



## CRANBERRY STATION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 19, 2019

UMass Cranberry Station

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[ag.umass.edu/cranberry](http://ag.umass.edu/cranberry)

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### PRELIMINARY KEEPING QUALITY FORECAST

*Peter Jeranyama, Plant Physiology*

The preliminary forecast is for VERY GOOD keeping quality.

As of April 1, there are 6 points out of a possible 10 that favor keeping quality for the 2019 Massachusetts cranberry crop. The 6 points were based on the previous total year sunshine hours which were less than 2,274 hours (4 points). In our case the previous total year sunshine hours were 2,154 hr. In addition, an extra 2 points were awarded for favorable sunshine hours for March which were more than the 50-year average for that month. Consequently, the preliminary forecast is for VERY GOOD keeping quality.

The final keeping quality forecast (issued after June 1) could be upgraded if we have a cool and dry April and May, otherwise it could be downgraded to as low as FAIR. Unless the final keeping quality forecast worsens or you have areas with a history of high fruit rot disease pressure, the preliminary forecast suggests that fewer fungicide applications and/or using less than the maximum recommended fungicide application rate may be sufficient for proper fruit rot management. However, keep in mind that all chemical applications should be carried out according to product label instructions and that due to fungicide resistance concerns you should never use less than the lowest recommended fungicide rate.

As for holding late water this spring, the preliminary forecast offers no compelling reason to use late water to enhance fruit quality at harvest. Since the final forecast could be as low as FAIR (if no further points are gained in April and May), late water may still make sense for beds with high fruit rot history. Before considering this practice, assess if there was any major winter injury or if plants display any other stress symptoms and consider carefully your reasons for using later water.

#### UMASS CRANBERRY STATION WPS HANDLER TRAININGS

Worker Protection Training using the new materials from the EPA for cranberry workers in the handler category for Spring 2019 will be held in the Cranberry Station Library 2:00-4:00 PM on the following Wednesdays:

**April 24<sup>th</sup>**

**May 29<sup>th</sup>**

**June 26<sup>th</sup>**

The fee is a \$10. If you have a pesticide license, you do not need this training. If you have workers, they do need this training every year! Any paid worker on the bogs, once pesticide applications have begun, needs this training. Contact **Marty Sylvia: 508-295-2212 x20** to sign up or for more information.

## Special Local Needs label granted for Intensity/IntensityOne POST herbicide

**Hilary Sandler, Director**

Intensity and IntensityOne are postemergence grass herbicides with the active ingredient, clethodim. The current label restricted application from hook (early bloom) through full fruit set. On April 19, 2019, MDAR Pesticide Subcommittee approved our petition for a language change that reflects our current knowledge about how cranberry responds (or not) to application of the herbicide. The SLN (or 24c) removes the prohibition of applications from “hook through fruit set” to a caution for applications made during “roughneck” stage. The new language will allow growers to treat grass weeds during the cranberry bloom period, if and when needed.

The new label language reads as follows:

*Applications made to cranberry plants at roughneck can cause abnormalities in flowers. This can be more severe in certain varieties, such as Howes, and applications during this growth stage are not recommended.*

The SLN is applicable ONLY to Intensity and IntensityOne; other clethodim herbicides must be applied according to their label.

**Background.** Through conversations with the registrant, we were able to determine that the basis of this restriction was related to the appearance of fused petals during the initial labeling process for the herbicide. It was assumed the fusion was due to a physical fusing of the petals after application (i.e., direct exposure of the herbicide to flower buds and/or exposed petals), and no subsequent work was conducted to clarify this situation. However, recent research at the UMass Cranberry Station has shown that applications made directly to the flower buds, flowers and fruit did not result in the appearance of fused flower petals nor cause injury or fruit loss. When we were able to reproduce the symptom of fused flower petals, it was directly linked to applications made during the “roughneck” stage (i.e., active expansion of vegetative tissues, approximately 0.5” new growth). We think that the herbicide is translocated in the plant to these active tissues, which then results in petal deformities when the flower bud expands and opens. Our research also indicated that there are varietal differences in exhibiting the floral deformities with applications during the roughneck stage; cv Howes seem to be much more prone to express floral deformities during roughneck applications than other tested varieties.

### CRANBERRY STATION NEWS

**Hold on to your Chart Book!** The Cranberry Station published a multiple year Chart Book in 2018 covering 2018 to 2020. An update sheet will be available by the end of the month and you will receive it the same way you receive your newsletter. If you do need a Chart Book please contact Robyn Hardy, 508-295-2212x10, for availability.

**The Diagnostic Lab is now open!** Please bring your samples for identification to the new diagnostic lab located in room 149. To contact the lab please call 508-295-2212x25.



**Hilary Sandler, Station Director**

## 2019 EPA WPS Update and Train-The-Trainer Workshop

*Sponsored by UMass Extension Risk Management Crop Insurance Education Program*

All farmworkers must be trained under the EPA Worker Protection Standard (WPS) if a farm uses any pesticides, including those approved for organic production and other general use pesticides. The agricultural employer is responsible for complying with all components of WPS including the training of farmworkers. This training can only be provided by an individual who has a pesticide certification license or has attended an approved EPA WPS Train-The-Trainer workshop.

A workshop (with 4 contact hours) will be offered at the **UMass Cranberry Station** on **Thursday, May 2, 2019** from **8:00 AM – 12:30 PM**.

To register please visit:

[http://www.umass.edu/pested/training\\_workshops/2019\\_EPA\\_WPS\\_Workshops.htm](http://www.umass.edu/pested/training_workshops/2019_EPA_WPS_Workshops.htm)

or contact Natalia Clifton at 413-545-1044 (M-F 10:00 am-4:00 pm) or email [nclifton@umass.edu](mailto:nclifton@umass.edu)

### IPM MESSAGE

IPM Message to start by May 10, 2019. You can access the weekly updates on our web site <http://ag.umass.edu/cranberry/ipm-message> or by calling the station, 508-295-2212, ext. 60. I will typically update on Fridays. If my schedule interrupts that pattern or if a pest situation requires a non-Friday update, I will always indicate when the message was last updated.

If you have any questions please contact  
**Hilary Sandler: 508-295-2212x21**

### BOGSIDE WORKSHOPS

We are planning two Bogside Workshops for the summer of 2019: Wednesday, May 29 and Wednesday, June 26. Both will start at 10:00 AM and will be held under the oaks here at the Station. If weather is inclement, we will meet in the library.

We anticipate offering 1-2 contact hours for pesticide recertification credits for each workshop.

Any questions please contact  
**Robyn Hardy: 508-295-2212x10**

### THE 2019 SPRING FROST FACT SHEET IS IN!

You can now pick up your copy of the Spring Frost Tolerances Photo Fact Sheet for 2019 at the Cranberry Station and/or the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association.

Or you can download it here: <http://ag.umass.edu/cranberry/fact-sheets>



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PO Box 569  
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS**