



# Cranberry Station Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2010

UMASS CRANBERRY STATION

1 STATE BOG ROAD

P.O. BOX 569

EAST WAREHAM, MA 02538

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



**UMass  
Extension**

## Fall fertilizer?

Each fall, growers ask me - should I apply fall fertilizer? My answer is generally no — I think there is more value in examining the plants in the spring and applying bud-break fertilizer then if needed. But for some growers, conservative use of fall fertilizer may be in order if the plants are looking weak or the crop was particularly heavy. If this is your situation - how should you decide if you need fall fertilizer on your bog and what should you use? First look at your vines, crop, and fertilizer use so far this year. Follow the decision tree below to decide if fall fertilizer is right for you:

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>	<u>Fall fertilizer?</u>
Are your vines lush or long?	Yes	No
Did you have a big crop?	No	No
Have you already applied more than 30 lb N (50 lb for hybrids)?	Yes	Probably not
Deep organic soil with little need for early fertilizer normally	Yes	Probably not

But if your fertilizer use was modest, the vines are not pumped up, and you had a great crop, then you could consider using fall fertilizer. Choose a material and apply it between early and mid-November when the soil has dried from harvest but well ahead of the winter flood.

So what to use and how much? My best recommendation is to apply 5 lb/acre N, little or no P and as much K as you can find among the available fertilizer choices. The N will build up the vines, P is not needed in the fall (natural release from the soil is occurring), and added K may enhance hardiness. Also, N and K are the two elements that are removed in the greatest quantity in harvested fruit; P is at much lower concentrations in the berries.

Most growers try to apply in 100 pound increments for ease and uniformity of application, so let's discuss fall fertilizer choices on that basis.

Look at your choices of fertilizer and determine how much N, P, and K (in pounds) would be applied in 100 lb of fertilizer material. Remember that you are looking for about 5 lb/acre N.

<u>Choice</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>K</u>
5-15-30	5	6.6	24.9
3-13-26	3	5.7	16.6
5-10-10	5	4.4	8.3
8-32-18	8	14.1	13.3
6-24-24	6	10.6	19.9
5 - 5-20	5	2.2	16.6

Many common materials (like 12-24-12, 15-15-15, and 18-8-18) are just too high in N. Some of the choices in the table would give around the 5 lb/acre N rate with 100 lb/acre of fertilizer but would add much more P than is desired, creating an environmental risk. Those include the 8-32-16 and the 6-24-24. While both give about the right N and fairly high K, seasonal P will exceed 20 lb/acre even if you used 18-8-18 during the season with these choices. If you choose the 8-32-16 at 75 lb/acre (to get the N down closer to the recommended 5 lb/acre), you still add more than 10 lb P/acre and now only about 10 lb K/acre.

The best off-the-shelf choices are 5-15-30 (good N, lots of K, moderate P) or 3-13-26 if you want less than 5 lb/acre N. I do not recommend using 3-13-26 at higher than 100 lb/acre rates to boost N since then you are paying for more materials to apply and again increasing P. The 5-10-10 is a good choice but a bit lower in K. This should be fine if your vines aren't stressed or crunchy. If they are, I would prefer the 5-15-30 to get the additional K.

The best material for low P in the table is the 5-5-20. This gives very low P, target N and substantial K.

What about fish fertilizer? An application of 5-10 gal/acre can replace granular fall fertilizer. If you have pop-up sprinklers and can apply this post-harvest, that is an additional option. Remember, this fertilizer is taken up through the roots, so water it in enough to wash it into the soil.

Finally, what about zero P fertilizers? These are predominantly formulated for turf and most have 25-30 lb N in a 100 lb/acre application (first number is 25 to 30) leading to issues with applying the low N desired in the fall. If you can find one with N in the desired range, by all means use that.

The bottom line — if you use fall fertilizer, choose one with the lowest possible P.

CAROLYN DeMORANVILLE

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STATION DIRECTOR

## CRANBERRY STATION CENTENNIAL UPDATE

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Station. We celebrated with a gathering of past and present staff and at the Annual Meeting of the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association in August. With the support of the Association and many individual growers and friends, we have successfully raised funds to purchase and outfit a 2011 Ford Transit Connect Van. This vehicle will be equipped for field research and diagnostics — carrying computers, cameras, a microscope, and sample collection supplies. We were also able to establish an endowment fund in the UMass Foundation. This fund will generate annual income to support the vehicle and our mission to bring excellent research and outreach to the cranberry growers of Massachusetts as we enter our second century. Huge kudos and thanks to those of you who contributed (and more thanks coming in our year-end newsletter next month). In the meantime, it is not too late to make a tax-deductible contribution to the endowment fund pledge forms can be found at:

<http://www.umass.edu/cranberry/thestation/100th%20Anniversary%20Endowment.html>.

We also have a nice selection of centennial merchandise for sale (see page 3 of this newsletter for more information).

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CRANBERRY MANAGEMENT UPDATE MEETING

**WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 19, 2011**

Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor

Look for more program information and sign-up form in the December newsletter

### 2011 UMASS GARDEN CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE !

Single copies of the **2011 UMASS GARDEN CALENDAR** are \$12.00 each. This price **DOES NOT** include shipping & handling.

order at: [www.umassgardencalendar.org](http://www.umassgardencalendar.org)

**100th Anniversary Items for Sale:  
JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!!**



All shirts feature the 100th anniversary logo, pictured top row from the left, is the mens polo shirts having the logo embroidered, the hats which have "1910-2010" embroidered on the side and the ladies polo with the "Y" neck. Second row from the left is the red travel mug, the two T-shirts, one with the large logo on back and one with small logo on front and then the white water bottle. Visit our web site at: [www.umass.edu/cranberry](http://www.umass.edu/cranberry) - to see pictures in color.

		Price if purchased at the Station	Price if shipped
Mens T-shirt, large logo on front,	sizes XL, L, S	\$15.00	\$20.00
Mens T-shirt, large logo on back,	sizes XL, L, M, S	\$15.00	\$20.00
Mens T-shirt, green, small front logo,	size 2XL	\$15.00	\$20.00
Mens polo shirt,	sizes XL, L	\$25.00	\$30.00
Womens T-shirt, large logo on front,	sizes XL, L, M, S	\$15.00	\$20.00
Womens T-shirt, small logo on front,	sizes XL, L, M, S	\$15.00	\$20.00
Womens polo shirt "Y" collar,	sizes XXL, L, M	\$25.00	\$30.00
Womens blue polo shirt "Y" collar,	size XXL	\$25.00	\$30.00
Hats: stone, cranberry or khaki w/cranberry bill		\$15.00	\$20.00
Travel mugs, 16 ounces, stainless steel liner		\$10.00	\$15.00
Water bottles, 26 ounces, BPA free, flip top		\$ 5.00	\$ 7.50

All T-shirts are cranberry color. Available in **sizes listed above and may be limited**. Some items not available in all sizes. If ordering a hat, please indicate which color you want. To order any of these items, please send your request, indicating size if a shirt, with your contact information, and with accompanying check made out to "University of Massachusetts" to:

UMass Cranberry Station  
P.O. Box 569  
E. Wareham, MA 02538

You may also stop by the Station between the hours of 8AM and 4 PM, Monday - Friday and save on shipping costs.

Questions, contact either [nguerin@umext.umass.edu](mailto:nguerin@umext.umass.edu) or [dcannon@umext.umass.edu](mailto:dcannon@umext.umass.edu).

# CRANBERRY STATION NEWSLETTER & REVISED 2011 CHART BOOK RENEWAL

**YOU MUST RETURN THIS FORM EACH YEAR TO STAY ON OUR MAILING LIST!!**

The Cranberry Station Newsletter is provided **FREE to all MA growers, cranberry researchers and IPM consultants nationwide**. Annual subscription fee of \$15 is required for **out-of-state growers and industry personnel**. All persons wishing to receive this newsletter (whether paying or not) must complete and return this renewal form to maintain a subscription. All out-of-state or industry personnel must include a check (made out to UMass) with the renewal form. **All subscriptions sent by email, including out-of-state and/or industry personnel are FREE.**

**Everyone must respond to this notice by Dec. 31, 2010  
or your name will be taken off of our mailing list for 2011!**

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P.O. Box 569  
East Wareham, MA 02538

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