

Cherry Notes



Newsletter of the Okanagan Kootenay Cherry Growers
Association

Comments by the Chair

Report from President Greg Norton, OKCGA March 2008

Coodos to Christine Dendy. Our leader for the past two years stepped down at our AGM last month. She will remain on our board and continue to contribute and work hard for all of us. In areas of her specific interests, Christine does a stellar job for cherry producers and I for one can't wait to see what she come up with next. Thanks from all of us, Christine.

As we start a new year, both in the board room and in the orchard, I am optimistic. With a so-so crop year in 2007 behind us and so far an excellent winter almost gone, it's time to turn our attention to the future.

Since OKCGA beginnings, our main focus has been research projects aimed at providing knowledge to enable us, the producer, to grow bigger, firmer and sweeter cherries as well as pick, pack, and ship them to awaiting markets. The ultimate goal is for all of us to remain profitable.

If you missed the AGM (and many do) you missed a dandy. Reports on last year's research projects were clear, understandable and informative. All the other topics and presenters were equally informative. Whether it was climate change and carbon loading or labour there was lots of excellent information and discussion. The only disappointment I have was the lack of grower attendance. So why is that?

We've seen a growing number of field reps attending so I'm sure a lot more growers than we see are getting the information we're generating. But that's little comfort. As a grower I learn a lot of very practical things from fellow growers. To do that I've got to be in a place with other growers and it's one of OKCGA's goals to do that.

Within this newsletter is a survey aimed at finding out what you, the grower, wants or needs from us. Please take the time to fill it out and return it. If you don't want to fill out yet another form, call me 250-498-4669 or 250-498-7820. We need to hear from you so we can better serve you. What we heard will be in the next newsletter.

I look forward to working with our enthusiastic board, the researchers and extension folks and particularly our growers as your president. Working together we can make it even better.

Committee Reports:

Research

In 2007 the OKCGA contributed \$22,600 to six research projects. The largest amount was the combination of three \$5000 projects headed by Drs. Denise and Gerry Neilsen. The projects included tree reactions to different foliar nutrient and spray applications, the effect of different irrigation schedules and monitoring of evapotranspiration with sap flow monitors. Dr Gene Hogue participated within the same project and contributed \$5000 "in kind" as well as the \$5000 that OKCGA contributed to his project looking at different application rates of GA plus testing a surfactant to speed up the uptake of GA by the tree.

We contributed to two projects sponsored by the Creston chapter and managed by Duane Holder. Our \$2500 contribution to the Fungicide Use and Residue Study combined with money and "in kind" equivalent of \$12,000 by the participating growers enabled the project to get another \$15,000 for each of three years from the BC Investment Ag. Food Safety Initiative funds. The "Managing Cherry Insects under Changing Insecticide Use Patterns" is going into its third and final year. We have been funding it at \$2500 each year and again Duane has been able to make our investment pay by getting \$18,000 a year from the BC Ag. Council Agriculture Environmental Initiative program. The final report on the fungicide project and the progress report on insecticide use can be found on the web site. They are like a good refresher course and primer on IPM in cherry production, especially as you start your planning for this years spray program.

Dr. Peter Sholberg combined our \$2600 with grower "in kind" to get another \$18,500 from the Organic Trust and Development program. This project was to test the use of hot water during packing to control post harvest rots on cherries. Though the lab trials proved successful the field trials were not as good. We also received a report on work we funded in 2006 where acetic acid was boiled into a vapour in an enclosed space to fumigate young cherry nursery trees that had previously been infected with Bacterial Canker (*Pseudomonas* sp.) The treatment was effective but appeared to cause some bud injury. They hope to repeat this trial this year to see whether they can control the Bacterial Canker without bud damage.

As most of you are painfully aware 2007 was not the best financial year for most cherry growers and as a result we did not have as much funding available. The directors held a meeting on Feb 19 to make the final decision on funding proposals:

Project Number	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Annual Amount	Years of Project	OKCGA Contacts
05-C	Starling control research study in collaboration with the BCFGAs and BC Grape Growers and the Regional Districts		\$5000		Greg Norton & Roger Bailey
06-A	Increasing the efficiency of generic GA	E. Hogue	\$5000	3 rd of 3 yrs.	Dave Stirling
06-B	Cherry response to management treatment	G. Neilsen	\$5000	3 rd of 3 yrs.	Mike Beulah & Bill Wolk
06-E	Managing cherry insects under changing insecticide use patterns	D. Holder	\$2500	3 rd of 3 yrs.	Gary Snow
06-G	Tree effects from spray applications	G. Neilsen	\$5000	3 rd of 3 yrs.	Mike Beulah & Bill Wolk
08-A	Study and control of the European Paper Wasp	D. Holder	\$3000	1 st of 3 yrs.	Rick Faynor & Glenn Wood
08-B	Assessing the sweet cherry industry's readiness for extended storage and shipping	P. Toivonen	\$5000	1 st of 2 yrs.	Christine Dendy Pat Beulah & Duane Holder

The Directors are very optimistic that the two new projects we are funding this year will be very beneficial for our industry. Many of you were affected by late season attack by wasps last year. Changing spray programs in combination with ideal weather for their growth could cause this. Duane will work with Hugh Phillips in the Okanagan Valley to develop a better understanding of their life cycle and potential for near harvest damage and treatment methods.

Dr. Peter Toivonen and Dr. Frank Kappel will develop a sampling and evaluation protocol where fruit samples will be taken at different stages of the picking, sorting and packing process from 6 different packing lines. The samples will then be stored at PARC and then evaluated after 1, 3 and 6 weeks in storage for fruit firmness, TSSC, TA, GA usage, stem quality, bruising, and pitting. This will help the industry find where damage is occurring along the harvest and packing process and how much confidence we can have in our product after up to six weeks.

We did have a request for funding from Dr. P. Sholberg for \$2000 to redo the experiment Acetic Acid Fumigation of Cherry Nursery Trees. The Directors decided not to fund this proposal. The complete reports of all the research done and financed by your levies in 2007 can be found in the members only section of the website. The research outlines and request for funding for 2008 can also be found there.

Brian Mennell OKCGA Research Coordinator

Minor Use

- Delegate** New product approved for use on cherries for control of Leafroller.
- A.P.M.** Keep your eyes open for a possible restriction of the number of yearly applications from the presently allowed two (2) decreasing to one (1) per year.
- Diazinon** Although it won't happen in 2008, there may be a future restriction in that Diazinon may only be applied using a cab tractor.
- Flint** Pending label approval, Flint may be available for Mildew control for 2008.

Keep in mind that the use of both A.P.M. and Diazinon are being phased out over the next few years.

Glen Wood OKCGA Minor Use Representative

Labour

Our website is being advertised throughout eastern Canada in Universities and other schools. This has resulted in many more inquiries for work in the past couple years. Local schools will have our website posted as well. Make sure your email address is in the Orchard listings section of our web site.

The guest worker program is in its third year in B.C. with great success to this point. This is a program to help your farm with part of its labour needs. We strongly recommend using the Western Agriculture Labour Initiative (WALI) to help you with obtaining foreign workers. They will do most of your application for you and use the proceeds from the fees to represent us at all levels of governments, local and foreign. It is suggested that you apply now as booking flights becomes harder closer to summer. The OKCGA is a steering committee member of WALI and is working with them on all aspects of foreign labour.

WALI - Western Agriculture Labour Initiative

Are you looking for labour solutions for your farm?

Western Agriculture Labour Initiative (WALI) is here to assist you with the special needs of your farming operation. We are uniquely qualified to assist you from the first steps of investigating seasonal agricultural workers through to the arrival of well-matched workers for your farm.

WALI is supported by the government of Canada, Province of BC, BC Agriculture Council and participating international consulates. WALI is the only recognized organization in

British Columbia assisting BC farmers in contracting seasonal workers to address their employment needs.

Western Agriculture Labour Initiative

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WALI is supported by the government of Canada, Province of BC, BC Agriculture Council and participating international consulates. WALI is the only recognized organization in British Columbia assisting BC farmers in contracting seasonal workers to address their employment needs.

Clive Sutherland Labour Committee Representative

Membership and Website Employer Listing

It is not too late to renew your membership with OKCGA and make sure your orchard is listed for seasonal employees to find you! The website is getting thousands of hits and has become a well used method for hiring. A membership application can be downloaded from the website www.bccherry.com with space to include a description of your season and facilities. Also, please check the website to make sure the information about your orchard is still accurate.

If you are receiving enquiries from other countries, foreign applicants may be eligible for a Working Holiday visa from certain countries. Information about this is found on our website under "Work in Our Orchards".

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Replant Program Announced by the BCFGA

The province of BC has provided funds for the renewal of the BC tree fruit sector, in support of the January 27, 2007 Tree Fruit Industry Strategy. All BC producers with eligible projects may apply for the Tree Fruit Replant Program funding. To be eligible, growers must have at least one hectare in tree fruit production and be removing at least one acre of old fruit trees. The federal government has announced a removal program which complements the replant program, but details are not finalized at the time of publication. The partial grant for replanting and budding/grafting projects is available to

individual tree fruit growers. For further information or to request an application form and guidelines, contact the Replant Program administration,

1-800-665-5254 or 1-250-494-5021 or the BC Fruit Growers' Association.

Up Coming Events

Tree Fruit Production Guide Meetings

March 26	9:30am	Cawston Hall
March 26	1:30pm	Oliver Elks Hall
March 27	9:30am	PARC, Main Conference Room, Summerland
April 1	9:30am	Winfield Memorial Hall
April 1	1:30pm	Ramada Lodge, Kelowna
April 3	7pm	Downtowner Motel, Creston

Proposed agenda:

- Introduction and general changes to the Guide - Jim Campbell
- Disease changes and update - Gayle Jespersen
- Insect and mite changes and update - Susanna Acheampong
- SIR update - SIR staff
- Pesticide Storage - basic requirements - Ministry of Environment

Accounting Info

Government Programs

Judy Funnell, C.G.A

Senior Manager, Grant Thornton LLP

"CAIS" No More

After the 2006 year, the government has scrapped the CAIS program and has replaced it with four new Business Risk Management (BRM) programs:

AgriInvest, AgriStability, AgriInsurance, and AgriRecovery

AgriInvest is similar to the old NISA program which provides a savings account that can be used when the producer needs funds. This program is designed to replace the top tier 15% coverage previously covered under the old CAIS program. Commencing in 2007, the producer can deposit up to 1.5% of the eligible net sales to a maximum of \$22,500 each year into an AgriInvest account. This amount will be matched by the government and both funds will earn interest based on treasury bill rates. For purposes of AgriInvest, a producer can be an individual, a partner or a corporation. The producer can apply to withdraw funds twice a year and the withdrawal is not subject to any income criteria. This

means that a business can withdraw the funds to fund current operations or expansion or any other reason. In 2007, to "Kickstart" the program will provide eligible producers with a 2006 "Kickstart" contribution by the government which is based on 2.63% of average allowable sales for the years 2000 - 2004. Producers should have received notice of their "Kickstart" contribution. Only eligible producers for 2007 can access this contribution. The letter includes a form for the producer to apply for the "Kickstart" Fund, which must be completed by June 30, 2008. The producer can either withdraw the contribution or deposit the funds into an AgriInvest account.

AgriStability is the replacement to the old CAIS program and has similar requirements for eligibility and reporting. One noticeable difference is opting out. The AgriStability program allows for the producer to opt out at any time (by submitting an Opt Out Request Form) and re-enroll without a waiting period. This provides that in the good income years, a producer does not have to stay in the program to ensure future eligibility.

To apply for either AgriInvest or AgriStability or both, the producer will need to complete the 2007 Harmonized Statement A form. This form is very much like the old CAIS form, but has tick boxes for the producer to choose which programs to participate in for the year.

AgriInsurance is an insurance program for agriculture losses. This insurance protects the reference margin and provides same year access to funds. AgriInsurance is crop specific, whereas AgriStability takes a whole farm approach.

AgriRecovery is a disaster relief program designed to fill the gaps not covered by existing programs. It is available on a case by case basis when disaster strikes.

Important dates to remember:

March 31, 2008	Due date to apply for 2007 AgriStability Interim Application.
March 31, 2008	Due date to apply for the "KickStart" program if you have not received a letter advising eligibility.
April 30, 2008	Fee deadline for 2007 AgriStability (or 30 days after your Enrolment Notice). Contact the program administration if you have not received this fee form.
June 30, 2008	Complete and send the "Kickstart" Form.
Sept. 30, 2008	Complete the Harmonized Statement A Form for application of the AgriInvest and or AgriStability programs without penalty.
December 31, 2008	2007 Harmonized Statement A forms will be accepted subject to a \$500 per month benefit reduction for AgriStability and reduction of matchable deposit of 5% per month for AgriInvest.
December 31, 2008	Respond to AgriInvest deposit notice (or 90 days after receipt of the notice).

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and organizations Canada-wide. With 114 offices in Canada and in over 100 countries world wide, we're still the preferred advisors next door who respect your need for personalized advice based on practical experience. Grant Thornton is located at 1633 Ellis Street in Kelowna. Phone 250-712-6800 or fax 250-712-6850.

Research Shorts

Warm temperatures at bloom reduce fruit set in sweet cherry.

Warm springs have often been assumed as a prelude of good fruit set in temperate fruit species. However recently erratic fruit set has occurred under apparently warm springs in Mediterranean conditions. Therefore work was undertaken in Zaragoza, Spain where 12 year old trees of 'Vignola' and 'Sunburst', in the field, were covered with a polyethylene cage to raise temperatures during for two weeks during bloom. The average maximum temperatures increased 5.8°C the first year of the trial and 6.9°C in the second year. This resulted in an average increase in the mean temperature of 1.4°C and 3°C respectively. This increase in temperature reduced fruit set from 18% to 5% in 'Vignola' and 25% to 4% in 'Sunburst'. When the process of pollination and fertilization was examined more closely the workers found that fertilization occurred six days after pollination. Higher temperatures accelerated pollen tube growth rate but also reduced the number of growing pollen tubes along the style. In the ovary, the warm temperature accelerated ovule degeneration.

Hedhly, A., Hormaza, J.I., and Herrero, M. 2007. Journal of Applied Botany and Food Quality 81:159-164.

Harvest temperatures implications on the quality of sweet cherries in storage and sea freight.

Temperature management is critical for maintaining the quality of sweet cherries. Protocols for best practice temperature management are well documented from the time of harvest right through the sea freight export supply chain to the customer. However, less is known about the implications of ambient temperature conditions at the time of harvest on both initial fruit quality and shipping potential of sweet cherries. A series of trials over 2 years investigated the anecdotal theory that suggests fruit harvested during high ambient temperatures should not be included in sea freight consignments. Fruit of the cultivars 'Lapins' and 'Stella' were harvested at hourly intervals from 0600 to 1800 h. Ambient temperatures experienced during the trials ranged from 8°C to 36°C. Colour, firmness, flavour, and pitting of the fruit along with stem colour and condition were assessed at the time of harvest and after storage at 2°C for up to 5 weeks. Before storage, fruit was either hydro-cooled directly after harvest or after 1.5 h in the shade at ambient temperature. Results demonstrate the negative effects on fruit quality of harvesting cherries in the afternoon and on hot days, particularly relating to colour and condition of the stems. Most of the loss in stem quality was attributable to the time

between harvest and cooling. Fruit destined for export by sea freight should be harvested early in the morning and hydro-cooled quickly.

Rettke M.A., Leo, N., and Porter, K.L. 2007. *New Zealand J. Crop and Hort. Sci.* 35:286 (abstr.)

Abstracts from the Australasian Postharvest Horticulture Conference 2005.

General Cherry Information

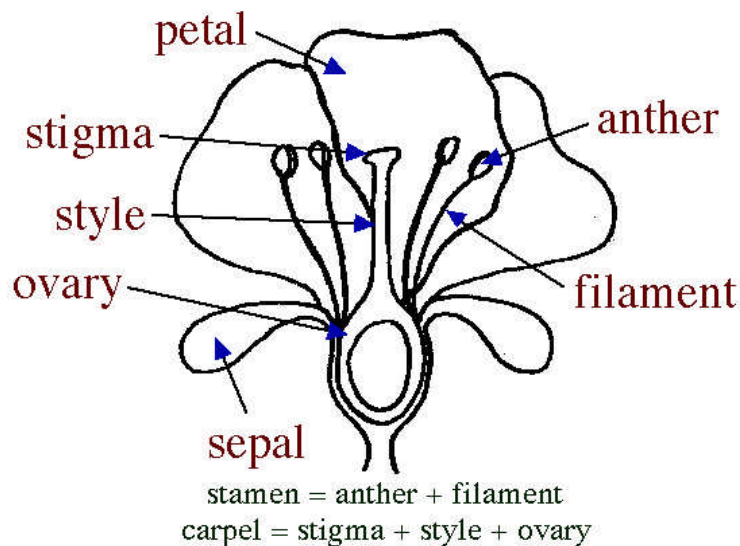
What are S-alleles and other pollination questions?

For cherry trees to have a plentiful crop the flowers must be pollinated with compatible pollen; the pollen must then grow down the pistil (stigma and style) and fertilize the "egg" or ovule in the ovary. Difficulties can arise at any of the steps in the process which can affect the outcome and result in reduced fruit set. This article briefly summarizes the cherry pollination process and provides a few suggestions to ensure adequate pollination and fruit set.

The first step in the process is the transfer of compatible pollen from a pollinizing variety to a receptive stigma. Bees are the predominate pollinators in cherry orchards however other insects are also involved to some degree. Most sweet cherry varieties are self-incompatible and the majority are also incompatible with other varieties within the same incompatibility group. Over the years sweet cherry varieties with the same S-alleles have been placed in compatibility groups. Varieties within groups are not only self-incompatible they are also incompatible with other varieties within the group. For example *Cristalina* and *Van* are both in Group II and therefore cannot be used to pollinate themselves or each other. On the other hand all varieties in one group are compatible with varieties in another group. Compatibility groups are listed below.

Therefore with traditional self-incompatible varieties a second pollinizing variety needs to be planted within the orchard and you must ensure that not only are they compatible but that the flowering period overlaps. This can be difficult if the bloom period is very early or very late. With the release of *Stella* in 1968 the first self-fertile variety with a reasonable level of fruit quality was available for growers. This then provided the possibility for single variety orchards and a more consistent cropping pattern. Also these self-fertile varieties are able to pollinate other varieties as long as their bloom periods overlapped.

Parts of a cherry flower:



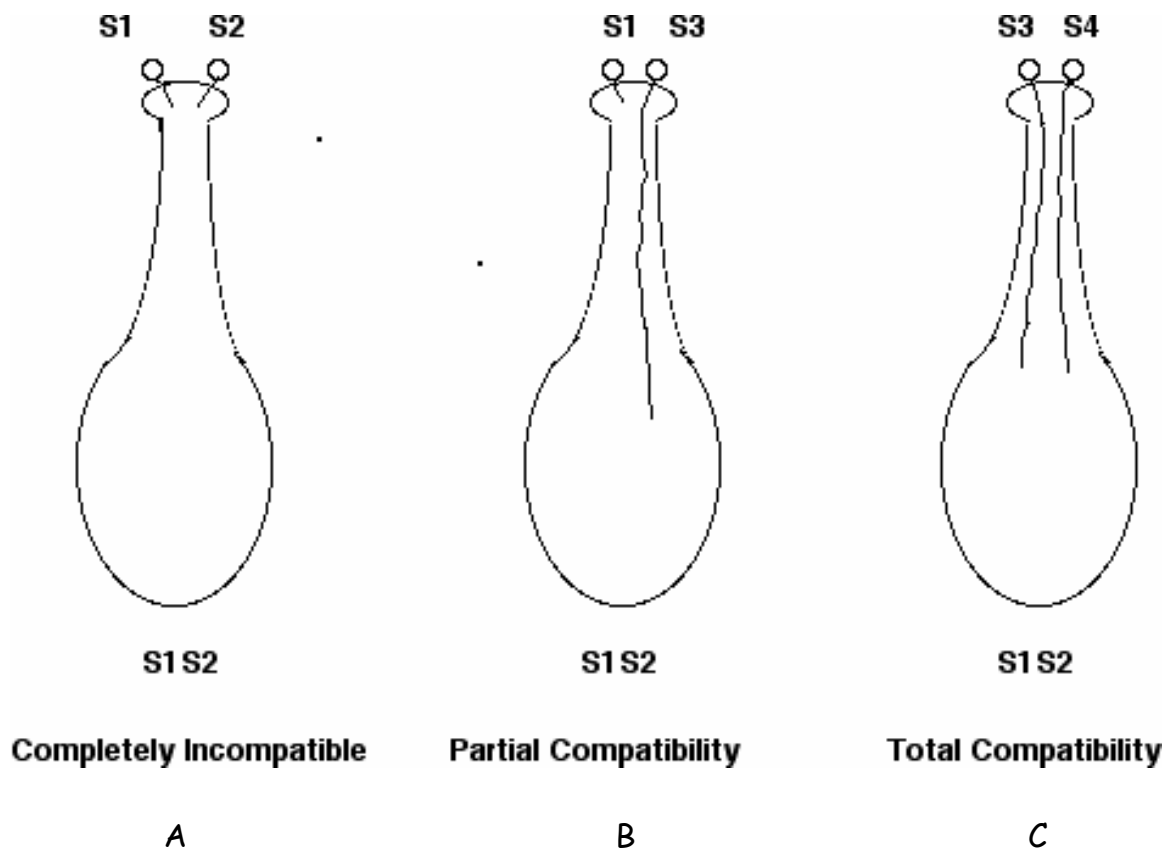
from: www.ualr.edu/botany

For sweet cherries, pollen compatibility is controlled by a single genetic locus with many alleles (S-alleles) and these have been named S1, S2, S3, etc. Pollen will contain one of the S-alleles whereas the tissue of the pistil will have two S-alleles. Pollen with a single S-allele in common with either of the S-alleles in the pistil will be rejected by the pistil and unable to grow down the style as in Example A below. This would occur if the pollen came from trees of the same variety or from trees of varieties in the same compatibility group. Pollen with an S-allele different from the S-alleles of the pistil would be able to grow down the style and have the potential to fertilize the egg.

Example A. Pollen grains with S1 or S2 have landed on a stigma of a flower variety with similar S-alleles (S1S2), either its own pollen or pollen from a variety within the same compatibility group. None of the pollen tubes will grow down the style and fertilize the egg. Therefore no seeds or fruit will develop.

Example B. Pollen with S1 or S3 has landed on a stigma of a flower variety with S-alleles S1S2. Therefore only the pollen grain with the S3 allele will grow down the style and potentially fertilize the egg.

Example C. Pollen with S3 or S4 has landed on the stigma of a flower variety with S-alleles (S1S2). Therefore both pollen grains have the potential to grow down the style and fertilize the egg.



The self-fertile variety Stella has the alleles S3S4' (S-4-prime). Currently all the named self-fertile varieties from the PARC-Summerland breeding program contain the S4' allele along with another S-allele. This allows the S4' pollen to function on its own pistil, that is the pollen tube can grow down the pistil and potentially fertilize the egg. Varieties with the S4' allele can be considered universal pollen donors because they are compatible with other varieties also. However S4 pollen from a self-infertile variety such as Bing is unable to function on a pistil with the S4' allele that is the pollen tube with the S4 allele cannot grow down the pistil with the S4' allele. In this case the pistil with the S4' allele behaves as if it is S4.

Pollen transfer is just one part of the development of seeds and potentially fruit. Once the pollen has landed on the stigma it begins to grow down the style (if compatible) and eventually fertilize the ovule. The rate of pollen growth and ovule longevity can influence seed set. Another important consideration is effective pollination period which is the period of time for pollination to take place and have fruit set occur. Effective pollination period is influenced by temperature and tree nutrient status. Low temperatures will slow the growth of the pollen tube however it may extend the life of the ovule. High temperature can increase the rate of growth of the pollen tube however it may shorten the life of the ovule. Boron, nitrogen and tree carbohydrate status have been implicated in the length of the effective pollination period.

Compatibility Groups of some sweet cherry varieties:

Group I (S1S2): Early Rivers, Sparkle, Summit.

Group II (S1S3): Cristalina, Olympus, Regina, Samba, Sonnet, Satin, Van, 13N-07-19.

Group III (S3S4): Bing, Lambert, Napoleon (Royal Ann), Star.

Group IV (S2S3): Sue.

Group VI (S3S6): Attica (Kordia).

Group IX (S1S4): Chinook, Rainier, Salmo, Summer Jewel, Sylvia, SPC105.

Group XIII (S2S4): Sam.

Group XVI (S3S9): Burlat, Chelan, Tieton.

Group V (S4S5); Group VII (S3S5); Group VIII (S2S5); Group X (S6S9); Group XI (S2S7); Group XII (S6S13); Group XIV (S1S5); Group XV (S5S6); Group XVII (S4S6); Group XVIII (S1S9); Group XIX (S3S13): no varieties of importance to the BC industry.

Further Suggestions

Managing honeybees for pollination: the BCMAFL / BCFG A Tree Fruit Production Guide recommends 3 hives per hectare and to move the hives into the orchard when about 10% of the blossoms are open.

Orchard design should ensure adequate number of pollinizers (minimum of about 10% of the trees), compatible varieties, and overlapping bloom periods.

Use of bees for self-fertile varieties should also increase fruit set. This is important especially for some self-fertile varieties that appear to have lighter fruit set such as Skeena and 13S-21-01 (Sovereign).

References:

Brewer, L. and Azarenko, A. 2003. Fundamentals of flowering and fruit development. In: M. Whiting (ed.) Producing premium cherries. Pacific Northwest Fruit School Cherry Shortcourse Proceedings. Good Fruit Grower, Yakima, Wash.

Wiersma, P.A., Wu, Z., Zhou, L., Hampson, C., and Kappel, F. 2001. Identification of new self-incompatibility alleles in sweet cherry (*Prunus avium* L.) and clarification of incompatibility groups by PCR and sequencing analysis. *Theor. Appl. Genet.* 102:700-708.

Wasps

For information about yellowjackets and wasps visit these sites:

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb0643/eb0643.pdf>

<http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/TRA/PLANTS/index.html#http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/TRA/PLANTS/EuPaperWasp.html>

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/artemis/ucsu20/UCSU2062255252004INTERNET.pdf>

Editor's Comments

How did we do with this newsletter? Please let me know.

I am proposing to have 4 newsletters a year timed for publication in March, June, September and December. If there are any topics you wish to see in the newsletter send the request to Frank Kappel at: kappelf@agr.gc.ca or 250-494-6373.

Visit the OKCGA website at: <http://bccherry.com/> for information related to the association and growing cherries in British Columbia.

OKCGA Grower Survey - Please fill out and return

The Survey is below, please complete and mail, fax, or email this back to us:

Greg Norton gcnorton@telus.net , or R.R. #5, S76, C2, Oliver BC V0H 1T0 or call me @ 498-4669 home or 498-7820 cell.

Thank you for taking time to fill this out. Feel free to add any comments you feel we missed. We would really like your feedback.

Okanagan Kootenay Cherry Growers Association Survey

Please fill out and mail, fax, or email this to R.R. #5, S76, C2, Oliver BC V0H 1T0,
 Fax: (250) 498 4601 Email: gcnorton@telus.net , or call Greg @ 498-4669 home or 498-7820 cell.

Are you currently a member of Okanagan Kootenay Cherry Growers Association (OKCGA)?	Y	N	
Have you ever been a member?	Y	N	
If you were and no longer are, why not?			
1. OKCGA does not meet my needs.			
2. Costs too much.			
3. Don't know about renewal.			
4. Not enough good information.			
5. Don't feel welcome.			
6. Forgot to renew.			
7. Other _____			
If you are not a member do you want to join?	Y	N	
Have you ever attended an OKCGA meeting?	Y	N	
If no, what would compel you to come?			
1. Different time			
2. Different format			
3. Better information			
4. More notice.			
5. Different venue			
6. Other, please explain _____			
Are you satisfied with our communication?	Y	N	
Do you know we have a web site (www.bccherry.com)?	Y	N	
Do you use it?	Y	N	
Do you find the website employer listing valuable to get workers?	Y	N	N/A
Do you know about our research projects?	Y	N	
Are you satisfied with our research projects?	Y	N	
Would you like to see OKCGA more active in other areas than research?	Y	N	
What do you think we can do to better serve you as a cherry grower?			
1. More practical information			
2. Field days.			
3. More meetings.			
4. Better communication.			
5. Other _____			
Do you pay our 1 cent per pound levy?	Y	N	
Do you feel you get value for your dollars?	Y	N	
Should the levy be mandatory with membership rather than voluntary?	Y	N	
Should we increase, decrease or leave it as is?			

Please add any additional comments and suggestions on the back of this paper. Please include your name and phone number if you would like to learn more about OCKGA and have us contact you.
 THANK YOU!