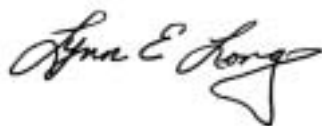


HORT UPDATE

Volume 16 Issue 1

January 2003



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Inside this issue:

<i>Cherry Shortcourse</i>	2
<i>Cherry Horticulture Mtg.</i>	2
<i>Fruit & Produce League Annual Business Mtg.</i>	2
<i>Pesticide Pre-License Trng.</i>	3
<i>ODA Extends Deadline</i>	3
<i>PURS Workshop</i>	4
<i>2002 Census of Ag</i>	4
<i>2003 Crop Acreage Reporting</i>	4
<i>Surface Blemishes on Sweetheart and Lapins</i>	5
<i>OR Hort Society Stone Fruit Section</i>	5
<i>Cherry Quality w/ Bin Tarps</i>	6

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Coming Attractions

January

- 10 Cherry Institute, Yakima Convention Center
- 28-30 2003 Northwest Agricultural Show, Expo Center (503) 769-7120
- 28 Oregon Horticultural Society Stone Fruit Section

February

- 4 F&PL Cherry Horticultural Meeting
- 6 Hood River Winter Horticulture Meeting
- 10 Farm Succession Workshop
- 11 Fruit & Produce League Business mtg.
- 18 Neighborhood meeting for cherry growers
- 22 PURS Workshop
- 25-26 PNW Fruit School Cherry Short Course

March

- 6 Pesticide Pre-license training – English (AM)
- 6 Pesticide Safety and Pre-license training – Spanish (PM)
- 7 Pesticide Pre-license training – Spanish continued (AM)
- 7 Pesticide license testing (PM)

New Sweet Cherry Economic Studies Published

Several recent OSU Extension publications provide information on the economic considerations of sweet cherry production. Orchard Economics: The Costs of Establishing and Producing Standard and High-density Sweet Cherries in Wasco County (EM8802) is available online at: <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/em8802.pdf>, and from the Wasco and Hood River Extension offices. The publication contains enterprise budgets detailing the cost of establishment and production reflecting recent advances in rootstocks, varieties, and training systems.

Three other publications are also available online or at the Extension offices including:

- Enterprise Budget: Cherries, Sweet, Fresh Market, High Density, North Central Region. EM 8816. <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/em8816.pdf>
- Enterprise Budget: Cherries, Sweet, Fresh Market, Standard Density, North Central Region. EM 8483. <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/em8483.pdf>
- Enterprise Budget: Cherries, Sweet, Brine Market, High Density, North Central Region. EM 8815. <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/em8815.pdf>

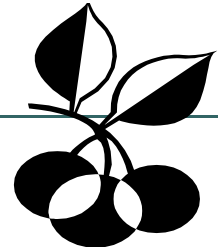
Cherry Short Course to be Offered in February

The last time the Pacific Northwest Fruit School focused on cherries was 1988. Since then, the art and science of cherry production has changed dramatically as growers throughout the Pacific Northwest now grow new varieties, utilizing new rootstocks and training systems. In addition, our understanding of nitrogen partitioning and water management in cherries has increased tremendously, along with our knowledge of integrated techniques to control various pests and diseases such as powdery mildew. The short course is divided into seven sections covering orchard systems and genetics, flowering and fruit development, fruit quality, nutrition and water management, pest management, postharvest, and economics and marketing. Covering these and other topics will be top university researchers and industry leaders such

as Tom Mathison from Stemilt, Inc, Drs. Matt Whiting and Gary Grove from WSU and Drs. Anita Azarenko and Roberto Núñez from OSU.

The conference will be held February 25 and 26 at the Yakima Convention Center. The fee is \$225.00 for early registration or \$250.00 at the door. Register online at www.nwcherries.com/2003chercourse.html. Alternatively, prior to February 14, checks for \$225.00 can be sent to OSU Extension Service, 400 E. Scenic Dr. Suite 2.278, The Dalles, OR 97058. Make checks payable to the Washington State Fruit Commission. The price of registration includes a copy of the proceedings. A block of rooms has been reserved at West Coast Yakima Hotel (Red Lion Inn). Call them direct for overnight reservations at 1-800-325-4000 or 509-248-5900.

Cherry Horticulture Meeting



The annual Wasco County Fruit and Produce League meeting will be held Tuesday, **February 4** at Columbia Cinemas in The Dalles. See the enclosed agenda for details.

Dr. Matt Whiting will be present to discuss the release of some of the new WSU cherry varieties as well as the older varieties such as Chelan and Tieton. In addition, Dr. Helmut Riedl will cover two pests, OBLR and thrips, both implicated in causing major damage to our

cherry industry this last year. Several growers were unable to harvest their fruit this last year as a result of one or the other of these pests. Riedl will talk about the type of damage that these pests cause and potential methods for dealing with infestations in the future. To close the meeting, George Ing will talk about the rapidly expanding cherry industry in Turkey and their impact on the European market.

Wasco County Fruit & Produce League Annual Business Meeting

The League's Business meeting will be held the afternoon of February 11 at 1:30, at Columbia Gorge Community College, in the large boardroom in Building 1, next to the cafeteria. Among other things the annual

budget will be discussed and approved and elections will be held to fill two board positions. Nominations for these positions should be submitted to Karen Rempel at 296-8122.

Pesticide Pre-license Training Offered in English/Spanish

Pesticide safety/pre-exam training classes will be offered on March 6 and 7. The training will be offered in English on Thursday March 6, beginning at 8:00 AM and running to 12 noon. Spanish language training sessions will be held from 1 to 5 PM on Thursday March 6, and 8:00 AM to 12 noon on Friday March 7. Cost for the training sessions will be \$5.

The pesticide license exam will be administered at 1:00 PM on Friday March 7. There will be a \$20

exam fee that must be paid to the Columbia Gorge Community College at the time of the exam. The exam will be given in both English and Spanish. Please call the Hood River County Extension office at 541-386-3343 to pre-register for the exam.

All classes, and the exam will be held at the Pine Grove Grange in Hood River. Pesticide recertification credits should be available for all sessions.

ODA Extends Deadline for Pesticide Use Reporting

The Oregon Department of Agriculture has announced an extension of the deadline for reporting 2002 pesticide use to the Oregon Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS) due to funding issues related to the development of the permanent system. The reporting deadline of January 31, 2003 has been extended to April 30, 2003 for all those required to report their 2002 pesticide use.

Due to a lack of funds, development of a permanent electronic reporting system has been halted. A temporary system has been operating since the beginning of last year and will continue to accept electronic reporting of pesticide use at this time. However, the temporary system is limited in its

capabilities and was not intended to handle the large number of reports expected as the original January deadline approached. In addition, the temporary system will not allow ODA to meet the requirements of the law to generate a statewide report on pesticide use by its July 1, 2003 deadline.

Concerned that those reporting their 2002 pesticide use on the temporary system may encounter difficulties, ODA has decided to extend the deadline. It is hoped that the additional time to report will ease the burden on users as well as on the temporary system.

For more information on the Pesticide Use Reporting System or to file online reports, visit www.oda.state.or.us/purs.

Succession Basics for Ranchers, Farmers and Forest Landowners

Hear why an incredible 80 percent of family businesses fail in the second generation and 60 percent of those that survive fail in the third. Learn to beat the odds with this introduction to the ins and outs of the challenging issues of succession.

The workshop will be held February 10th from 12:45 pm to 4pm at the Discovery Center in The Dalles. Cost is \$20.00 per person or family and can be paid at the

door on the 10th. Pre-registration is requested with the Wasco County Extension Office by calling 541-296-5494.

This workshop is partially funded by a grant from the Western Center for Risk Management Education, Washington State University and is an independent component of the "Create a Farm/Ranch Business Plan" workshop series.

PURS Workshop Scheduled

To help small farmers and landowners understand the Oregon Department of Agriculture Pesticide Use Reporting System and how to submit reports, Oregon State University is sponsoring a Pesticide Use Reporting Workshop to be held Saturday, February 22, 2003 at the Mosier Grange in Mosier Oregon. The agenda for the workshop is as follows:

9:30 am - 10:00 am	Coffee and Donuts
10:00 am - Noon	PURS Update for Small Farmers and Landowners <i>Laurie Gordon, OR Dept of Ag</i>
Noon	Adjourn

Cost of the workshop is \$5.00 per person and can be paid at the door. We are requesting that folks pre-register for the workshop by February 19, 2003. To register for the workshop or for more information, please contact the Wasco County Extension Office at 541-296-5494 or the Hood River County Extension Office at 541-386-3343.

Directions to the Mosier Grange are as follows: [Heading westbound or eastbound on I-84 take the Mosier exit \(there is only one in each direction\). Follow 1st Ave \(Highway 30\) east to Washington St. Turn right on Washington. Continue on Washington where it curves around to the left and turns into 4th Ave. The Mosier Grange is on the right side of 4th, between Main and Oregon.](#)

2002 Census of Agriculture

Farmers and ranchers should be receiving a Census of Agriculture form that must be completed and returned. This Census counts all operations with at least \$1,000 in sales. If you don't receive a Census form by January 2003, make sure you are counted by calling 1-888-4AG-STAT. Completed forms are due from each farmer and rancher by February 3, 2003.

If you are asking why should I complete this, here are some answers. Initially, U.S. Law, Title 7, U.S. Code requires a response from all who receive a census report form even if they did not operate a farm or ranch in 2002. However, you might be interested in who uses this information.

Farm and ranch organizations use the census of agriculture data to evaluate and propose programs and

policies that help you, the agriculture producer. Farm and ranch cooperatives, commodity and trade associations, and agribusiness's use the data to determine locations of marketing and distribution facilities that will serve you and help you market your products better.

Federal Government policymakers use the census data in drafting legislation to help resolve agricultural problems and help meet the changing needs of America's largest industry. State and local governments use the data for agricultural research, extension programs, and planning rural development. Researchers use census data to develop new technology for your use.

By law, all information that you submit is confidential.

2003 Crop Acreage Reporting To Start in January

According to Jim Bishop, The Dalles FSA, acreage reporting for Wasco and Hood River County orchardists starts on January 2, 2003 (note this applies to all counties). For the 2003 crop year there are even more reasons why you should make sure your report is filed on time at the FSA office.

1. This is the first year of crop reports using the new GIS (digital) maps. Here is one more opportunity to make sure the field lines are drawn correctly and represent your farming operation.
2. Federal Crop Insurance agents will rely heavily on the FSA official acreage to correctly calculate yields, determine crop losses, and to set premium totals.

3. Crop reporting is required each year to maintain eligibility for a wide range of Federal programs including:
 - a. Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) - young block cherries, apples, pears, chestnuts, blueberries, etc.
 - b. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) -
 - c. Crop Disaster programs - If or when approved by Congress

The FSA staff will be sending out your maps for the reports. Please call FSA for an appointment to go over the report and make sure it is complete.

Surface Blemishes on Sweetheart and Lapins

By Dr. Helmut Riedl, MCAREC

At harvest several growers reported silvery or whitish surface blemishes on Sweetheart and Lapins cherries that resulted in considerable downgrading. The blemishes were usually circular, 3/8" to 1/2" in diameter, generally occurred where fruit was touching, but were not associated with surface depressions (in contrast to mildew damage). The literature revealed little about the cause of this problem, except that similar damage was described for thrips feeding on nectarines as whitish or silvery surface discolorations (see UC IPM Manual for Stone Fruits, p. 231). Calcium sprays or certain spray additives applied during the month before harvest were also implicated as the cause for the circular blemishes on the fruit.

Mike Bush, WSU Extension, has seen the same problem in the Yakima Valley but has not been able to relate it to thrips feeding or certain sprays.



Oregon Horticultural Society Stone Fruit Section



January 28, 2003

Columbia River Double Tree Inn

Co-Chairs: Jeff Olsen, OSU Extension Horticulturist and Stuart Olson, Olson Farms

9:00	Cherry Leaf Roll Virus	Jack Watson, WSU Cooperative Extension Agent, Prosser, WA
9:20	The Effects of Insecticides on Natural Enemies in the Stone Fruit Orchard	Michael Bush, WSU Cooperative Extension, Yakima, WA
9:50	<i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> Control in Stone Fruits	Jay Pscheidt, OSU Extension Plant Pathology Specialist, Corvallis, OR
10:10	Break	
10:30	Nitrogen Partitioning in Sweet Cherries	Anita Azarenko, OSU Professor of Horticulture, Corvallis, OR
11:00	Truitt Brothers Company Profile	Peter Truitt
11:30	Grower Initiated Research in Victoria, Australia	Anita Azarenko, OSU Professor of Horticulture, Corvallis, OR
12:00	Adjourn	

Maintaining Cherry Quality with Bin Tarps

By Peter Waterman

Peter Waterman is a former Extension Agent in the Okanagan region of British Columbia. Recently I have seen reports of the benefits of a bin tarp called Silvicool 3 that is being used in this region to maintain the fruit quality of harvested cherries. This is a material developed by NASA. I asked Peter to write the following newsletter article highlighting this new technology.

The production and marketing of sweet cherries has become highly competitive and only the highest quality and largest size receive the greatest returns. Quality at the consumer level ensures repeat sales while minimizing claims and maximizing the highest return for any given size. The issues of quality are green stems, lack of decay and fruit firmness.

The post-harvest factors that influence these quality issues most dramatically are temperature and humidity. Growers and haulers can carry out practices that can impact these two factors dramatically. Reduced delivery times, that is, minimizing time from picking to storage is also very important. Various researchers have determined that lower fruit temperatures immediately after harvest results in firmer fruit and less decay, and relative humidity maintained between 90 and 95 % is critical in maintaining green stem color.

Work at the Pacific Agri-Food Research station in Summerland, B.C. by Joanne L. Schick and Peter M.A. Toivonen using reflective tarps at harvest took advantage of this information. These tarps, (Silvicool 3 lightweight) were supplied by Bushpro Supplies (668 Irish Creek Road, Vernon B.C.) This reflective tarp is of laminated construction, consisting of a woven polyester core which is double coated with bright white on the outer surface and silvered Mylar on the under surface. The tarps are used with the white side facing the sun. They fit inside the bin with a flap that covers the fruit. Some growers are attaching the tarp to one side of the outside of the bin. This keeps the cover in place in transit and is flipped off and on the bin during filling. The tarps have held up very well after two seasons of use and should last at least four or five seasons.

Trial results showed that in the orchard and in transit Lapins fruit pulp in uncovered bins increased gradually from 68° F to a maximum of 77° F. Fruit pulp in covered bins remained relatively constant at 73° F in the orchard and enroute to the packing house. The relative humidity in the airspace between fruit in the open bin decreased from 95% to 75% while in the orchard and dropped to 35% in transit. The relative humidity in the covered bins remained at 100% until received at the packinghouse. Fruit handled in both manners were MAP stored for 4 weeks and assessed. Compared to other produce, cherries lose water more rapidly through the skin (approximately 1.5% in 1 hour of open truck transport) and cherry stems lose water about 14 times more rapidly than the fruit. Stems of covered fruit were less than 25 to 50 % brown after 4 weeks compared to uncovered fruit that were greater than 50% brown. The stems of covered fruit had about 10% greater water content. The rate of fruit surface pitting was significantly reduced with tarps. Fruit decay was less but not significantly lower in this trial.

It must be made clear that the use of protective tarps is one of the final methods that a grower and hauler can use to ensure delivery of fruit of the highest quality. The delivery of high quality fruit starts much earlier with a number of horticultural practices in the orchard from pruning, to water and nutrition management, disease and insect control, air movement in orchard and minimal harvest handling practices. Covers assist in ensuring quality but they will not overcome bad horticulture.

