

HORT UPDATE

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January 2008



Extension Horticulturist
Oregon State University

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Agendas:

OR Hort Stone Fruit Section
Mid-Columbia Cherry Day
HR Winter Hort Mtg.



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Coming Attractions

January 2008

25	Vineyard Pruning Workshop	Hood River Extension Office, 10am-4pm
29-31	2008 Northwest Ag Show	Expo Center, Portland
30	OR Hort Society Stone Fruit Section <i>(agenda enclosed)</i>	Red Lion, Jantzen Beach, Portland
31	CGFG Annual Mid-Columbia Cherry Day <i>(agenda enclosed)</i>	Columbia Cinemas, The Dalles

February

2	Hands-on Pesticide Handler Training <i>(Spanish)</i>	Hood River
5	Blue Mt. Hort Society Meeting	Blue Mt. Community College, Milton-Freewater
6	Hood River Winter Horticulture Mtg. <i>(agenda enclosed)</i>	Pine Grove Grange, 8am-3pm
13-20	International Fruit Tree Association Annual Meeting and Tour	California: Bakersfield, Visalia, Modesto
26	Core Pesticide Training <i>(English)</i>	The Dalles, <i>Location TBA</i>
26	Pesticide Safety <i>(Spanish)</i>	The Dalles, <i>Location TBA</i>

March

7	Orchard Managers' Meetings begin <i>(These meetings will continue on Friday mornings through May 9)</i>	The Dalles, <i>Location TBA</i>
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OHS meeting date is Wednesday, January 30.
(Not Tuesday, January 29th as previously reported!)

Oregon Horticulture Society Annual Stone Fruit Session

Juan-Pablo Zoffoli, a professor at the Catholic University in Santiago, Chile, will be our featured speaker for the OHS Annual Meeting. Like the United States, growers in Chile export a large percentage of their crop. Professor Zoffoli has evaluated ways to improve the post-harvest quality through proper pre-harvest management of trees and fruit. Varieties investigated include Bing, Lapins and Sweetheart.

Also featured is Dr. Desmond O'Rourke, a world renowned agricultural economist, who will talk about the global cherry situation as it relates to both production and markets. The meeting will be held **Wednesday, January 30 (not Tuesday, January 29 as previously reported)** at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion Inn in Portland. The program starts at 8:30, but come early for registration. See the attached agenda for more details.

Mid-Columbia Cherry Day

The annual Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers' Mid-Columbia Cherry Day will be held Thursday, **January 31**, at **Columbia Cinemas** (7th and Snipes (behind K-Mart) in The Dalles, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Juan-Pablo Zoffoli, a professor at the Catholic University in Santiago, Chile, will give a Chilean perspective on cherry varieties. Dr. Matthew Whiting will talk about what we need to do in order to grow high quality cherries, and Roberta Gruber, from The Oregon Farm Bureau, will discuss important changes that agriculture employers need to be aware of in 2008. See the attached agenda for more details.

International Fruit Tree Assoc. Annual Meeting and Tour

The annual IFTA tour will be held February 13-20 this year in California. Tours include an organic cherry orchard and Stemilt's orchard near Bakersfield as well as several cherry orchards near Visalia and Modesto. Speakers at the annual meeting include Alara Corporation founder Yavuz Taner from Turkey, Mauricio Frias, a consultant from Chile, Dr. Greg Lang, Dr. Anita Azarenko, Dr. Matthew Whiting and many others. For more information and registration go to <http://www.ifruittree.org/>.



INTERNATIONAL FRUIT TREE ASSOCIATION

Vineyard Pruning Workshop

Friday, January 25, 2008
10am-4pm

This Columbia Gorge Community College class introduces the basic botany of grapevines. It will cover wine grape pruning techniques and emphasize the importance of pruning decisions as related to future crop production and crop damage potential. Please plan to carpool to one or two vineyards in the Hood River area. Includes lunch.

The class will meet at the Hood River Extension Office,
2990 Experiment Station Drive.

Patty Skinkis, OSU Viticulture Specialist, will be the instructor.

\$39 Registration fee; Call 506-6011 to register (CED 0702)



Hispanic Orchard Employee Education Program a Success

By Suzanne Burd, Columbia Gorge Community College

The idea was born from need - the need to find a way to better educate orchard workers so that they may become more valuable employees, to you, the owners. Equally important was the need for a higher pass rate on the private pesticide applicators exam. So we went to work. With a generous donation from Wasco County Fruit and Produce League, the OSU Wasco County Extension Service and Columbia Gorge Community College formed a partnership to address these issues from growers. It was important that the pilot program be taught in Spanish, and broken into three areas: math, horticulture, and pesticide certification exam prep.



As with any educational endeavor, the key to success lies with the instructor. Our instructors embraced the idea, developed the curriculum and delivered an exceptional program. This program could not have gained momentum without the help of Silvia Huszar; Dr. Roberto Nunez-Elisea, and Isabela Mackey. Thanks also to the HOEP advisory committee members John Carter, Luis Gamez, Tim Dahle, Filemon Gallegos, Lynn Long and Suzanne Burd.

Silvia developed 12 hours of Basic Math for Pesticide Applicators. The classes were scheduled to meet for two hours at a time, but the students stayed in class for more than 3 hours each time on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings. The class helped give participants the skills needed to calibrate sprayers, and apply pesticides correctly and accurately. Twenty students attended the class.

Roberto's Basic Principles of Cherry Horticulture met twice a week for four weeks. This hands-on, interactive series covered the basics of soils, tree growth development, varieties, rootstocks, and pollination. Luis Gamez made a guest appearance covering pesticide safety including sprayers and mathematical equations. Twenty-three students completed this portion of the program.

Isabela braved terrible driving conditions to travel from Corvallis with her husband and baby to teach the Pesticide Applicator License Exam Prep class. With over 30 workers attending, this was very a popular class. The class met all day on a Friday, and finished on Saturday morning. The exam was given Saturday afternoon.

It is our hope that our successes in offering this pilot program translate into your successes. Our idea was to develop an educational program that would help to train your key workers in the skills they needed to become more informed and better employees. We welcome your feedback about this program.

PURS Reporting Time!

If you have not yet done so, you have until January 31 to report any pesticide use in 2007. This is the Oregon law and applies to both restricted use and general use pesticides, to licensed applicator and non-licensed applicators. Pesticides applied by a commercial applicator will be reported by that applicator. Reporting is done on-line only so if you don't have internet access at home, check out a public computer at a library or, by appointment, you can use one of our computers in the Extension office.

This is a newer more simplified and less invasive system that makes it nearly impossible to track an individual's property and what was applied.

Go to: <http://oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/> and follow the links on the left side to PURS (pesticide use reporting system).

SAIF Repeats Popular Program

SAIF Corporation is offering a repeat session of their ag safety workshop in The Dalles at the Discovery Center on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, but you need to pre-register to participate. This is the same program they conducted earlier in December.

The session runs from 9:30 am to 2 pm and lunch is included. To register, call 1-800-285-8525 or on-line at: www.saif.com.

One hour of pesticide recertification is offered and the certificate for participants exempts you from random OR-OSHA inspections if you meet one of the four requirements.

An all Spanish session follows the next day but at an earlier time. Contact SAIF for details.

New Cherry Variety Publication Available

Drs. Matthew Whiting, Roberto Núñez-Elisea and I have recently published a new cherry variety publication. The publication, entitled, Sweet Cherry Varieties for the Fresh Market, includes information about all of the most popular cherry varieties grown in the PNW. Both red and blush varieties are included. The publication is available on line through my website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/> or for purchase at the Wasco County Extension office for \$2.00 each.



MSU Scientist Develops Test to Determine Proper Leaf to Fruit Ratio


Dr. Jim Flore, pomologist at Michigan State University, has developed a test to determine if cherries or other tree fruit crops are overset. The test consists of analyzing the level of Carbon-13 (¹³C) in leaves. Carbon-13 is a naturally occurring stable isotope of carbon, making up about 1% of all natural carbon on earth. When cherries, or other tree fruit crops are overset (high leaf to fruit ratio) the leaf stomata stay open continually. In this state ¹³C moves into the leaves and can be found in higher than normal levels. A simple inexpensive test can determine if there is an imbalance in the leaf to fruit ratio. The test can be conducted during the third stage of cherry development, which consists of the rapid growth period after pit hardening.

Professor Juan Pablo Zoffoli, of the Catholic University of Santiago, Chile, has shown that crop imbalance (where there is a high leaf to fruit ratio) is one of the key causes for pitting in at least some varieties of cherries. In addition, there are indications that cherries on overset trees are more likely to have stem retention problems. It may be possible for packing houses to use this test to help them decide which lots to export. In addition, if conducted during the early part of stage III development growers may be able hand thin fruit or prune to improve crop balance.

Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers

Mid-Columbia Cherry Day

Thursday, January 31, 2008
Columbia Cinemas, The Dalles



8:00 a.m.	Coffee and Donuts	Brandt's Fruit Trees
8:15 a.m.	Minimizing the Risk of Pesticide Resistance in Cherries	Dr. Clive Kaiser OSU Extension, Milton-Freewater
8:45 a.m.	Cherry Production and Innovation Trends Around the World	Lynn Long OSU Extension, The Dalles
9:20 a.m.	A Chilean Perspective on Cherry Varieties	Juan-Pablo Zaffoli The Catholic University Santiago, Chile
9:50 a.m.	Outstanding Cooperator Award presentation	Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers Jeff Heater
10:00 a.m.	Break	Brandt's Fruit Trees
10:15 a.m.	Introduction and Background to the New PNW Cherry Breeding Program	John Carter Grower, The Dalles
10:20 a.m.	Progress and Goals of the PNW Cherry Breeding Program	Dr. Jim Olmstead WSU Extension-Yakima, WA
10:50 a.m.	Growing High Quality Cherries	Dr. Matthew Whiting WSU-Prosser, WA
11:20 a.m.	Important Changes for Ag Employers in 2008	Roberta Gruber Farm Bureau, Salem

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We're on the web!
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/>

Oregon Horticulture Association Stone Fruit Section-January 30



Red Lion, Jantzen Beach, Portland

Co-Chairs:

Lynn E. Long, Oregon State University Extension Service

John Morton, Oregon Cherry Growers Cooperative

- 8:30 Orchard Floor Management Decisions
Impact Nutrient Cycling:
Helping Your Soils Feed Your Trees**
*Jennifer Moore-Kucera
OSU, Corvallis*
- 9:00 Cherry Production in Chile**
*Juan-Pablo Zoffoli
Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, Santiago, Chile*
- 9:30 The Global Cherry Picture:
Production and Markets**
*Desmond O'Rourke
Belrose, Inc., Pullman, WA*
- 10:10 Coffee Break**
- 10:40 A Panel Discussion of Positive and Negative Experiences
Related to the H2A Guest Worker Program**
*Mike Gempler
Washington Grower's League, Yakima, WA*
- 11:20 How Pre-Harvest Management
Affects Post-Harvest Cherry Fruit Quality**
*Juan-Pablo Zoffoli
Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, Santiago, Chile*
- 11:55 Adjourn for lunch**