



**UMASS
EXTENSION**

Cranberry Station Newsletter

APRIL 2006

UMASS CRANBERRY STATION

1 STATE BOG ROAD

P.O. Box 569

EAST WAREHAM, MA 02538

<http://www.umass.edu/cranberry>

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HOLDING LATE WATER THIS YEAR?

If you are interested in holding LW, this is likely a decent year to do it as the vines have not been stressed by a difficult winter. Our research is finding that with a few exceptions, most bogs tend to do well with LW. The problems that we have seen seem to be due to either warm water during the flood, or possibly applying the flood too late in the season. In 2005, Early Black bogs did not do well with LW although they had done fine in 2003 and 2004. This may have been due to a loss of dormancy in EB before the flood was applied. However, upright carbohydrate concentration improved very quickly after the flood and so the long-term implications may not have been great. At our research sites, Stevens and Howes bogs did fine under LW in 2005.

Due to the warm weather we've had this spring as well as the reduction in carbohydrates in EB bogs under LW last year, we recommend applying the LW flood up to 5 days earlier than you normally would (approximately April 10 at inland sites). This is important because even though your vines may not show any visible signs of losing dormancy, the accumulation of growing degree days results in many physiological/biochemical changes within the vine which could cause complications towards the end of the flood.

Tips for holding LW:

- Apply flood approximately 5 days earlier this year than you normally would. If the buds are no longer red and tight, do not apply the flood. Be particularly cautious with EB bogs.
- Keep water as cool as possible by maximizing the volume of water on the bog or by recharging the flood from the water source.
- Do not hold LW if the bog had a bumper crop last year (although that was very rare here in MA).
- Do not hold LW if you held a long fall flood last year on the bog, particularly before mid-October.

If you have any questions feel free to call me at x29.

JUSTINE VANDEN HEUVEL, ENVIRONMENTAL PHYSIOLOGIST

UPCOMING EVENTS

IPM TRAINING

**UMASS CRANBERRY STATION,
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2006 11 AM - 1 PM**

This IPM training will review blackheaded fireworm management and current pest issues. There will also be a sweep net training. **TWO** contact hours will be offered towards pesticide re-certification. The rain date will be Thursday May 11, 2006.

NO SIGN UP NECESSARY.

**WATER AND FRUIT ROT
MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
UMASS CRANBERRY STATION,
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2006
9 AM - 12 NOON**

This workshop will cover building and installing a lampinometer water level float, irrigation and drainage information, and a review of cranberry fruit rot management. **ONE** contact hour will be offered towards pesticide re-certification. The cost is \$20.00 per person. You will get a float to take home with you.

PLEASE return attached SIGN UP form (page 3) by May 17th to attend.

**CRANBERRY FRUITWORM,
SPARGANOTHIS FRUITWORM AND
FERTILIZER MANAGEMENT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2006
10AM - 12 NOON**

This Cranberry Station free workshop will be held Wednesday, June 21, 2006. **ONE** contact hour will be offered toward pesticide re-certification.

NO SIGN UP NECESSARY.

EXPERIMENT SITES NEEDED

Curious about nutrient ratios for custom blends? Wondering about how much potassium we really need to use and how that compares to Wisconsin? This is your chance to participate in some research to answer those very questions.

I am starting two new fertilizer research projects this year and am looking for field sites on your bogs. I need a total of 5 sites — 3 for N:P ratio work and 2 for the potassium study. These are the specifications:

<u>Experiment</u>	<u>N:P Study</u>	<u>Potassium study</u>
Number of sites	3	2
Area needed (each)	~1/3 acre	~1/4 acre
How long?	3 years	3 years
Variety	any	Stevens

What else? — If you volunteer, you cannot apply fertilizers to those areas for the 3 years of the study - all other management can continue as usual. We will apply fertilizer to the entire experiment area but not to the rest of the bog. At the potassium sites we will consult with you regarding how much nitrogen to use in the plots. The N:P sites will have a variety of N and P rates determined by the experimental design. Ideal sites do NOT include bogs where fertilizer is applied by air since these areas are too big to cover. However, if you have a cove that can be avoided by the helicopter - that could work.

In addition to applying treatments (4-5 visits per season), we will remove soil and tissue samples in August and sample areas of fruit each year. Most of your crop will be left for you to harvest (we promise to get out of the way in time if you will let us know at least 3 days before you plan to harvest). We will remove the flags pre-harvest each year (and put them back the next spring).

So — excited to participate and help us refine our fertilizer recommendations? Call me at extension 25.

CAROLYN DEMORANVILLE
STATION DIRECTOR

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Dr. Carolyn DeMoranville, Director

APRIL 2006, Issue

Deborah Cannon, Editor

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WORKER PROTECTION TRAININGS

Worker Protection Trainings for cranberry workers in the handler category will be offered in the spring of 2006: April 26, May 31, and June 28. 2PM in the station library. The Cost is \$5.00 per person. Checks payable to UMass.

Contact Martha Sylvia: 508-295-2212, ext. 20 for additional information.

Dr. Carolyn DeMoranville
Station Director

FREE AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE DISPOSAL EVENTS

There will be a series of free pesticide collection and disposal events for agricultural operations, over the coming year. All events are funded by the Department of Agricultural Resources through a grant from EPA. Department of Agricultural Resources Contact: Gerard Kennedy at 617-626-1773.

Currently events are scheduled in western Massachusetts and on Cape Cod in cooperation with Cape Cod Cooperative Extension. Cape events are open to off-Cape farmers in Southeastern Massachusetts.

- There will be at least twenty events on Cape Cod running from May 13 to October 28 (several each month) where agricultural operations can dispose of pesticides.
- The contact person for the Cape program is Marilyn Lopes. For more details, please call 1-800-319-2783 or 508-375-6699 or go to www.capecodextension.org/agpest
- You must preregister the materials you will bring for disposal, including the weight or volume of material. A form, available on the web site and with this newsletter, must be filed at least 2 weeks prior to the date on which you will participate.
- You may transport no more than 55 gallons or 440 pounds of product at one time. Additional information about storage and transport is available on the web site listed above.

More information and sign up sheet inside this newsletter.

**REGISTRATION FORM FOR WATER AND FRUIT ROT
MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
Wednesday, May 24, 2006
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Cranberry Station Library**

Please register for the meeting using this form

COMPANY _____

CONTACT _____

PHONE _____

NAME OF ATTENDEES _____

**Return completed form with payment by
May 17, 2006
Check payable to: UMASS
\$20.00 per person.**

**Return to: Cranberry Station
P.O. Box 569
East Wareham, MA 02538**

attach additional sheets as necessary

PRELIMINARY KEEPING QUALITY FORECAST — CORRECTION

As of April 1, there are 3 points out of a possible 10 that favor keeping quality in the 2006 Massachusetts cranberry crop. One point was awarded for favorable rainfall in March and two points were awarded for sunlight hours in March. The sunlight led to the correction from the newsletter you just received (April 2006) - we were given an incorrect number from the State Climatologist previously. The forecast is now changed to **FAIR** keeping quality. The final keeping quality forecast (issued after June 1) could be upgraded if we have a cool and dry April and May. Based on the present forecast, fungicide applications and the rate of fungicides applied should not be reduced. Due to the decent condition of the vines coming out of the winter and the ample quantity of available water, this would be a good year to consider holding late water. If you have any questions, please contact me.

**Frank Caruso,
Plant Pathology**

SEE LATE WATER TIPS ON PAGE 1