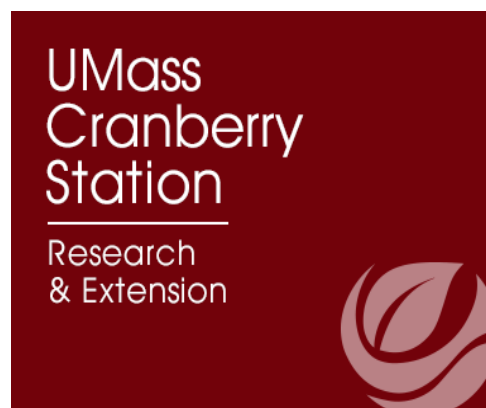


# CRANBERRY STATION NEWSLETTER

November 15, 2023 Vol. 24:7



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East Wareham, MA 02538  
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## News from the Pathology Lab

By Leela Uppala

### CRANBERRY FRUIT ROT

In recent years, there has been an increase in levels of fruit rot, causing significant concern and frustration. The shifting landscape of regulations pertaining to broad-spectrum fungicides such as Chlorothalonils and Mancozeb, coupled with unpredictable climatic patterns, has compounded the challenges in fruit rot management.

Through my research and extension program, I have been dedicated to gaining a deeper understanding of the fruit rot issue. This includes identifying the specific pathogens involved, monitoring how pathogen populations and rot change over the growing season, and assessing the impact of weather conditions and cultural practices on fruit rot incidence. The aim is to pinpoint factors within our control that can lead to the production of high-quality fruit.

If any of you have particular questions on this topic or other disease-related challenges as you prepare for the upcoming growing season, please don't hesitate to reach out. I am more than happy to meet one-on-one where we can discuss tailored management strategies based on your previous crop records and handler regulatory requirements. Additionally, I am in the process of compiling data/information for our upcoming winter meeting and creating fact sheets addressing "frequently asked questions and answers" concerning cranberry fruit rot management. Your valuable input would greatly be appreciated. Please contact me [suppala@umass.edu](mailto:suppala@umass.edu) or 508-970-7644.

### COLLABORATIVE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRAINING PROGRAMS WITH THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

We welcome visiting scientist Dr. Ambika Dasannanamalige Siddeshi to the Cranberry Station. Dr. Siddeshi serves as an Assistant Professor at the University of Horticultural Sciences in Bagalkot, Karnataka, India. Her visit is made possible through the support of the World Bank and the Government of India in collaboration with the Indian

Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP-) Institute Development Plan (IDP).

The primary objective of this project is to enhance the existing standards of agricultural education in India by investing in infrastructure, fostering faculty competency, and instilling commitment among students from Indian State Agricultural Universities through international collaborations.

During her approximately 6-week stay, Dr. Siddeshi is working with Dr. Leela Uppala, focused on gaining insights into cranberry research and extension. Her enthusiastic participation extends to various pathology projects, where she actively contributes to the seasonal characterization of fruit rot pathogens through plating and pure culturing. Additionally, she is engaged in the evaluation of cranberries from 40 grower bogs and novel fungicide trials, assessing fruit rot and fruit quality parameters.

Under this same project, we mentored 4 undergraduate students (Neela Mohan Kumar Elike, Murali Krishna Mudham, Jyosthna, and Jeevan Teja) earlier this year. The students are from Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Andhra Pradesh, India.

We are excited about the knowledge exchange these international collaborative efforts are bringing to the Cranberry Station.



*Hilary Sandler with Dr. Ambika Siddeshi*



*Giverson Mupambi and Leela Uppala discussing the variety trial with visiting students on State Bog.*

## News from the IPM/Weed Lab

By Hilary Sandler and Katie Ghantous

### AMERICAN BURNWEED

*Erechtites hieraciifolius* known locally as “fireweed”, but also commonly called American burnweed, is a fast-growing annual plant. The seeds are thought to germinate on MA cranberry beds in June, grows rapidly to a height of several feet tall, then flowers from July to October. The flowers are in tiny clusters at the end of the green buds. After the flowers are pollinated, the seeds develop, the buds open up, and the white tuft structure attached to small seeds help the seeds disperse by wind.

Being an annual plant that germinates from seeds, it is usually found on new plantings or areas with a poor canopy where the seeds can establish.

It is not typically found on established beds that have a fully developed canopy (not much opportunity or area for seeds to germinate). But for cranberry growers, there is no such thing as “typical” year - we had several calls this summer from growers reporting large populations of fireweed on established beds with good vine cover!

It is unclear why fireweed is booming, or how it is getting established on beds with a closed cranberry canopy. The good news is that since it is an annual plant, there is an opportunity to control it next spring. Unlike perennial weeds that we struggle with, there are some good herbicide options for weeds germinating from seeds. Casoron had historically been used to manage fireweed. Recent work done by our lab on new plantings showed that both Devrinol and Callisto gave preemergence control. It is unknown if Callisto used postemergence will control plants after they



germinate. These weeds are very shallow rooted and small patches can be hand-weeded before seeds form. If you had an issue with fireweed this year, plan on doing some spring preemergence management of the seeds that were made this year.

In addition to calls about fireweeds, we also had a greater than usual number of people reporting problems with wild bean (*Apios americana*). Stinger remains the gold standard for managing this weed. Late season application of concentrated Callisto did not knock back infestations, however earlier application (similar to the timing for poison ivy) may have better results. If you have had success managing wild bean with tools other than Stinger, please let us know!

## DID YOU USE KERB IN 2023?

Please submit your use reports to MDAR by November 30, 2023. These data are very important as we prepare to ask EPA for a renewal for our Section 18 Emergency Exemption Request for 2024. The form can be found on our website. Here is the link: <https://ag.umass.edu/cranberry/services/special-pesticide-labels>. Any questions, please email me at [hsandler@umass.edu](mailto:hsandler@umass.edu). Thank you for your cooperation.

## 2024 UMASS CRANBERRY MANAGEMENT UPDATE MEETING

The UMass Cranberry Management Update meeting has been scheduled for **Tuesday, January 30, 2024, from 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM**. This will be a hybrid meeting; you can choose to join via Zoom or in-person in the AD Makepeace Meeting Room, at the UMass Cranberry Station. In-person seating may fill up fast due to room capacity allowance. Please return the meeting form as soon as possible to get your preferred attendance choice. Registration fee is **\$50 per person**; 4 pesticide credits are available (2 for morning session and 2 for afternoon session). **To attend, see page 5** for meeting payment form.

## TENTATIVE AGENDA

### Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 7:30 AM – 3:00 PM

#### **7:30 Check in starts, in-person coffee chat**

7:45 Station Update and Politics of the day – Hilary Sandler

8:00 The Confusing Herbicide Labels – Hilary Sandler

8:20 Pesticide and MDAR Updates – Marty Sylvia

8:40 Leafhopper and Black Bug – Anne Averill

9:10 Addressing Cranberry Fruit Rot: Research Updates and Effective Solutions - Leela Uppala and Salisu Sulley

9:40 Herbicide Fine Tuning – Katie Ghantous

#### **10:00 ----10-minute stretch, coffee break----**

10:10 Irrigation and Nitrogen Fertilizer – Peter Jeranyama

10:30 Historic Frost Comparison – Sandeep Bhatti

10:45 New Cultivar Update – Giverson Mupambi

11:00 USDA/ARS Research Priorities – Casey Kennedy UMass/USDA

11:10 Helicopter vs Hand Cranked Fertilizer Apps – David Millar, UMass/USDA

11:30 Cranberry Bog “watersheds”; How They Vary and Why They Matter – Adrian Wiegman, UMass/USDA

11:45 Nitrogen Dynamics in Cranberry Farm Soils – Molly Welsh, UMass/USDA

#### **12-1 Lunch Break on your own: Zoom takes a break, In-person may want to bring your lunch!**

1:00 Weevil Update - Marty Sylvia

1:20 Pesticides, EPA, and the Future – Katie Ghantous

1:40 Phytophthora Root Rot Study Updates – Leela Uppala and Salisu Sulley

2:00 Vaccinium Scale, A Moving Target – Anne Averill

2:20 False Blossom, Guest Speaker Leslie Holland, WI Plant Pathology



## Station News

By Hilary Sandler, Director

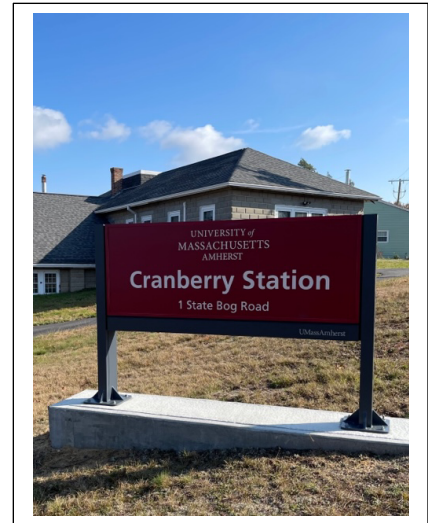
### NEW BUILDING UPDATE

The Bogside Building received its permanent Certificate of Occupancy on October 16, 2023. Inspections will occur on an annual basis going forward. All three of our buildings are officially “open for business”!

### RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

I would like to let you know that I will be retiring in Spring 2024; an exact date has not been set. This is a bittersweet moment for me. Serving you and researching weed management strategies for you over the years has been a privilege. I have been welcomed by you so wholeheartedly (even into your homes for a beer!). I have genuine gratitude for you, the cranberry growers of Massachusetts, and the hard work that you do. I look forward to my next chapter which will include doing weed science work for my regional and national societies as well as more time walking my dogs and traveling. I will be on an extended vacation until my retirement date and in my absence, Peter Jeranyama will be Acting Director. I am available for grower calls, concerns, and questions; please email or call me.

It has been an honor to have spent my career in Massachusetts cranberries. Thank you!!



## Newsletter Signup Form

Please return the form below.....

### TO STAY ON THE MAILING LIST, YOU MUST RENEW EVERY YEAR!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### CHOOSE ONE:

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

- **Sent via email:** Annual subscription is **FREE** for everyone.

### POSTAL DELIVERY \_\_\_\_\_

- **For Massachusetts growers, cranberry researchers and IPM consultants:** Annual subscription is **FREE** for postal delivery.
- **For out-of-state growers, industry personnel and private sector:** Annual subscription is **\$15** for postal delivery. Please include a check payable to **UMass** and return to: **UMass Cranberry Station, 1 State Bog Road, East Wareham, MA 02538.**

### CHECK ONE:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Owner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Employee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Researcher
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consultant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Sector



## Meeting Payment Form

### TO ATTEND THE 2024 UMASS CRANBERRY MANAGEMENT UPDATE MEETING:

Please complete the information below and return as soon as possible. In-person seating will go fast due to room capacity allowance. Once your form and payment are received, a confirmation email will be sent to each person confirming your selection of attendance, via Zoom or in-person. The Zoom confirmation email will have a link to register online. **All** meeting attendees **MUST** pay to attend whether receiving credits or not. If you have any questions, contact **Robyn Hardy at 508-970-7635** or [rmhardy@umass.edu](mailto:rmhardy@umass.edu).

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL(required): \_\_\_\_\_

#### ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL(required): \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL(required): \_\_\_\_\_

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PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL(required): \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL(required): \_\_\_\_\_

#### PLEASE CHECK:

**Attend via Zoom** (\$50 per person) \_\_\_\_\_ number attending

**Attend in-person** (\$50 per person) \_\_\_\_\_ number attending

Please make checks payable to **UMass** and return payment by 1/26/24 to UMass Cranberry Station, 1 State Bog Road, East Wareham, MA 02538.

UMass  
Cranberry  
Station

Research  
& Extension



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and KERB USAGE REPORTING

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS