NEWS RELEASE – June 9, 2010

TO: Union County News Media, Commercial Cherry Orchard Managers, and Home Gardeners
FROM: Darrin L. Walenta, OSU Extension Agent Union Co.
RE: Adult Western Cherry Fruit Fly Expected to Emerge June 15th!

The Union County Cherry Fruit Fly Inspector, Greg Franklin (963-0469), has announced emergence of the first adult western cherry fruit flies will begin on June 15th in the LaGrande area. Initial spray applications will need to be made within the first week after emergence and then scheduled follow-up sprays are needed for season long CFF control. Reminder….one spray application does not provide season-long CFF control!

Management options for the Cherry Fruit Fly include:

1) Spray your own tree(s). -OR-
2) Hire a commercial applicator to spray your tree(s). Currently, there are no commercial pesticide operators in Union county who spray fruit trees (local CPOs are encouraged to contact the Union Co. OSU Ext office to be put on a service provider list). A search is underway for CPO’s outside the county who may be available for the 2010 season. –OR-
3) Remove all blossoms or fruit from your tree(s) prior to CFF emergence –OR-
4) Unmanaged fruit trees do not make good shade trees because they harbor a variety of insect and disease pests. It is recommended to remove any cherry trees utilized primarily for shade and to replace with a suitable shade tree. Give Greg a call if you would prefer to have your cherry tree(s) cut down at no cost to you, however, the wood will be left on site.

Tree height and canopy influence effectiveness of sprays. Shorter trees pruned to open up the canopy allows for more effective spray coverage. For further information on the cherry fruit fly management and products for CFF control, please contact the Union County Extension Office (963-1010) or refer to the following references which are available at your local Extension Office or http://extension.oregonstate.edu/index.php. Be sure the insecticide you choose is labeled for use on fruit/cherry trees! Always read and follow label directions for safe pesticide use, frequency of application, and pre-harvest intervals!

2010 PNW Insect Pest Mgmt. Handbook ($50) or EC 631 Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards.

Biology Notes: Cherry fruit flies spend about 10 months out of the year as pupae in the soil. For the first week after emergence, adults feed on any available sweet substances and moisture. Emergence continues for about 2 months. Adults mature and begin laying eggs in the fruit. After about 7 – 10 days the eggs hatch into larvae which feed on the fruit for 2 – 3 weeks. At this time, larvae emerge from the fruit, drop to the soil to pupate, and over-winter until this time next year. Visit the OSU Integrated Plant Protection Center at http://uspest.org/cgi-bin/ddmodel.pl?clm to use the on-line WCFF phenology model (Ali Niazee 1979).