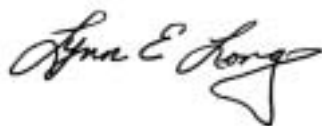


HORT UPDATE

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Coming Attractions

MAY

- 9** New Cherry Varieties, Orchard Manager's Meeting, The Dalles
- 12, 13, 14** Orchard Irrigation Management Workshops, Hood River area.
- 16** Oregon OSHA, Orchard Manager's Meeting, The Dalles
- 23** Cherry Insurance Program Review, Orchard Managers Mgt , The Dalles
- 30** Vertebrate Pest Management, Orchard Manager's Meeting, The Dalles

JUNE

- 3** Cherry Pre-Harvest Tour, The Dalles
- 10** Practical Approaches for Orchard Nutrition, Hood River
- 12** Pesticide Container Collection Event, Odell

July

- 24** MCAREC Field Day and Hood River Summer Hort Tour (call Hood River Extension, 386-3343, for information).

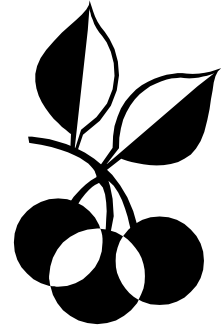
Orchard Manager's Meetings

This year's Orchard Managers Meetings are being held each Friday morning at 6:30 AM at the Discovery Center in The Dalles through May. If you would like to receive a weekly reminder and be notified for next years meetings send your e-mail address to me at lynn.long@oregonstate.edu under the heading "Orchard Manager's meeting".

Upcoming meetings include:

- | | | |
|--------|---|--------------------------|
| May 9 | New Cherry Varieties | Lynn Long, OSU Extension |
| May 16 | Oregon OSHA | |
| May 23 | USDA Cherry Insurance Program Advisory Session (breakfast provided) | |
| May 30 | Vertebrate Pest Management | Chip Bubl, OSU Extension |

Wasco County Pre-Harvest Cherry Tour
Tuesday, June 3, 2003



Stop # 1 John Carter's Davis Orchard, Orchard Rd.

- 8:00 AM 1. Coffee and Donuts courtesy of Wilbur-Ellis
8:15 AM 2. Chelan grafted on Royal Ann, two years later.

Stop # 2 Curtiss Orchards, 3616 Mill Creek Rd.

1. Mature Central Leader trees on Gisela and Colt rootstock
2. Mature Spanish Bush trees on Gisela Rootstock
3. Young commercial block Lapins/Central Leader/Weiroot
4. Mature and young Attika/Central Leader/Gisela 6

Stop #3 Polehn Farms Packing Shed, 2121 Dry Hollow Rd.

1. Tour of new packing line with new cluster cutter and sizer technology

Stop #4 Dave Cooper Orchard, 2270 Dry Hollow Rd.

1. No host lunch
2. Migrant Education Report
3. Wasco County Fruit & Produce League Report
4. Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission Report
5. Equipment Show
 - a. New Sprayer Technology
 - b. Cab Tractors for high density orchards

Stop #5 John McClaskey's Hendricks Block

1. Commercially farmed 10th leaf Bing trees on Gisela rootstock
2. Monitoring for thrips, Dr. Helmut Riedl

Directions to the Davis Orchard: Take "West The Dalles" exit from I-84. Travel to 6th and Webber. Travel east on 6th Street to Cherry Heights Rd and turn south. Turn east on 10th Street to Mt. Hood St. and turn south. Mt. Hood St. will turn into Mill Creek Rd. Watch for signs for Orchard Rd. on the left. Turn left on Orchard Rd and follow signs to the Davis Orchard on the right.

Cherry Insurance Program Reviewed

The USDA has contracted with AgriLogic, Inc. a private firm out of Texas to evaluate the current cherry insurance program and recommend changes. A session is scheduled in The Dalles to hear from growers about the Cherry Pilot MPCCI program, what's working, what's not, what needs to be changed to make it work better. This is a great chance to provide some

constructive feedback to help make this program better. Representatives from AgriLogic will be in The Dalles the morning of May 23 to meet with growers during our weekly Orchard Manager's meeting to discuss the future of the program. Both Wasco and Hood River county cherry growers are invited to attend this meeting at 6:30 AM at the Discovery Center. Breakfast will be provided.

Orchard Irrigation Management Workshops

Three opportunities will be given to attend an orchard irrigation management workshop in Hood River this month. Dr. Roberto Nunez-Elisea and Steve Castagnoli will lead these programs. Topics covered during each session will include:

- Optimizing fruit yield and quality through irrigation management
- Understanding your soil as a storage reservoir for water
- Practical approaches to soil moisture monitoring and irrigation scheduling

Workshops are scheduled for May 12 from 2-4 PM at the Pine Grove Grange Hall; May 13 from 2-4 PM at

the Rockford Grange Hall; and May 14 from 2-4 PM at the Parkdale Grange Hall.

The workshops are co-sponsored by OSU Extension Service and Dee, East Fork, Farmers, and Middle Fork Irrigation Districts. For additional information, please contact the OSU Extension Service Office in Hood River at 541-386-3343.



Plastic Pesticide Container Collection

The Oregon Agricultural Chemicals & Fertilizers Association (OACFA) is sponsoring a collection event for plastic pesticide containers on Thursday, June 12 from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Wilbur-Ellis Co. in Odell. Only properly prepared plastic containers will be accepted.

To prepare your containers:

1. Multiple-rinse until totally free of residue, inside and out.*
2. Remove caps and label sleeves.
3. Cut large 30 to 50 gallon drums in half lengthwise.

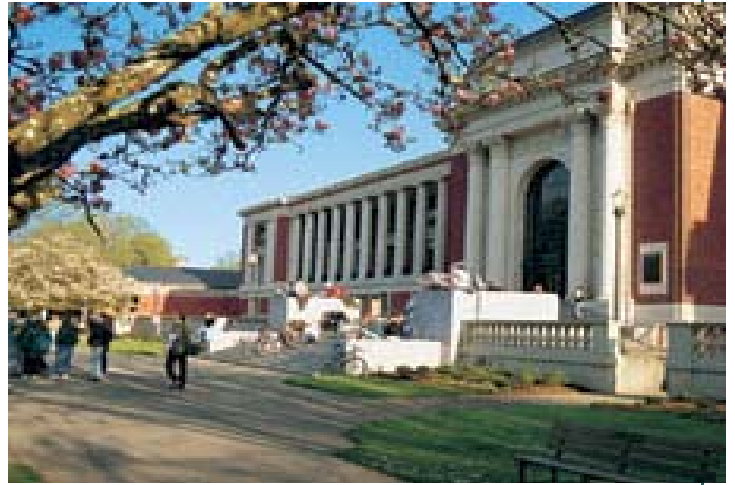
For more information, call the OACFA at 503-370-7024, or call the Wilbur-Ellis Co. at 541-354-3255.



* Containers should be rinsed into spray tank at time of mixing.

Extension Hit with Budget Reductions

- The OSU Extension Service is in an extremely challenging financial situation. The main reasons are 1) an anticipated reduction in funding due to sharply reduced state revenues, 2) dramatic increases in costs (most were mandated and not under Extension's control), and 3) the need to realign recurring expenditures with recurring income sources.
- Over the past year, Extension **reduced faculty ranks by approximately 30 FTE** (Full Time Equivalents) primarily by attrition. We now must take further reductions to balance our budget for the coming biennium.
- Our state budget may not be finalized until late summer, but Extension Administration feels that they need to be proactive and plan for anticipated cuts. At this time they feel that it is prudent to develop a staffing plan based on the **Governor's proposed budget minus 10%**. This will result in reduction of **an additional 71 faculty FTE or a total of 101 faculty FTE**. If these reductions are fully implemented 153 faculty FTE will remain.
- The proposed staffing plan for Wasco County recommends maintaining the following positions:
 - 1 FTE Tree Fruit/Master Gardener/Administration
 - 1 FTE Crops/Small Farms/Administration
 - 1 FTE 4-H/Administration
- The proposed cuts for Wasco County include:
 - 0.25 FTE Farm Financial Management (this position is still based in Hood River County but it is no longer exclusively a tree fruit position as it has been changed to an area wide position including all of NE Oregon as far as Willowa and Malheur counties.
 - 0.20 FTE Livestock
 - 0.80 Family Community Development (Home Economics)



- The plan also maintains support for Wasco County pear and apple producers through the 1 FTE Tree Fruit position in Hood River County.
- If the faculty senate, the president, or the State Board of Higher Education does not accept the staffing plan or if the legislature decides to make larger cuts the entire staffing plan will be at risk and other positions in Wasco County may be cut.

Wasco County Extension has also taken a significant reduction in support funds primarily supplied through the county. It is possible that these reductions may equal up to 14% of our total county budget. County funding provides for our secretarial staff, travel, supplies and mailing expenses. To help address this deficit we will be **closing our office to the public on Friday's beginning in July**. Agents will still be working but secretarial staff will not be available to answer the phone or help clientele in the office. In addition, agent travel will be reduced by 33%. This includes among other things, motel, meals and travel to meetings such as the PNW Cherry Research Review, The Cherry Institute and tours to Summerland, B.C. that I sponsor from time to time.

Future Newsletters Accessed Online



This newsletter, as well as back issues are now available online at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/>.

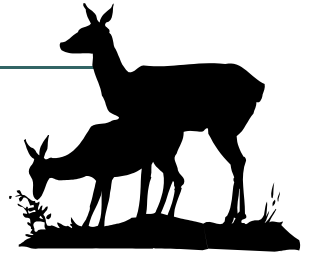
Due to a significant reduction in county support for the Wasco County Extension office future newsletters will be available online. Please send me your e-mail address at lynn.long@oregonstate.edu to receive notification of my upcoming newsletters. Type "Newsletter" in the heading.

The Dalles Watershed Council Meetings

Future dates for The Dalles Watershed Council are listed below. All meetings begin at 7 PM on the listed date at the USDA office in The Dalles. Upcoming meetings for 2003 are May 21, August 20, October 15 and November 19.

Orchard Deer Hunts Evaluated

In the fall of 2000, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife started The Dalles Orchard Hunt, a new antlerless deer hunt designed to help control the deer population and reduce deer damage to orchards around The Dalles. This hunt has occurred during September for the past three years with 25 tags available each year.



ODFW is now seeking your input on the success of this hunt:

- Is the hunt effective?
- Are the tag numbers appropriate?
- Do you want to be taken off the landowner list to be contacted by hunters?
- Do you want to be added to the list?
-

Positive or negative input from orchardists and hunters concerning the hunt has been minimal. This hunt was designed with your needs in mind to help solve deer damage problems in the area. Your response will help ODFW provide better service. Please respond to Keith Kohl, at Keith.L.Kohl@state.or.us or ODFW, 3701 W. 13th St., The Dalles, OR. 97058 or call 541-296-4628.

Cherry Leaf Roll Virus Threatens Orchards

A new virus called Cherry Leaf Roll Virus (CLRV) has been identified in the Yakima area with possible sightings in Mosier and Hood River. When combined with other viruses common to the Pacific Northwest CLRV can cause significant decline in tree health and productivity.



Since the virus was just discovered three years ago, Dr. Ken Eastwell, WSU virologist is hopeful that spread can be limited. To do this takes diligence on the part of growers to identify and eliminate infected trees. The spring is the best time to identify diseased trees. If you noticed any trees with delayed bloom and leaf expansion, mark those trees and

look for other symptoms such as small fruit and delayed ripening. In addition, infected trees will display excessive leaf drop in the spring. Also, infected leaves show coarse whitish veins with dark green areas along midrib on lower leaf surface and enlarged, yellow-green veins on the topside. These symptoms are more evident on small, older leaves.

More information and pictures of infected trees and leaves can be found on my website on <http://oregonstate.edu/extension/wasco/>. Click on "Horticulture", "Pest Management", "Cherry Leaf Roll Virus".



Export Tolerances for New Sweet Cherry Fungicides

The following article was written by Dr. Mike Willet, Vice President for Scientific Affairs for the Northwest Horticultural Council. It is important to check with your packinghouse before using any of the new fungicides or insecticides registered on cherries.

Northwest Horticultural Council staff [was recently] asked if maximum residue limits (MRLs) for two relatively new sweet cherry fungicides, Cabrio (pyraclostrobin) and Flint (trifloxystrobin), have been established in our major sweet cherry export markets. Based on a review conducted [recently] of pesticide regulations in Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, Taiwan and the United Kingdom, none of these markets currently have MRLs for either of these fungicides.

According to Jeff Burkey of BASF, Cabrio has been registered in Canada but an MRL has not yet been published. When the approved MRL is published it will be posted at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/legis/maxres-e.html>, a web site hosted by the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency. It is unclear how

soon this might happen but interested persons are encouraged to check the site in advance of anticipated applications of this fungicide should the cherries be destined for the Canadian market.

The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare's basic policy in handling food imports treated with chemicals which do not have Japanese residue tolerances is to use international standards as guidelines. In the past, when Japan has not had an established MRL for a particular product, it has accepted Codex or U.S. MRLs. It is our understanding that this policy has not yet changed, but change is currently being considered by Japanese lawmakers. However, in the wake of illegal residue detections in Chinese produce last season, retail entities in Japan have raised concerns regarding the presence of pesticide residues on food items for which the Japanese government has not established an MRL. Growers and shippers are encouraged to work closely with their Japanese customers in these somewhat uncertain times.

IFP Corner

By Tim Dahle, Chairman, IFP Committee

As we approach the season for fruit fly control it is time to consider how we can minimize spray drift into streams. Recommendations include the establishment of tree rows along streams. A preferred system would include one row of conifers and one row of deciduous trees. The conifers would help especially during the spring dormant spray.

Growers may spray the first few rows along the stream from the ground, directing the nozzles away from the water. This can allow the aerial spray to stay further away from the stream.

On another subject, the chemical "Success" has become an important tool in the fight against OBLR. This material is also helpful in the control of leafhoppers and leafminers. By reducing the numbers of leafhoppers, this material may help us in reducing the spread of viruses.

The suppression of leafhoppers has made harvest a more comfortable job for our picking crews. It is of great importance to this grower community to protect "Success" from resistance. If we can restrict our use of this material to just one application or less per year, it should be effective for us for many years. The arrival of the material "Intrepid" should give us another tool for OBLR control and help us in this effort.



Thrips on Cherries

By Dr. Helmut Riedl, OSU MCAREC

What thrips species bug my cherry trees? That is an important question since the two thrips species which can occur in orchards at this time of year cause very different damage. One species is **western flower thrips**; the other is **pear thrips**. The biology of these two species is similar in early season. Both pupate in the ground and they emerge pretty much at the same time beginning in mid-March and lasting through April. However, western flower thrips has several generations while pear thrips has only one generation. Thrips are very small insects that often occur in very large numbers around bloom time. In fact, thrips are attracted to blooming plants. Western flower thrips and pear thrips look similar and are difficult to distinguish except that pear thrips is generally a little darker. To be sure about the identity of thrips present in an orchard it is important to collect adults (best done with a beating tray and aspirator) and examining them under a stereomicroscope. If you need help with identifying thrips please get in touch with Lynn Long or contact us at (541) 386-2030.

Western flower thrips is produced in large numbers on native low-growing vegetation which is commonly found near cherry orchards in the dryer growing districts. When adults emerge from the ground they often migrate to blooming cherry trees. The principal damage caused by western flower thrips at bloom time is egg-laying punctures that show up as small scars and depressions on the fruit. Often the scar is surrounded by a pale area that



fortunately colors over as the cherry matures. Generally there is no downgrading associated with this damage unless egg-laying scars are very numerous. Therefore, control of western flower thrips on cherries around bloom time may only be necessary in exceptional cases. Thrips

feeding on cherries close to harvest seems to pose a more serious threat. Later generations migrate to cherry trees once the native vegetation begins to dry up. Last year several cherry growers reported silvery or whitish surface blemishes on Sweetheart and Lapin 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). Similar damage has been observed on cherries in Yakima and other growing districts for several years and has been related to the presence of thrips. Also, whitish or silvery surface discolorations due to thrips feeding have been described for other stone fruits such as nectarines.

Pear thrips adults destroy the bloom on fruit trees. Pear thrips can be found on all pome and stone fruits including pears, apples and cherries. If present in large enough numbers damage to blossoms can be severe making them look burned as if affected by freezing temperatures. When blossom damage is heavy you may not get much of a crop. In contrast to western flower thrips, pear thrips only has one generation. Pear thrips are primarily a threat in orchards which border wooded areas where deciduous trees such as big-leaf maple predominate. Deciduous trees are favorite hosts of pear thrips and can produce large numbers of thrips which then spread into orchards. The Hood River Valley is much more likely to have pear thrips problems than The Dalles because of the presence of preferred hosts in the vicinity of orchards.

Monitoring thrips is key to preventing damage. Thrips adults can be conveniently monitored with a beating tray by taking 25 to 30 tray samples per block. In addition, leaves and fruit clusters should also be inspected for presence of immature thrips. Pay particular attention to blocks which border pastures or open areas with native vegetation and blocks that experienced fruit damage last year. Unfortunately, we don't have a good understanding of what constitutes an economic threshold for thrips, i.e., how thrips numbers relate to damage and at what thrips levels controls should be applied. Cherry blocks should be inspected on a weekly schedule until harvest to guard against the surface feeding that

Thrips on Cherries....continued

occurred last season. To learn more about monitoring for thrips, be sure to attend the Pre-Harvest tour on June 3 where we will conduct a demonstration.

Thrips control. Most likely thrips control around bloom time will not be necessary in most orchards unless pear thrips is the dominant species. Pear thrips is more common in the Hood River Valley than in The Dalles due to presence of native hosts in the area. Western flower thrips, on the other hand, is likely to be of greater concern

in The Dalles. Thrips have natural enemies that help to control them. However, biological control alone cannot be relied upon to prevent damage when thrips numbers are high. If thrips control is deemed necessary growers have to resort to the use of insecticides. There are only two choices for cherries: **Thiodan** (endosulfan) and **Success** (spinosad). Growers should pay particular attention to border rows since thrips generally move into orchards from the outside and are heavier along the borders.

Practical Approaches for Orchard Nutrition

Dr. Enrique Sanchez from the Upper Rio Negro Valley Experiment Station of the National Institute for Agricultural Technology in Argentina and former graduate student in the Department of Horticulture at OSU will present a workshop on orchard nutrition management on Tuesday, June 10. The workshop will be held at the Pine Grove Grange in Hood River from

2:00 to 4:00 PM. Topics will include nitrogen, boron, and zinc nutrition of pear and calcium applications for cherry. There will be no charge for the workshop. For more information about this program, call the OSU Extension office in Hood River at (541) 386-3343.

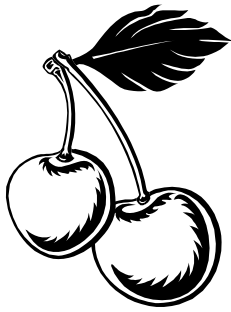
Caution Needed When Spraying Near Vineyards

Although we all need to be careful not to allow spray drift to occur at any time, some of you farm in the general vicinity of vineyards and extra care is needed. Certain herbicides such as 2,4-D can cause extensive damage to commercial grape operations. 2,4-D is a very volatile herbicide. Grapes have now budded and particular care needs to be taken. Roundup can be used as a relatively safe substitute for 2,4-D.

Housing Needed for Graduate Student and Family

Dr. Bob Spotts has a new graduate student, Jill Calabro. Jill is finishing her classes at OSU and will start her PhD thesis research at The Dalles and Hood River in mid-June. She is working on powdery mildew fruit infection of cherry and will be studying timing of infection, factors affecting infection, relationships between mildew and pitting, and control of the disease. Jill and her husband Mike need to find a place to live

when they move to the Mid-Columbia in mid-June. They are looking for a 2 bedroom house or apartment that is not too expensive. They have a well-trained dog and a cat, and an excellent rental history. Jill and Mike will be here for 2-3 years. If you have a place or know of any possibilities, contact Dr. Spotts at 541-386-2030 ext. 15



2002

ESTIMATED PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF SWEET CHERRIES FOR WASCO COUNTY

VARIETY		Canned	Frozen	Fresh	Brined	Total
Royal Ann	Tons	135	0	0	3,829	3,964
	Farm Gate Value	\$119,745	0	0	2,332,486	2,452,231
Bings & Lamberts	Tons	364	361	8,746	212	9,683
	Farm Gate Value	\$345,714	\$208,525	\$11,136,168	\$16,943	\$11,707,350
Other	Tons	357	1,874	1,611	243	4,085
	Farm Gate Value	\$354,865	\$1,181,152	\$2,489,928	\$35,701	\$4,061,646

	Tons	Farm Gate Value	Per Pound	% of Crop Tonnage
Brine	4,284	2,385,130	\$0.278	24.2%
Fresh	10,357	13,626,096	\$0.658	58.4%
Canned	857	820,324	\$0.479	4.8%
Frozen	2,235	1,389,677	\$0.311	12.6%
TOTAL	17,733	\$18,221,227		100.00%

Five Year Average (1998-2002)				
	Tons	Farm Gate Value	Per Pound	% of Crop Tonnage
Brine	8,459	6,017,164	\$0.356	33.8%
Fresh	12,358	15,738,098	\$0.637	49.4%
Canned	1,345	1,172,073	\$0.436	5.4%
Frozen	2,866	1,551,840	\$0.271	11.5%
TOTAL	25,028	24,479,174		100.00%





WEATHER FORECASTING SERVICE SURVEY

Eric Moldstad has offered a sample of his weather forecasting service as a link with the frost forecasting on IFPnet this spring. We would like to know if you have used this forecasting service and what you think of it. He may offer it again for a few weeks after this newsletter comes out for those that missed it earlier in the spring.

1. Were you satisfied with the accuracy and scope of the forecasts?
2. Is this service something that you would like to see continue?
3. What times of year are the most important for you regarding the weather forecasts?
4. What would you change to improve the usefulness of these forecasts?
5. Would you rather pay for this on an individual basis or as a group as in the Wasco County Fruit and Produce League?
6. How much do you feel this service is worth to you and the agricultural community?
7. Would you rather receive weather information from a free Internet source such as the National Weather Service at:
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/wrhq/TotalForecast.csh?TotalForecast+WR+OR+041>

We would like to hear from you on this subject. You can fill this page out and fax it to Lynn Long at 298-3574, or call him at 296-5494 or Jeff Heater at 296-9506. Alternatively, e-mail Lynn with your response at lynn.long@oregonstate.edu.