



# Cranberry Station Newsletter

MAY 2008

UMASS CRANBERRY STATION

1 STATE BOG ROAD

P.O. Box 569

EAST WAREHAM, MA 02538

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

## Dodder Management without Kerb

**Control Seed Production.** Reduced seed production is the biggest benefit relating to controlling this year's population as this will affect weed pressure in 2009. The seedbank of dodder has its greatest potency in the season following its formation. So, any dodder not controlled in 2008 will produce seeds, many of which will germinate in 2009. The seeds of dodder are very long-lived (10+ yr), so reducing seed production this year and each subsequent year, is crucial, especially now without the use of Kerb.

**Skip a Year?** If you have been consistently using Kerb for the past number of years, you may be able to "skip" a year without too much concern. Some growers have skipped applications in the past with tolerable (postemergence) infestations. However, in some situations, infestations were very heavy even during the year of "no Kerb". If your farm is isolated (reducing the chance of outside re-infestation) and dodder seed production has been minimized with good Kerb control, you may want to consider not using Casoron and controlling emerging populations later in the season. This is obviously a highly individual consideration and does not fit every farm.

**Casoron.** Growers who checked the home page of the Cranberry Station last week were informed that Kerb usage was not likely. So, many started applying or making plans to apply low rates of Casoron in an attempt to get preemergence control of dodder. As before, the best control is obtained when Casoron is applied just prior to peak emergence of the dodder population. Peak emergence occurs about 10-14 days after the first seedling has emerged. Hopefully, you have been monitoring warm spots and/or trash piles for dodder seedlings. If not, go look ASAP. In most cases, applications should go out in the next available window or two, especially considering the unsettled weather pattern that is affecting our region for the next week or so. I realize that many growers applied Casoron for broadleaf control earlier in the season,

so keep in mind that there is a 100 lb/A limit for Casoron in a 12-month period. The typical rates for dodder control are 30-50 lb/A. Casoron volatilizes quickly (and potency may be lost), so water the herbicide in ASAP after application.

**Short-term floods.** 24-48 hr floods have provided some degree of suppression of dodder seed germination. The floods do not seem to work across the board, but they have been successful in some situations. Often, these floods coincide with floods used to control black-headed fireworm. If you can flood your bogs quickly and efficiently, this may be a good option to consider.

**Postemergence Options.** The same suite of postemergence options from years' past are still possibilities: hand removal of infected weed hosts and cranberry uprights and raking. Unfortunately, trials with Smolder (bioherbicide) were unsuccessful in both MA and WI, and thus we cannot recommend the use of Smolder (even though it is registered in the state). Data generated from my lab suggests that Callisto may provide some degree of control when applied postemergence. We will be pursuing a FIFRA 2ee recommendation for the use of Callisto for this season against dodder. Continue to check the Station's web page for updates.

**Surplus Kerb.** Do NOT use remaining Kerb on your farm under any circumstances. Unopened boxes of Kerb can be returned to the point of purchase. If possible, please bring your receipt. Please take opened boxes to the one of the hazardous waste collection sites discussed in this newsletter. There is no charge to dispose of agricultural wastes if you use one of these collections.

As always, if you have further questions, please call Hilary Sandler at ext. 21.

## AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL COLLECTIONS FOR MASSACHUSETTS PRODUCERS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

**FREE** collections of agricultural chemicals for Massachusetts producers of agricultural products are being sponsored by Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, collaborating with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and Enviro-Safe Corporation. Dispose of no longer registered and unused agricultural chemicals while there is no cost to you! This is not just for Cape Cod Growers; All Massachusetts Producers may participate. The next collection is: June 21, 2008 at Falmouth High School.

In order to participate, you will need to complete the **DISPOSAL RESPONSE FORM** and return it **TWO WEEKS** before the collection date. Participate in any of the collections on the 2008 schedule of collections, but transport no more than 55 gallons or 440 pounds of product at one time. This information and other information about accumulation, storage and transportation of hazardous materials is available at [www.capecodextension.org/home.php](http://www.capecodextension.org/home.php) Click on the link AgPesticides in the Environmental Conservation text.

Contact Marilyn B. Lopes, Extension Educator, Water Quality, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, PO Box 367 Barnstable, MA 02630-0367. Phone: 508-375-6699 Cell: 774-487-8802; Fax: 508-362-4518; E-mail: [mlopes@umext.umass.edu](mailto:mlopes@umext.umass.edu).

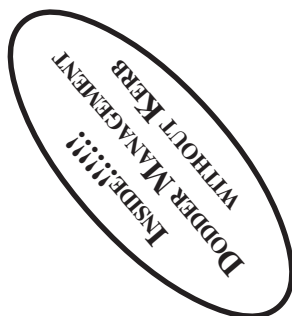
### USE OF KERB DENIED

At the January Management Update meeting, I mentioned that the issuance of the Section 18 permit to use Kerb was under heavy scrutiny in 2008 and that the granting of the permit may be in jeopardy. On Friday May 9, we were told that EPA has decided **NOT** to issue a permit for cranberry for this year. It is very likely that we will not receive any future Section 18 permits for Kerb. Kerb is scheduled to undergo Registration Review in 2009. At that time, EPA will determine what changes will be needed to continue the use of Kerb in crops presently on the label. There is an outside chance that cranberries could possibly be added to the eventual Section 3 (full) label, but we will have to “wait and see” on that issue.

### CALLISTO WORKSHOP

Tuesday June 3, 2008, 8:15 - 10 AM  
Cranberry Station, East Wareham  
Meet by the picnic tables.

We will discuss details about using this new herbicide and will look at different delivery methods (ride-on equipment, backpack). Some growers have applied Callisto during the spring and we will discuss how that has been working. 1 or 2 contact hours may be offered. No need to pre-register. Rain date: June 4.



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