

Cherry Notes



Newsletter of the Okanagan Kootenay Cherry Growers
Association

March 2009

OKCGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARCH 2009

How do we measure the success of our organization? Well, if you attended our AGM and research day, I for one, think we're doing just fine. Our longtime relationship with our scientists from PARC continues to give us access to important and thought provoking information, all aimed at giving us the tools to grow bigger, better and more profitable cherries.

Dr. Desmond O'Rourke, our keynote speaker and world-renowned agricultural economist, started off the day by giving us his insights into "selling cherries in the new economy". Thought provoking and scary as heck would be a good way to sum up his presentation. We're clearly in for some interesting times. Throughout the day we heard excellent presentations covering topics from labour to startling finger printing, pesticide registration to mildew control and of course Peter Toivonen's report on Post Harvest Handling.

The sixty plus folks who attended left the day with minds full of thought, challenges and solutions and that's a measurable success. I'd like to thank all those speakers and our board for their contribution to a very successful couple of days. For those of you who missed it, many of the (PowerPoint) presentations are now available on our website - www.bccherry.com.

We also held our AGM and elections where we heard various reports. I'll be carrying on as president, Mike Beulah, vice; Graem Nelson, secretary; and Christine Dendy as treasurer will form the executive committee. Our board will remain basically the same with Charlotte Lemming joining us and Tim Watson retiring.

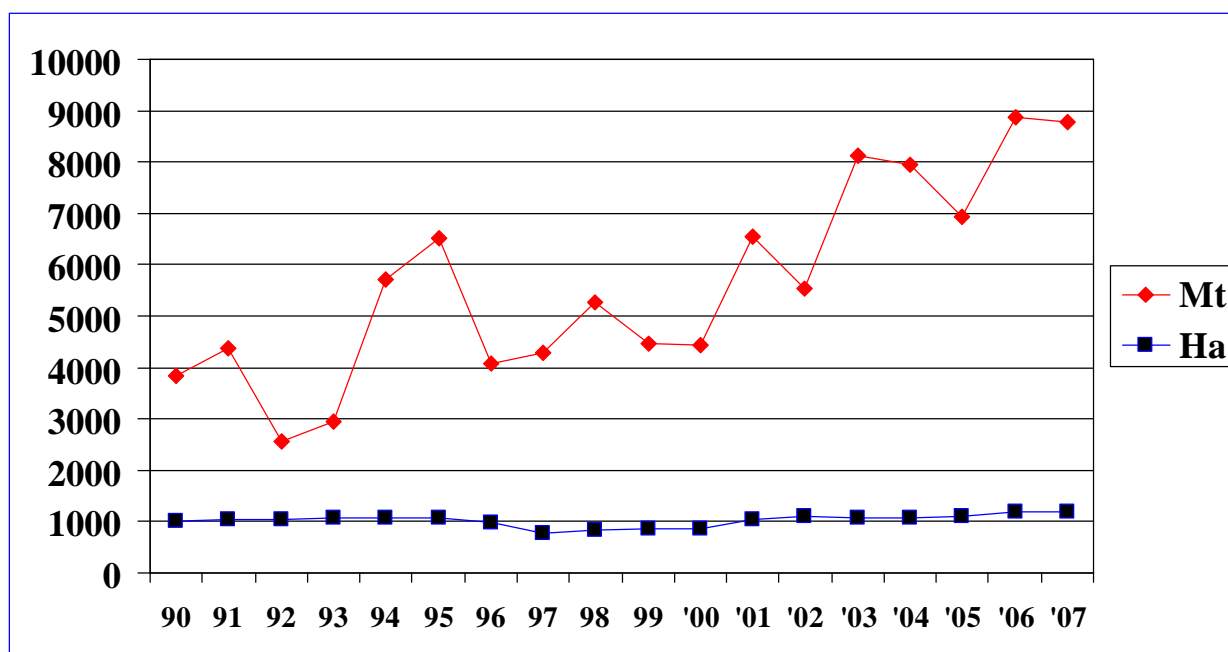
Speaking of Tim, I'd like to thank him for his past years of dedicated service to our industry. Tim has retired to his garden, travel and will be spending more time with Dorothy and the grandkids. Thanks again Tim and good luck with your new life.

As the snow finally begins melting we turn our thoughts to this crop year. Clearly with possible bud damage from the cold in December, rising pesticide prices and a very unstable economy, 2009 will be a challenge. The good news is that we're cherry growers. We have the uncanny ability to deal with adversity head on with a certain "is that all you've got?" attitude which always gets us through.

Good luck with it!
Greg

Did you know: World production of sweet cherry could rise one third by 2015
- Desmond O'Rourke

Canada: Sweet Cherry Area Harvested and Production, 1990-2007



Mt = metric tonnes; Ha = hectares

Attention Cherry Growers.

Here is some deadline information that is important to you.

2008 has been a challenging year for cherry growers. To help you with your spring cash flow **interim payments** are available. Please apply or call Agristability if you have questions. Phone number 1-877-34-farms

March 31, 2009

- 2008 Interim Payment Application deadline.

2009 AgriStability - Deadlines

April 30, 2009

- Deadline for new participants to request a New Participant Package for 2009.
- Enrolment Notice deadline to indicate you *do not* want to participate for the program year (or 30 days from the date on your 2009 Enrolment Notice).
- Deadline to pay your 2009 fee without a penalty (or 30 days from the date on your 2009 Enrolment Notice).
- ***Fees paid after this date will have a 20% penalty added. You must pay your fee by December 31, 2009 or you will be ineligible to participate in AgriStability for the 2009 program year.**

September 30, 2009

- Deadline to submit the 2008 AgriStability/AgrilInvest Harmonized Form without penalty.

December 31, 2009

- Deadline to submit the 2008 AgriStability/AgrilInvest Harmonized Form with penalty.
- ***If you miss the September 30, 2009 deadline, you can still submit the form until December 31, 2009 with a \$500/month reduction to your payment.**

As many of you may know AgriStability is soon moving from Winnipeg to Kelowna, British Columbia. The move makes the program more cost effective and will be delivered close to home. More information about this transition will be available at a later date.

New GA Product

"Fruitsize" is a name we'll all soon add to our vocabularies. It's the name of the new generic gibberellic acid product that will be available to BC cherry producers this season. We received word of the registration from CFIA the day after our AGM.

The OKCGA pursued a suggestion by Gene Hogue seven years ago: there may be a less expensive GA product available and we should pursue registration through CFIA. It could be faster! With Gene's lead and leg work, we initiated the application and necessary trials. After a ridiculously long and often bumpy road, we have it.

Two years ago the CFIA process demanded a registrant name and entity which could actually package and distribute the new product. It was then we entered into discussions with Terralink Horticultural Services to package and distribute the new product.

Recently the OKCGA and Terralink negotiated a royalty to be paid to the Association for reimbursement for research expenditures to get the new generic GA product registered. The important news is that "Fruitsize" will be available for the 2009 crop.

Special thanks to PARC and especially Dr. Gene Hogue and his sidekick Shawn Kuchta, Dr. David Geen who was our board link all these years and all our members who co-operated with the trial process.

Some days are just better than others. Yippee!

Did you know: Taiwan has replaced Japan as the No. 1 export market for the United States in Asia.

- Desmond O'Rourke

Research Shorts

Effects of Summer Pruning on Vegetative Growth, Fruit Quality and Carbohydrates of 'Regina' and 'Kordia' Sweet Cherry Trees on Gisela 5.

V. Usenik ; A. Solar ; D. Meolic ; F. `tampar ; University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, Agronomy Department, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Summary

Five-year-old sweet cherry trees of 'Kordia' and 'Regina' were summer pruned in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Pruning in 2003 consisted of three treatments of heading new shoots (0, 33.3 and 66.6 % of the length of annual shoots was removed), in 2004 of pruning like in 2003 and by thinning vigorous branches, and in 2005 of thinning of vigorous branches only. Summer pruning positively influenced vegetative growth and fruit quality of 'Kordia' and 'Regina' on Gisela 5 and had no negative effect on the content of soluble carbohydrates in the dormant shoots. Pruning to remove some major branches promoted better fruit quality than did heading of annual shoots. Control trees had a similar yield and yield efficiency as pruned trees but lower fruit weight and quality. Trees of 'Kordia' and 'Regina' on Gisela 5 should be pruned annually to avoid the development of blind wood and to balance canopy F:LA for high sweet cherry fruit quality. Trees of 'Regina' should be pruned more strongly than those of 'Kordia'.

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For your information:

OPM: a Resource for the Pacific Northwest developed by Washington State University is now available on the web. This valuable reference for anyone concerned with tree fruit arthropod pests includes 98 species and other accounts and a new gallery of over 900 photographs. Click on the link:

<http://jenny.tfrec.wsu.edu/opm/>

Status of Sweet Cherry Minor Use Program Projects

Project	Active Ingredient	Product	Pest	Status/Notes
AAFC05-029	Gibberellic acid	ProGibb	growth regulator	Data collection complete & submitted to Registrant. Registrant submitted package to PMRA 2007
AAFC03-033	Indoxacarb	Avaunt		Submission on Hold Registrant decision/Joint IR-4 project
AAFC04-043	acetamiprid	Assail	CFF, OFM	Data collection complete. Submitted to PMRA July 2008 by PMC
AAFC04-076	clothianidin	Clutch	OFM, PC, TPB	Data collection complete & submitted to Registrant. Registrant submitted package to PMRA January 2008
AAFC07-034	clothianidin	Clutch	aphids	Data for aphid label extension being collected. See AAFC04-076
AAFC08-166	novaluron	Rimon	LR, OFM	Package submitted to PMRA October 2008/Joint with IR-4
AAFC07-015	famoxadone/copper	Famoxate Kocide		Withdrawn Registrant decision
AAFC07-071	famoxadone/cymoxanil	Tanos	bacterial canker	Data collection by AAFC for Efficacy 2007/2008
AAFC07-073	kasugmycin	Kasumin	bacterial canker	Data collection by AAFC for Efficacy 2007/2008 & Residue 2008

CFF = cherry fruit fly; OFM = oriental fruit moth; PC = plum curculio; TPB = tarnished plant bug; LR = leaf roller.

PMRA = Pest Management Regulatory Agency; IR-4 = ; PMC = Pest Management Centre; AAFC = Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

The bruise-indicating cherry (BIC) technique: something you can use to assess impacts in your cherry packing line.

Peter M.A. Toivonen, Frank Kappel, Brenda Lannard and Katie Lund
Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre, Summerland, BC

Pitting continues to be a prevalent problem for market quality of sweet cherries. Our research last year indicated that in many cases the packing line contributes significantly to the pitting we find in boxes of packed and stored fruit. In our work we used an inertial sensor to determine where impacts occurred on the line, however that instrument costs over \$5,000 and it would be difficult for individuals to invest in such technology. In addition, the sensor is much larger and heavier than an average sweet cherry and so there is question as to whether a real cherry would respond to drops in the same way as the inertial sensor. After some discussions and a suggestion by Mike Beulah, we tested the idea of using blush cherries to indicate impact forces large enough to cause bruising and pitting in cherries.

The concept is very straightforward. The packer needs to have blush cherries picked carefully from a local orchard and divide them into two lots. The first lot will be a control to indicate the bruising and pitting that existed on the cherry before being run across the line or a section of the line. The second lot can then be run across the line by alone or added to lots of red cherries being run across the line. Cherries from both lots should be held in cold storage for several days or a week to allow time for the bruises and pits to develop. The packer then rates the level of bruising or pitting for both lots and from this can assess the magnitude of the pitting induced by the line.

If the packer wishes to assess a specific point in a line where they suspect impacts, they can put blush cherries into the line just prior to that point and collect them as they pass the point in question. There must be a control lot of blush cherries to compare against. The rating differences between the control lot and the lot run across the line will allow estimation of the injury-causing impact that occurs at that point.

We will be developing a detailed method for use by industry this coming year and calibrating the bruising response of blush cherries against known impact force values. However, packers can begin to assess their lines independently using the BIC technique.

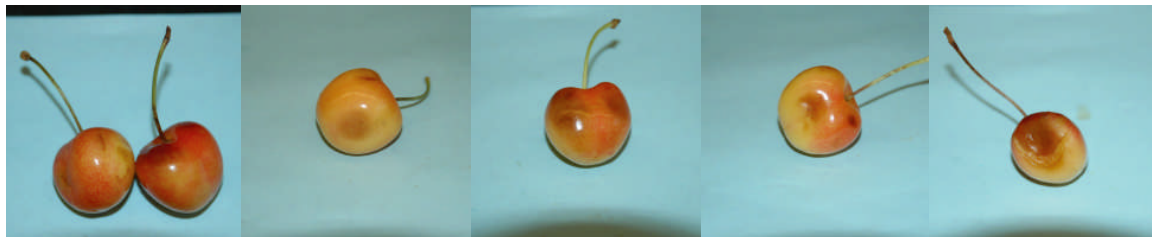


Figure 1. Rating scale for bruising and pitting, left panel - slight bruising, second panel - moderate bruising, middle panel - severe bruising, fourth panel - moderate pitting, and right panel - severe pitting.

Mark Your Calendar...

May 28, 2009 CRA are holding a public general information Seminar on Scientific Research and Experimental Development in **Penticton**. These seminars are seldom held outside Vancouver and there are potentially a lot of tax credits being left out on the farm for innovations and developments that cherry growers might be able to claim tax credits on. For more information go to <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/txcrdt/sred-rsde/cntcts/srdbc-eng.html> or call the CRA Vancouver office at Telephone: 1-866-317-0473 Fax: 604-691-3872

November 15-19 2009, Renaca, Chile: The 6th **International Cherry Symposium** promises 5 days of intense cherry research discussions plus pre and post seminar tours of the cherry growing regions of Chile. Registration is US\$650 for ISHS members before June 1, so don't let this slide. Go to www.cherrychile2009.cl/uc for more information. We are thinking of organizing a group tour, so call Christine Dendy 250 860 3537 if you are interested.