from ODA link below)

Find more information from ODA at:
http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/IPPM/profile_lbam.shtml

Produce Wash Kills Germs in Packinghouse Wash Water

Research by food scientists at the University of Idaho and Washington State University indicate that a commercially available produce wash, when tested in commercial packinghouses, had a dramatic effect in decreasing the number of disease causing organisms in produce wash water. This wash reduced the number of gram-negative bacteria, such as Salmonella and E. coli several fold.

The product, sold commercially as FIT Fruit and Vegetable Wash, proved more effective than the commonly used chlorine dioxide. Chlorine dioxide was compromised by soil and plant debris in wash water and killed only 90% of the target organism. FIT killed 99.9% of the organisms. The tests were done on potatoes because their dirt laden wash water poses a very big challenge to packinghouses more so than above ground crops.

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To find local Extension information & news . . . Douglas County/OSU Extension Web Site:
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