



**UMASS  
EXTENSION**

# Cranberry Station Newsletter

**JUNE 2005**

UMASS CRANBERRY STATION

1 STATE BOG ROAD

P.O. BOX 569

EAST WAREHAM, MA 02538

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

## COMMENTS ON FUNGICIDES

As we approach the time when blossoms will open and fungicide applications will be necessary for fruit rot management, there are a few things to think about.

Last September when Hurricane Ivan came ashore in the Florida panhandle, it silently brought something else besides wind and rain. It brought spores of the fungus that causes Asian Soybean Rust Disease from South America. By November, the disease was noted in several widespread locations in the southeastern states. Because this is a new pathogen to the southeast, there are no native parasites that will deleteriously impact the fungus and numerous legume hosts (like kudzu which possesses a huge amount of surface area) which can be infected. The disease is a major concern for soybean growers anywhere in the U.S., because long-distance movement of the spores in the upper atmosphere is entirely possible for this fungus. The disease can be controlled by fungicides and one of the more effective materials is chlorothalonil (Bravo, Echo, Equus). There may be a very high demand for this particular fungicide, depending on how soybean growers decide to react to the crisis. Consequently, this may impact the quantity of fungicide that is available to the cranberry industry. You should check with your supplier of this fungicide and make certain that you get the adequate amount of product for your fruit rot management program this summer. There is no need to panic; this is simply written to make you aware of a potentially developing situation for our industry.

For many years, the chlorothalonil fungicides have been listed as one of the chemicals that are not allowed for use in a Zone 2 recharge area. These Zone 2 areas change from year to year and you should be certain which of your cranberry beds are within a Zone 2 area. If you wish to use one of the chlorothalonil products for

upright dieback or fruit rot management, you need to get a letter from me (call Debbie at extension 10 and she can email or fax it to you, or you can pick one up in person at the Station). This letter gives you the guidelines of what you need to do in order to use this fungicide in such a situation, or whether you must go with alternative fungicides.

If you use (or have used) Abound for fruit rot management, I would like to receive your feedback on how good a job you think it does, compared to other fungicides. I know how it has performed in my field trials set up in high inoculum areas, but I need to know how it does in the more conventional settings with low fruit rot inoculum. In addition, for 2005 this fungicide is available under an SLN for fairy ring management. I would like your feedback on how Abound compares to Ferbam for control of this disease.

**FRANK L. CARUSO  
PLANT PATHOLOGY**

## WORKER PROTECTION TRAINING

The final Worker Protection Training for cranberry workers in the Handler category will be on June 29 from 2-4 at the Cranberry Station Library. There is a \$5.00 charge that includes training book and EPA verification card. Contact Marty at 508-295-2212, ext. 20 for additional information and to register.

**Carolyn DeMoranville,  
Cranberry Station Director**

## FINAL KEEPING QUALITY FORECAST

The Keeping Quality Forecast for June 2005 is for **VERY GOOD TO EXCELLENT**.

We calculated 7 of a possible 16 points to arrive at this forecast. This is the third year in a row that we had this total. We were awarded 2 points for March sunshine, 2 points for March temperature, 1 point for April precipitation and 2 points for May temperature. This was the second coldest May ever recorded at the Cranberry Station. The mean temperature for the month was 50.9 degrees F; the only May that was colder was 1967 when the mean temperature was 49.3 degrees F. This is a good year to reduce your fungicide rates and the number of fungicide applications. However, if you have a bed that has had above average rates of fruit rot during the past two growing seasons, I would proceed with the normal three fungicide application program. As usual, call me if you have any specific questions or concerns about a particular bed.

**FRANK L. CARUSO, Plant Pathology**

## Cranberry Update Meeting

The staff of the Cranberry Station will hold a meeting to discuss management issues.

**WHEN:** June 21, 2005

**WHERE:** The Station Library

**TIME:** 10:00 to Noon

### Topics will include:

Weed control:	Dr. Hilary Sandler
Nutrients:	Dr. C DeMoranville
Fungicides applications:	Dr. Frank Caruso
Insect control:	Dr. Anne Averill

An informative question and answer session open to all growers.

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