UMass Extension
CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE

Cranberry Station Newsletter

JUNE 2010

UMass Cranberry Station
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http://www.umass.edu/cranberry

GENERAL COMMENTS ON FUNGICIDES

Many growers have wondered why Abound has a 14-day water-holding requirement. This restrictive requirement on the label was never run by any of us cranberry pathologists for our input. Consequently, when the final Section 3 label was in place, this was news to us. We have been in touch with folks at Syngenta about the possibility of getting this restriction altered, but it is apparently not possible. There are aquatic toxicity concerns with the active ingredient, azoxystrobin, and the company does not want to take the risk in changing the label. Abound continues to be a decent fungicide for fruit rot and fairy ring management in cranberries, but you'll need to live with this water-holding restriction.

I am always interested to learn about injury to flowers and berries caused by applications of chlorothalonil (Bravo, Echo, Equus primarily). I'd be interested to see it in person, rather than hear about it long after the berries have gone to the handler.

Should there be a fruit rot issue in one of your beds this growing season, again, don't wait until the berries are sitting in the corral to get a sample for me to analyze. By then, it's too late to get a good diagnosis of the causal agent(s) of the rot. I need to be informed while the fruit are in the field attached to the plant. I like to culture healthy berries in addition to rotted berries in order to see the full spectrum of fruit rot fungi involved in a particular bed. Armed with that information, I can make the best recommendation for management in the following growing season.

Frank L. Caruso, Plant Pathology

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION

Research in Massachusetts and Wisconsin has shown that cranberries require additions of phosphorus fertilizer for sustained productivity. However, there is no evidence in *any* research plot work or commercial bed observations that more than 20 lb/Acre actual P is required for productive cranberries. In some studies on high P sand soils, there was no response to P fertilizer on beds with adequate tissue P. In other studies, on native cultivars, the greatest yields were on plots receiving 10-15 lb/Acre P, with no improvement at higher rates. The only exceptions to the "not to exceed 20 pound" recommendation are beds with documented deficiencies (tissue P <0.1%) or new beds with fresh sand planting medium (the recommendation for those is to use up to 20 lb/Acre at planting and no more than *a total* of 30 lb/Acre for the season on those beds).

In plots and demonstration sites, production has been maintained with less than 20 lb/A P. As P fertilizer use was reduced, P output from the bog (in water) also decreased. Based on these studies, growers have begun to reduce P applications **below** 20 lb/A. When implementing such reduction, it is important to collect August tissue tests and follow these recommendations: If P is <0.10% - increase P rate and retest next season; if P is 0.10-0.11% - maintain P reduction and retest next season; if P is 0.12-0.15% - maintain P reduction and retest in 2-3 years; if P is 0.16% or more - further reduction should be considered.

Carolyn DeMoranville, Plant Nutrition

Carolyn DeMoranville, Director

The Last Worker Protection Trainings For This Season !!

Cranberry Station Library 2-4 PM

The Final Worker Protection Trainings for 2010 for cranberry workers in the handler category will be offered this spring on June 30th.

There is a $5 fee to cover the cost of the WPS training manual. If you have a pesticide license, you do not need this training.

Contact Martha Sylvia: 508-295-2212, ext. 20 to sign up or for additional information.

FINAL KEEPING QUALITY FORECAST

The Keeping Quality Forecast for June 2010 is for **GOOD** keeping quality.

We calculated 7 of a possible 16 points to arrive at this forecast. We were awarded 4 points for sunshine hours for the 2009 growing season, 1 point for February sunshine hours, 1 point for April precipitation and 1 point for May precipitation. This is a year that you should probably be able to reduce your fungicide rates and/or the number of fungicide applications. If you have a bed that had late water held this spring, you can reduce your fungicide inputs in that situation as well. As usual, call me 508-295-2212 X 18 if you have any specific questions or concerns about a particular bed.

Frank L. Caruso, Plant Pathology

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