



**UMASS
EXTENSION**



Cranberry Station Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2003

UMASS CRANBERRY STATION
1 STATE BOG ROAD
P.O. Box 569
EAST WAREHAM, MA 02538
<http://www.umass.edu/cranberry>

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT

Carolyn DeMoranville
On behalf of the UMass-Amherst
Cranberry Station

As I mentioned in the news update in this issue, it is the support of growers that helps to assure our success at the Station. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following specific growers and organizations for their donations of time, materials, and money over the past two seasons. It is deeply appreciated.

Donations of sand

A. D. Makepeace Co. (George Rogers)
Decas Cranberry Co. (John C. Decas)

Harvest of State Bog

A. D. Makepeace Co.
Cranberry Grower's Service (Peter Beaton)

Sanding of State Bog

A. D. Makepeace Co.

Chemigation services for State Bog

Cranberry Grower's Service (Matt Beaton / Steve Ward)

Loan of laser surveying equipment

A. D. Makepeace Co.

Loan of Sprayer rig for insecticide trials

Slocum Gibbs Cranberry (Gary Garretson)

Donation of pesticides for Rocky and State Bog

DeCran Ag Supplies, Inc. (Paul Alexander)

Donation of fertilizers for Rocky and State Bog

R.F. Morse, Inc. (Craig Canning)

Technical support to the Environmental Physiology Program

UMass Dartmouth

Grants-in-aid to Station Faculty and Staff

Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association
Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.
Cranberry Institute

STEM GALL/CANKER RETURNS

I have observed three cases of stem gall/stem canker in different beds since early August. Uprights turn totally brown as if they are affected with upright dieback. Closer examination of the upright reveals a callused area somewhere on the stem. This callused area is usually black and increases the diameter of the stem 2 or 3 times. This callusing can also be observed on green uprights that have not shown any symptoms of dieback. In one of the cases, 25% of the uprights in the bed were symptomatic. Dieback occurred in straight lines, resembling the path of the picking machine. In all three instances, the cultivar was Howes and the bed was dry harvested in 2002. This problem occurred in 15 beds in 1992, and lingered in a few beds through 1994. It has not been seen since. However, stem gall is a regular occurrence in Wisconsin and has also been observed in Quebec.

Patty McManus, Plant Pathologist at the University of Wisconsin, believes that stem gall is caused by several bacteria that produce indole acetic acid (IAA) that causes cells in the stems to divide excessively. The bacteria can only enter the stems via a wound. Hence, the problem is likely linked to winter injury and/or picking injury or other stresses. In Wisconsin, it is worse: (1) where there was freezing/thawing or general difficulty in holding flood during the winter; (2) in the end of the bed where water enters; (3) in Howes and Ben Lear; (4) where hot weather exacerbated the stresses; (5) where a mild winter preceded the growing season. These bacteria (which Patty found in galls that I sent to her in August from the three beds) are largely non-pathogenic and common in most beds. As the plant tries to recover from winter injury, the vascular cambium is sensitive to IAA which causes the abnormal growth resulting in the callusing.

Based on our experience in Massachusetts and Patty's in Wisconsin, the problem disappears and no management is necessary. It takes one year for a badly affected bed to resume full productivity.

If you observe galls/cankers in any of your beds this season, I would like to know where it occurred and how bad the outbreak was.

FRANK L. CARUSO
PLANT PATHOLOGIST

UMASS DARTMOUTH OFFERS AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS COURSES AND SEMINARS

Computer Training for Agricultural Business, \$50
Oct. 14, 16 (6-9 pm)

Composting workshop series, \$75
Oct. 21, 28, Nov. 5 (6-9 pm)

Introduction to the Internet for Ag Business, \$30
Nov. 18 (6-9 pm)

Farm stands and Roadside Markets, \$30
Nov. 19 (6-9 pm)

QuickBooks Pro for Ag Business, \$179
Dec. 2, 4, 15, 18 (5-9 pm)

Success at a Farmer's Market, \$50
Dec. 9 (6-9 pm)

Developing your business vision:
Equestrian Business Law, \$30
Dec. 4 (1-4 pm)

Financial Investment Management:
Ag Business, \$30: Dec. 3 (6-9 pm)

Agricultural Marketing, \$30
Dec. 10 (6-9 pm)

Financial Management: Selling development rights,
\$30: Nov. 25 (6-9 pm)

Courses are offered at the UMass Dartmouth Professional and Continuing Education Center, 139 South Main Street, Fall River. To register, call 508-678-3636 or 508-999-9129. You can also download registration forms from the web at <http://www.umassd.edu/dce/registration/welcome.cfm> and fax them to 508-999-9129. For more information contact Tony Vieira at avieira@umassd.edu or 508-999-8744.

UMass Extension Mailing Signoff

Carolyn DeMoranville, Director

VALUE ADDED GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWERS

USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service has announced the availability of \$27.7 million in competitive grant funds for FY03 to help independent agricultural producers enter into value-added activities. Applicants may be individual producers, producer groups, producer cooperatives, and producer-controlled business ventures. Funds are available for one of the following two activities: 1) Developing feasibility studies or business plans (including marketing plans or other planning activities); **or** 2) acquiring working capital to operate a value-added business venture or an alliance that will allow the producers to better compete in domestic and international markets. Value added activities can include a change in state (such as processing fruit into jam), a unique production method that adds value (such as organic production), a branding process that sets the product apart and increases market value (such as local branding that would lead the consumer to pay more for the product). The maximum award is \$500,000 but priority will be given to lower cost projects.

Applications are due to the State USDA Rural Development Office (address below) no later than October 20, 2003. Late applications will not be accepted. For further information, contact the USDA Service Center in West Wareham or the State Rural Development Office:

Richard Burke
 USDA Rural Development
 451 West Street, Suite 2
 Amherst MA 01002
 413-253-4318
 rburke@rurdev.usda.gov

2003 CROP FORCAST

STATE	2002 FINAL	2003 CMC Predication	2003 NEAS
Massachusetts	1,452,000	1,525,000	1,700,000
New Jersey	430,000	430,000	470,000
Wisconsin	3,208,000	3,150,000	3,050,000
Oregon	432,000	485,000	440,000
Washington	162,000	169,000	170,000
Foreign Production		1,000,000	
TOTAL	5,684,000	6,759,000	5,830,000

NEWS UPDATE
Carolyn DeMoranville
Director, Cranberry Station

BEST HARVEST WISHES

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a successful and prosperous harvest season and to thank all of the Massachusetts cranberry growers for their help and support to the Cranberry Station this past season. While we expect to continue providing valuable information and services to all of you for many years to come, it is your help and support that make it possible for us to continue our endeavors. Thanks to all and have an excellent harvest season.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

While I realize that this will find you focused on harvest, some excellent learning opportunities are coming up through the UMass Dartmouth Division of Continuing Education. In this newsletter, look for a listing for agriculture programs for that organization.

SARE FARMER/GROWER GRANT PROGRAM

This is an excellent opportunity for farmers to get money for trying new ideas. The deadline for applications for these grants is December 8. Up to \$10,000 per farm is available to test innovative practices. See the SARE Web site at www.uvm.edu/~nesare/ for details and application form. Remember that to apply, you must have a technical advisor. Station faculty and staff can serve in this capacity. Don't hesitate to ask one of us to help.

USDA GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Please see the article in this issue regarding an opportunity to receive funding for value added activities.

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