

UMass
Cranberry
Station

Research
& Extension



CRANBERRY STATION NEWSLETTER

March 25, 2020

1 State Bog Road
PO Box 569
East Wareham, MA 02538
508-295-2212
ag.umass.edu/cranberry
Vol. 21:2

UMass Cranberry Station Update

Dear Cranberry Growers,

The Covid-19 virus and social distancing guidelines have certainly created a new norm for all of us, and we expect this to continue for at least the near future. University (as well as State and Federal) guidelines have been issued for all employees to work remotely at home exclusively or as much as possible until further notice. We are enacting measures to enable staff at the Station to be able to continue to do their jobs to the greatest extent possible under these unusual conditions.

I want you to know that the UMass Cranberry Team and all the UMass Extension Ag Programs remain committed to serving you. We will still provide the support and educational programming that you have come to expect from us, but they will likely be in different forms. We are working on how to hold meetings, do demonstrations, and provide the services you are used to receiving from us. We will keep you posted as things progress. For meetings, we will probably be using the free software **Zoom**, that you can download and install on your computer or other device.

Here is the link: <https://zoom.us/download>

Of course, we will continue to collaborate with our colleagues at MDAR, who have released guidelines for agriculture on ways of dealing with the COVID-19. You can find more information here:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/mdar-addressing-covid-19-coronavirus-impacts-and-guidance>

In the meantime, as always, if you have questions or concerns, you can reach any of us by phone, email, or even social media (well, some of us!). You can find our individual contact information at: <https://ag.umass.edu/cranberry/faculty-staff>.

Sincerely,

Hilary A. Sandler, Director, on behalf of all Cranberry Station faculty and staff

Station Closure, Postponements and Cancellations

- **The Station is currently closed to the public** to reduce person-to-person exposure. If you need publications (Frost Sheets, Chart Book, etc.) contact Krystal @ krystald@umass.edu to make arrangements.
- **April 4, 2020** Respirator Training with Marty Sylvia has been postponed until further notice.
- **April 15, 2020** UMass Pesticide Safety Training meeting has been postponed until further notice. Contact Robyn Hardy for more information.
- Frost tolerance evaluations are still planned (once GDD have reached the threshold that indicates observations should begin). Contact Peter Jeranyama (508-295-2212 x29) for more information.
- All other in-person meetings are postponed until further notice.

2020 Survey of the Genetic Make-up of ‘Stevens’ in Massachusetts

Have you ever wondered why some ‘Stevens’ beds are much more productive than others, even across similar growing situations? We are working with Dr. Juan Zalapa from the Cranberry Genetics and Genomics Lab (USDA-ARS, Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin) to conduct a survey of ‘Stevens’ planted in Massachusetts to get a better idea of the genetic make-up of beds considered to be ‘Stevens’.

This growing season, we will visit cranberry farms that have beds of ‘Stevens’. We are looking to sample from beds across the entire MA cranberry growing region but are especially looking to identify and sample from beds that have either very high or very low productivity.

To participate, you will need to share the yield history of the bed (the last 5+ years) and information about the origin of the material used to plant the bed. We will visit your farm once and collect 24 uprights from across the entire bed. After the samples have been processed, we will share the results with you directly. We will keep all of your information confidential (your name and farm will not be associated with the samples when sent to the genetics lab or when results of the project are presented).

If you would like to participate in this study, or for more information, please contact Krystal (508-295-2212 x27) krystald@umass.edu or Katie (508-295-2212 x47) kghantou@umass.edu. We can sample multiple beds per farm or grower if you have large differences in yield between beds.

Plant Pathology Lab Diagnostic Services and Management Services

As we work remotely due to the ongoing National Health Emergency, the Plant Pathology Lab would like to continue to offer you with cranberry disease diagnostic services and management guidelines. To reduce person-to-person exposure, please notify me of your expected time of arrival by texting or calling Leela (334-728-1025) or email suppala@umass.edu at least one day before bringing samples. I will arrange a cooler and sample intake forms to be outside the Station’s lab building. Please find the guidelines for sample collection below.

If you suspect **Phytophthora Root Rot**, samples should be collected from the margin of the affected area. Collect around 40 stressed vines adjacent to the dead vines with roots attached. Roots are the most important part of diagnosing this disease. If you suspect **Upright Dieback**, bring in at least 50 uprights showing the symptoms.

If several spots show symptoms in a single bog, sample from at least 10 areas and combine them into one bag. Make sure you keep samples from different beds/cultivars in separate bags. After you place the sample in the cooler, please fill in the sample intake form with a brief description of the issue/symptoms and your contact information. I will also be happy to answer any of your disease management questions promptly by phone or email.

Zeus XC Special Local Needs Approved for Moss Control

At the March 23, 2020 MDAR Pesticide Board Subcommittee meeting, approval was granted for the use of Zeus XC (sulfentrazone) on MA cranberry farms for moss control and other potential susceptible weeds. The herbicide is manufactured by FMC. Sulfentrazone is a Group 14 herbicide and represents a new mode of action for use on cranberries. Zeus is a soil-active, preemergence herbicide. It must be washed off the leaves and into the soil to provide good weed control. Results are best if the soil is moist at the time of application.

State Restrictions and Zone II. Zeus XC herbicide is a state-restricted use product since Sulfentrazone is included on the Groundwater Protection List. The application of Zeus XC in a Zone II may be allowed if it is determined that there is no viable alternative. The lack of alternatives was one of the supporting points in the SLN application, so we have solid grounds to support your request. Even so, the assessment of such cases is typically made on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Hilary (508-295-2212 x21) if you wish to apply Zeus XC in a Zone II. You must notify MDAR of applications in Zone II within 30 days of the application. Based on these notifications, MDAR may consider targeted monitoring to ensure that levels do not approach levels of concern.

Use pattern. Zeus can be applied after the removal of the winter flood and prior to cranberry vines breaking dormancy (through cabbagehead). Risk of injury is likely to increase if applications are made too close to when the vines break dormancy and start active growth. We recommend applying before cabbagehead. Zeus can be applied at a rate of 8-12 oz/A through the chemigation system or by ground rig; do not apply more than 12 oz/A per year. The addition of an adjuvant is NOT recommended.

As mentioned above, the herbicide must be washed into the soil, so irrigation (0.1-0.25") should follow a boom spray application; more irrigation might be needed for some chemigation applications if rinse times are short. REI is 12 hours. Please refer to the full (Section 3) label for complete details on PPE required for the use of Zeus.

Recommendations for 2020. We have only tested this product for two years on small plots on State Bog (cv. Stevens). Based on our experience, Zeus XC demonstrated good crop safety in our trials (no significant injury or impact on yield), but we do not have experience using it through commercial chemigation systems or on a large scale. We would recommend applying Zeus to limited acreage in 2020 to see how it works for you. As always, check with your handler prior to using this herbicide to confirm any restrictions.

The label is available on the UMass Cranberry Station website (under "Services", "Special Pesticide Labels"), from any point of purchase and/or by emailing me. Use of the product includes release of FMC from any liability from damage that might occur with applications of the herbicide.

We thank FMC for their quick action to provide information and data to MDAR to support the SLN in time for the 2020 season. We thank our industry partners (CCCGA, CI, CRF and OSC) for providing financial support to screen unregistered products, which enabled us to identify Sulfentrazone as a potential compound for moss control.

We would be grateful to hear about your experience with the use of this herbicide for moss control (or other susceptible weeds). Please contact Hilary (508-295-2212 x21) hsandler@umass.edu or Katie (508-295-2212 x47) kghantou@umass.edu.

CHART BOOK UPDATE

Hold on to your Chart Book! Your multiple year Chart Book is good for one more year. Update inserts will be available around April 1st. If you do need a Chart Book please contact Robyn Hardy, 508-295-2212 x10, for availability.



**CRANBERRY STATION
NEWSLETTER**

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS