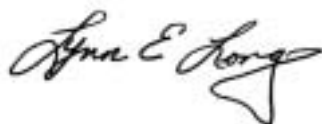


HORT UPDATE

Volume 16 Issue 5

December 2003



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Stemilt Fieldmen to Lead Pruning Tour Tour Offered in English and Spanish

Jeff Heath and Tom Kunkle, from Stemilt Growers, will lead our Pruning Tour on Thursday, December 11. Jeff helped us with our tour several years ago when we discussed Steep Leader training. This years tour will focus on pruning various varieties including, Chelan, Tieton, Lapins, Skeena, Regina and Sweetheart.

The tour will start at 8:15 AM with coffee and donuts at John McClaskey's Treaty Oak Sweetheart block located on Mill Creek Road. From West 10th Street turn south on Mt. Hood Street, which turns into Mill Creek Road at the city limits. Treaty Oak Orchard is on the right.

The morning tour will be conducted in **English**. The tour will be repeated in **Spanish** in the afternoon, beginning at 1:30. This will be an opportunity for your Mexican workers to participate in their own language. Everyone is invited to either or both tours.

8:15 AM	Coffee & Donuts Provided by UAP Northwest	
8:30 AM &	Treaty Oak Orchards	Pruning Sweetheart Trees
1:30 PM (Spanish)		
Stop #2	Tenneson Orchards	Pruning Tieton Trees
Stop #3	Orchard View Farms	Pruning Chelan Trees
Stop #4	Omeg Orchards (Morgan)	Pruning Regina, Skeena and Lapins

Cherry Institute Covers Powdery Mildew, Cherry Fruit Fly Control

The annual Cherry Institute will be held once again at the Yakima Convention Center, 10 North 8th St. in Yakima. The date for this year's event is Friday, January 9. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., with the program beginning at 8:30. Highlights include New and Standard Methods and Materials for Controlling Cherry Fruit Fly, Focus on New Powdery Mildew Fungicides, Matching the Right Variety with the Right Location and Future Adventures in Marketing Cherries, among others.

The full agenda and speakers are listed on the back page of this newsletter. For more information call (509) 453-4837.

Pesticide Credit Hours Still Available

As the year draws to an end many pesticide applicators begin to worry about recertification. Each year I get desperate calls from people asking about opportunities to obtain some last minute credits before their license expires. If you missed the recent Core class held in Hood River you can still pick up some core and other pesticide credits without traveling too far. The Oregon Department of Agriculture lists all the credit classes available on their web site at <http://oda.state.or.us/pesticide/>. Just click on "Recertification Training", then "Search Accredited Classes" and fill out the search form. If you type in "Core" under Class Title and list the dates to the end of the year you will find that there are several opportunities for Core classes including classes in Arlington, Hermiston and Madras. You can also view your current recertification hours by clicking "Review your credit hour report".

Agricultural Safety Workshops Offered by SAIF

The SAIF Corporation is holding several safety seminars in the Mid-Columbia, from December through May. The program is designed for owners, operators, supervisors and foremen. Two hours of pesticide applicators recertification credit will be available. Programs will be held in English in The Dalles, at the Discovery Center, on December 5 and February 11. The Spanish workshops will be on February 12 and May 21. On January 14, a program will be held in English in Hood River, at the Hood River Best Western. All English programs run 9:30 to 2:00 with lunch provided while all Spanish programs run 8:00 – noon with a continental breakfast provided.

Topics include:

- Injury trends on Oregon Agricultural Operations
- Tractor and Spraying Equipment Compliance
- Best Practices to Reduce Workplace Injuries.

Pre-registration is required. For more information, or to pre-register call 1-800-285-8525.

Chile Positioned to Become Major Cherry Producer

A couple of years ago I was invited to give a series of talks at a cherry seminar in Curicó, Chile. Prior to the seminar I was able to tour the cherry production area from north of Santiago to south of Curicó.

At 30,000 tons, Chile's cherry production is about equal to that of Wasco County. However, from 1990-1998 the cherry production area increased 98% to 13,585 acres. About 1/3 of this is exported. In 2001, 1.5 million 5 kg (11 lb) boxes were shipped out of the country, of which nearly half were shipped to the United States and Canada. 'Bing' and 'Van' are harvested for export (although many other varieties are shipped under the 'Bing' label) to the USA and Europe. These are shipped by air in order to obtain the early market prior to Christmas.

Unlike the USA and Europe, harvest labor in Chile is readily available and cheap. Typically, pay is \$10 per day but the average production per picker per day is only 110 pounds on old, large trees and 250 pounds from pedestrian orchards. Low productivity rates like these are fairly typical where pickers are paid an hourly or daily wage. However, this method is giving way to a piecemeal pay scheme, which is increasing productivity.

The main cherry production region in Chile is the Curicó area, a few hours south of Santiago by car. Cherry production was established here because the Chileans believed that cherries grew best in poor soils. The soils here are stony and shallow. Production levels average only about two tons per acre in the old orchards but is up to 5 tons on younger orchards with self-fertile varieties.

Chile Positioned to Become Major Cherry Producer...continued

The winter climate in the Curicó region is moderately cool with frost possible at bloom. The building where the seminar was held did not have heat, although outside temperatures were in the upper 40's in August, which is comparable to our February. Sufficient winter chilling is a problem in this area and further north, which is probably one reason why production is so low. Unless cherry trees receive a certain level of chilling units, for 'Bing' it is 900, they will bloom only lightly in the spring. Humidity is high, near 100% most of the winter and 50% in the summer, making bacterial canker a major problem.

Old orchards are non-uniform and many have been poorly managed. My host commented that growers used to think that all they had to do was harvest the fruit. No one worried about irrigation or pruning.

New orchards are much different; they were nicely maintained and advanced in technology. I found the owners of these new orchards to be well informed and well traveled. Many of them had been to the USA and Europe to study production practices. Dr. Jacques Clavarie, from the CTIFL research station in Bordeaux, France is a sought after speaker in Chile. Many growers have adopted his Solax training system in new orchards. With this system, cherry trees are grown as a central leader tree, with the tips of all laterals and the leader bent towards the ground in order to reduce tree vigor. Spur thinning controls crop load. Trees on many different

rootstocks, including mazzard, were being grown in this manner. Growers liked this system because there is little pruning, which helps to keep the incidence of bacterial canker low. Most growers thought that the Vogel Central Leader system, which utilizes few pruning cuts in the early years, was too pruning intensive for their liking. This said, I saw a number of nice Spanish Bush orchards, which utilize a lot of pruning cuts, grown on dwarfing rootstocks.



Old orchards are often poorly pruned, leading to long spurs and small fruit.

One of the reasons Chile is advancing so rapidly in their production technology is due to a well-trained group of consultants that are hired by the growers to provide advice. These individuals are highly educated and are well traveled, attending international cherry symposiums and touring cherry production sites around the world to increase their proficiency. They help growers with all phases of production decisions, from rootstock and variety selection, to pest management. One consultant was recommending Maxma 14 and Sante Lucia 64 as rootstocks for the warmest regions of the country. He further recommended Gisela 6, Maxma 14 and Sante Lucia 64 for central Chile, while Gisela 6, Weiroot 158 and Colt were being recommended for the south.

A nursery called Viverosur produced eight different rootstocks. Forty percent of their trees were produced on Sante Lucia 64, while 25% were produced on Gisela 6 and 20% on Maxma 14. 'Bing' is the number one variety. This is especially true in the Curicó region where rain at harvest is typically not a problem. In Chile, 'Bing' makes up 40-50% of the total production. 'Lapins' and 'Sweetheart' combine for about 25%. Regional preferences, however, do prevail. 'Brooks' is the principle variety in the north where early production is desired. In the south, 'Regina', 'Attika', 'Sweetheart' and 'Lapins' are the varieties of choice.

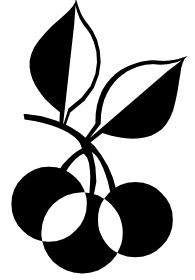
Driven by high returns and cheap labor, the Chilean cherry industry is growing rapidly. Informed growers supported by well-educated consultants are planting new high-density orchards on dwarfing and standard rootstocks. They are producing high quality cherries for the Christmas markets in the USA and Europe.



High density orchards are the norm for new plantings. Full size rootstocks are managed by tying down branches.

Tentative Cherry Institute Agenda

**Friday, January 9, 2004
Yakima Convention Center**



8:00 a.m. REGISTRATION

8:30 a.m. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION

Ken Knight, Cherry Institute President, Naches, WA

Jack Watson, Cherry Institute Moderator, WSU Cooperative Extension, Prosser, WA

8:40 a.m. SUCCESSFUL CHERRY FRUIT FLY CONTROL: New & Standard Methods & Materials

Tim Smith, WSU Cooperative Extension, Wenatchee, WA

9:00 a.m. RESEARCH UPDATE: Focus on New Fungicides & Powdery Mildew

9:20 a.m. ELECTIONS

Cherry Marketing Order

Cherry Institute

WA State Fruit Commission, Producer Position # _____

9:35 a.m. EMERGING CHERRY VIRUS ISSUES

Ken Eastwell/Bill Howell, WSU IAREC, Prosser, WA

9:55 a.m. TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH UPDATE

Jim McFerson, WA Tree Fruit Research Commission, Wenatchee, WA

10:25 a.m. BREAK

10:40 a.m. PANEL: Future Adventures in Marketing Cherries

Moderator: B.J. Thurlby, President, Northwest Cherry Growers, Yakima, WA

11:10 a.m. ARNOLD, CALIFORNIA & CHERRIES

Jim Culbertson, California Cherry Advisory Board, Lodi, CA

11:30 a.m. LUNCH-Cherry Institute Banquet/Special Guest Speaker

**1:15 p.m. THE 2003 CHERRY MARKETING SUMMARY: BIG CROP, SHORT SEASON.....
*Imagine Our Potential!***

B.J. Thurlby, President, Northwest Cherry Growers, Yakima, WA

Eric Patrick, Promotion Director, Northwest Cherry Growers, Yakima, WA

2:00 p.m. NEW CONCEPTS FOR CROP LOAD MANAGEMENT

Matthew Whiting, WSU IAREC, Prosser, WA

2:30 p.m. BREAK

2:45 p.m. SEASONAL LABOR SUPPLY & HOUSING

Mike Gempler, Washington Growers League, Yakima, WA

3:15 p.m. PANEL: Matching the Right Variety with the Right Location

Moderator: Jack Watson, Prosser, WA

4:00 p.m. PROGRAM CONCLUDES