

Cherry Notes



Newsletter of the Okanagan Kootenay Cherry Growers
Association

June 2010

Comments by the Chair

As we enter the harvest season, I for one can only hope the weather gets a little warmer so we can actually get some fruit into boxes. With the Northwest cherry crop down by a possible 50% over last year, cherries may even have some value this year.

Despite the weather the OKCGA has been working hard on cherry issues with SWD (Spotted Wing Drosophila), mildew and wasp projects and post-harvest analysis topping the list. We've also just heard a delegation from China will be visiting in mid-July. The visit is meant to be an important part of the long process of China granting BC access to export cherries. Something we could all benefit from.

The SWD traps (350) are up and running. Weekly trapping reports will be issued by email and updated to the www.bccherry.com website. Linda Edwards is running a public information project in the Similkameen and is working hard to educate retailers and consumers about the threat of SWD.

Emergency registration of Delegate, Ripcord, and Entrust is complete and use of these products is now accepted so at least we have a few weapons in our arsenal. Let's all hope we don't have to use them.

Duane Holder's work on trapping wasps has shown higher than normal catches so beware if you are in a high incident wasp area. Hopefully the early elimination of

queens has an affect on populations. Duane is also working on powdery mildew forecasting models.

Dr. Peter Toivonen continues to analyze post harvest conditions as related to handling and growing practices. Also Peter's work is now compiled into an instruction manual for use by our growers. If interested, members can access the manual by visiting our website www.bccherry.com.

We've also recently met with John Kingsmill of PICO to negotiate our agreement with PICO to access federal funding for research. We expect to sign soon.

We've also just received word Quintec, a fungicide used for control of mildew, is finally registered. Al McFadden of Dow tells me we should have it in our tanks by late June. Here's hoping. Finally we have some good news from PMRA. What a struggle it has been.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all good luck with your season. We have a decent crop out there and it should be worth some money. Let's hope we get 'em into the box before the rain and bug beasts even know they are ready.

Greg Norton

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands



Growing Forward Services and Programs in BC

Growing Forward is a commitment to Canada's agriculture sector focused on achieving results and delivering programs that are simple, effective and tailored to local needs.

Growing Forward puts emphasis on building a profitable sector through its three strategic outcomes:

* A competitive and innovative sector: From idea to invention to

consumer, growing new opportunities that support innovation and competitiveness.

* A sector that contributes to society's priorities: Enabling the sector to contribute to the priorities of increasingly health-conscious and environmentally aware Canadians.

* A sector proactive in managing risks: The business risk management (BRM) suite programs were the first programs available under Growing Forward, offering more responsive, predictable and bankable programs for farmers.

In BC, the focus of the Growing Forward programs will be on building a profitable sector through the following:

BC Farm Business Advisory Services Program

BC Farm Business Advisory Services Program is two tiered:

* Tier 1 provides 100% support for consulting services for a basic farm financial assessment [value of up to \$1,900] at a cost of only \$100 to the producer.

* Tier 2 covers 85% of the cost of consulting services up to a maximum of \$3,000 for specialized business planning to adopt progressive farm business management practices and

strategies in nine business management areas.

- Business strategy -
- Succession planning -
- Marketing strategy -
- Business structure -
- Production economics -
- Risk assessment -
- Human resources -
- Value-added ventures -
- Financial management -

BC Food Safety Systems Implementation (Producer) Program

BC Food Safety Systems Implementation (Producer) Program provides funding up to \$3000 to support individual food producers that are implementing an On Farm Food Safety Program. Contact BC Agricultural Research and Development Corporation (ARDCORP) at 1 866-522-3447 or Contact BC Ministry of Agriculture & Lands at 1 888 221-7141 or <http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/foodsafety/fed-prov.htm>

BC Food Safety Systems Implementation (Processor) Program

BC Food Safety Systems Implementation (Processor) Program provides funding for educational workshops, individual consultations, and offers funding up to \$20,000 to food processors to implement GMP and / or HACCP and / or ISO22000. Contact Small

Scale Food Processors' Association at 1 866-547-7372 or Contact Ministry of Agriculture & Lands at 1 888 221-7141 or <http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/foodsafety/fed-prov.htm>

BC Enterprise Infrastructure Traceability (EIT) Program

BC Enterprise Infrastructure Traceability (EIT) Program provides funding up to \$20,000 to assist primary and secondary operations in the BC agri-food sector to purchase and install traceability infrastructure/systems in their operations. Contact BC Agricultural Research and Development Corporation (ARDCORP) at 1 866-522-3447 or Contact BC Ministry of Agriculture & Lands at 1 888 221-7141 or <http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/foodsafety/fed-prov.htm>

BC Agri-Environmental Risk Assessment (EFPs) / On-Farm Sustainable Agricultural Practices (BMPs)

BC Agri-Environmental Risk Assessment (EFPs) / On-Farm Sustainable Agricultural Practices (BMPs) raise awareness amongst producers and enhance environmental farm stewardship. This is accomplished through the continued implementation of a

broad based, voluntary, staged and producer driven EFP Program, and the subsequent application of beneficial management practices to reduce environmental risks on-farm. Contact BC Agricultural Research and Development Corporation (ARDCORP) at 1 866-522-3447

The Growing Forward program in Canada

For more information about Growing Forward please visit: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/growingforward>

For information on funding opportunities please visit: <http://www.ats-sea.agr.gc.ca/exp/5288-eng.htm>



Coming Events

PARC-Summerland Cherry Day

Date: Thursday July 29, 2010

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Where: In the gardens to the south east of the Director's former residence.

Research Shorts



Wasp Depredation to Cherries

Duane Holder

FarmQuest Consulting, Creston,
B.C.

The over wintering queens of the European paper wasp will soon be emerging if they have not already appeared in some of the earlier fruit growing regions of the interior.

Research over the past 2 seasons has found that the emergence of European paper wasps coincides closely with the green tip stage of cherry bud development. The over wintering queens are often visible on or near buildings on warm sunny days as they search for sites to establish nests. Nests are often built under eaves or building overhangs, in empty bins and in secluded cracks and crevices. The European paper wasp forms an open-celled nest with a "honeycomb-like" appearance as shown below. Nests are constructed and expanded throughout the spring and as the population builds and new queens

emerge, additional nests will be formed. Nest building on trees within the orchard is not very common but may occur late in the season if the population pressure is high.



Because this pest is not resident to the orchard, control has been very challenging. One approach being evaluated this year is to limit the establishment of nests early in the season through mass trapping and nest destruction within the vicinity of the orchard. The required buffer zone to prevent nesting has not yet been determined. Some success with trapping has been obtained using

the WHY® trap and lures along with beer inside the catchment container. Although these attractants have been effective early on, success with trapping has diminished in the post bloom period and trapping of the summer worker population has been relatively ineffective.

The European paper wasp often becomes visibly present in cherry orchards as fruit begins to mature, about 7 to 10 days prior to harvest. In the Creston Valley, the timing of their presence has coincided with the maturity of Lapins during late July and early August. This may reflect the peak in the population cycle rather than a varietal preference of the fruit. During 2009, other species (particularly bald-faced hornets) also contributed to the depredation of fruit in several sites. The appearance of these pests at this late stage of development limits the options for insecticide control due to the length of the pre-harvest interval of most materials. Those products which have been used provided very limited success and efforts are continuing to identify effective materials which may be applied close to harvest. Investigations are also taking place into the potential for the use of

repellants as well as attract and kill technology.

The Agriculture Environment and Wildlife Fund (AEWF) along with the OKCGA have supported research over the past 2 seasons to identify management techniques which may assist in the control of this pest. As we continue to search for integrated pest management solutions, observe your surroundings carefully this spring and make every effort to prevent the establishment of nests on or near your orchard. At the present time, prevention may be the best form of control.

Funding provided by:



Did You Know?

State's cherry harvest won't be so rushed this season

By Erin Snelgrove
Yakima Herald-Republic

YAKIMA, Wash. -- Last year, Washington farmers had about 45 days to sell a record 20 million boxes of cherries. This year, the harvest promises to be well spread out.

"We'll pick June 3 and finish August 20," said B.J. Thurlby, president of the Washington State Fruit Commission. "We won't have to put that much fruit in such a compact window."

The Yakima-based commission provides promotional support for soft fruits grown in the state. On Wednesday, Thurlby attended a meeting in Pasco where growers from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Utah converged.

Based on early estimates, Thurlby said the crop is down about 25 percent from last year and will yield about 15 million 20-pound boxes. Provided there's warm weather in the next few weeks, he's expecting the cherries to be large.

What remains to be seen, though, is how California's crop will affect the sale of Northwest cherries.

"The challenge this year will be the size of the California crop and how much comes in June," he said. "They are late down there."

As soon as they're picked, Northwest cherries will be put on store shelves and at secondary displays outside produce departments, Thurlby said. The

latter move is expected to increase profits by 24 percent.

Cherries will be front and center during the all-important July 4 holiday, Thurlby said. To increase consumption of cherries, promotions are under way in 19 countries, and studies about the beneficial health effects of the fruit are being conducted at the University of Arizona and the University of California-Davis.

The first study examines the positive effects cherries have on men with prostate cancer. The second looks at how cherries help with inflammation.

Posted on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 AT 11:23PM



Record cherry harvest and exports

Tasmania has recorded a record cherry harvest and record overseas sales.

A Tasmanian fruit growers conference in Launceston has heard the state's cherry industry has had its best year on record.

Cherry growers have enjoyed a record year both in both production and exports, thanks to a warm autumn.

Lucy Gregg from Fruit Growers Tasmania says the cherry yield this season is 600 tonnes bigger than last year, and the weakened Australian dollar means local cherries are cheaper for overseas buyers.

"We're looking at Asian markets such as South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong," she said.

Ms Gregg says exports have grown by 30 per cent.

"The cherry industry is expanding quite quickly, but we're obviously looking at a lot of export market development there. Our cool climate, which is why we are very favourable for growing fruit, makes us ideally suited for premium markets."

Cherry grower Howard Hansen agrees the state has the perfect climate for producing big, firm fruit.

"They are a little bit larger in size, and at a time in the year when there's not a lot production in the

rest of the world," Mr Hansen said.

The conference finishes in Launceston on Sunday.

Posted Fri May 21, 2010 8:30pm AEST

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/05/21/2906384.htm>



Spotted Wing Drosophila

OKCGA Cherry Growers:

We will be updating the OKCGA website (www.bccherry.com) weekly with SWD reports and alerts from BCMAL. We will not be sending out emails to everyone, so please check the website for information.

Here is the report for June 23

**Spotted Wing Drosophila
Monitoring Report for Southern
Interior of British Columbia**

June 23, 2010

Over 300 traps have been set up throughout the Okanagan, Similkameen and Creston Valleys in berries, grapes, cherries and other stone fruit. Other sites being monitored include grocery stores, fruit stands and packing houses.

2 female spotted wing drosophila were collected from apple cider vinegar traps:

1 in East Kelowna

1 in Oyama West

Two female flies submitted to Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on June 14, 2010 have been verified as spotted wing drosophila. No more spotted wing drosophila was collected from the traps with positive captures from the week of June 14, 2010.

Check the following links for information on monitoring and management of spotted wing drosophila and trapping results for the Coast:

http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/swd_surveillance.pdf

http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/swd_trapresults.pdf

Susanna Acheampong Ph.D.
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands,
Kelowna
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**Insecticide Use for Control of
SWD**

Emergency registration requests for Delegate, Malathion, Ripcord, Entrust/Success for berries and stone fruits have been submitted to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. Check the BCMAL website for updates on chemical control recommendations.

Some cherries from California have run into problems with residue levels that exceeded the MRLs for the United Kingdom. If you are concerned please discuss insecticide use with your marketer. Also the OKCGA website has the 2010 MRL List (<http://www.bccherry.com>).



OKCGA Membership Information

Our treasurer is pleased to report that we are still receiving membership renewals and late (but very welcome!) research levy contributions from 2009. When times are this tough, it is especially gratifying to see the support of cherry growers and your commitment to strengthen and improve our BC cherry industry. This is a great encouragement to our hard working executive volunteers and the researchers. Thank you!



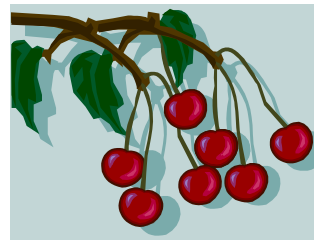
Workplace Training for Innovation Pilot Program:

If you are contemplating training for any of your staff, you should check into this program - your company may be eligible for up to \$1,500 per worker up to a maximum of \$5,000 per business. The key aspect of the program is the employer's choice to identify and choose employee training that will assist them to:

- a. improve productivity;
- b. support the introduction of new technology, machinery/equipment or work processes;
- c. enhance international competitiveness; and/or
- d. introduce innovative training and workplace strategies to increase the long term competitiveness of the organization and its workforce.

It is expected that this training will assist in positioning the employer for economic recovery. For more information, please go to the following site:

http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/workplace_training_program



MSU Extension begins sweet cherry variety trials

Flathead Cherry Growers, partnering with Montana State University Extension, Flathead County, have received a \$9,900 grant from Montana's Growth Through Agriculture program to

help identify more marketable cherry varieties.

The funds will help in performing cherry variety trials around Flathead Lake to identify cherries best adapted to Montana conditions. The lack of current cherry research in Montana prohibits many producers from obtaining the information they need to make an accurate replacement variety choice.

New varieties are developed in British Columbia and Washington. These areas are considerably more temperate and have different soil conditions than Montana. These trees need to be grown and tested on Montana producers' fields. Winter hardiness, pest and disease resistance, production techniques and production rates need to be compared.

The proposed research project aims to increase cherry growers' competitiveness through variety selection of larger and firmer cherries.

Cherry growers cultivate over 980 acres on more than 130 orchards surrounding Flathead Lake.

A Training Pamphlet for Picking, developed from the PARC project of Dr. Peter Toivenen is now available on the website. It is in pdf format and may be downloaded and printed. English and French versions are available; Spanish and Punjabi are in the works. This is the first version of several publications that will be produced for harvest and packing.

http://www.freshplaza.com/news_detail.asp?id=61126