

Cranberry Station Newsletter

November 2001

UMASS CRANBERRY EXPERIMENT STATION

1 STATE BOG ROAD

P.O. Box 569

EAST WAREHAM, MA 02538

<http://www.umass.edu/umext/programs/agro/cranberries>

CRANBERRY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

SHERATON INN, PLYMOUTH

Tuesday, January 15th, 2002 8 - 1 PM

This new training is a streamlined session on "what you need to know" to grow cranberries effectively and economically. It is being offered as an alternative to the Cranberry Production Training and the Research & Extension Update Meetings, which will not be offered this year.

The usual aspects will be covered -- insects, weeds, disease, nutrition, and water management. This meeting will offer an opportunity for the Cranberry Station faculty and staff to present areas of research that have reached the grower-implementation stage. Invited guest speakers will discuss pollination and business.

\$10.00 charge includes a morning coffee, a mid-morning coffee break and handouts. Pesticide recertification credits for the cranberry category will be offered - 4 contact hours.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

CRANBERRY DISEASE MANAGEMENT - *Frank Caruso*

PERENNIAL WEED CONTROL - *Hilary Sandler*

POLLINATORS AND POLLINATION - *Dan Schiffhauer*
Ocean Spray Cranberries

Coffee break with poster session

GROUND APPLICATIONS - *PANEL DISCUSSION*

BUSINESS MARKETING - *TBA*

INSECT MANAGEMENT - *Anne Averill*

ALTERNATIVE PRACTICES - *Carolyn DeMoranville*

Please register using form on page 4.

Position Available:

**Cranberry Station Farm Manager,
(Assistant to Farm Superintendent)**

Location: University of Massachusetts Cranberry Experiment Station, E. Wareham, MA.

Job Description: Under the direction of the Cranberry Station Director, manage State Bog and Rocky Pond Bog (18 acres); maintain buildings (custodial) and building security; maintain grounds and greenhouses; oversee and manage Station vehicle fleet; perform administrative duties including keeping bog and weather records; apply pesticides; supervise one full-time employee.

Required qualifications: Experience in agricultural work, MA drivers license, ability to prioritize and organize tasks, ability to supervise staff, basic computer skills, and knowledge of farm equipment and basic plumbing/electrical/carpentry.

This is a fully benefited, full-time position including vacation, retirement, medical and dental. Salary: \$528.06/wk. To receive a detailed job description and application packet, call Deb at 508-295-2212, ext. 10 or apply in person at the Cranberry Experiment Station, One State Bog Road, East Wareham. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

The University of Massachusetts is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Women & members of minority groups are encouraged to apply.

ROT AND MORE ROT

I should delight in the fact that we correctly predicted the horrific fruit quality for this growing season. In our final keeping quality forecast issued in June, we only garnered one of a possible 16 points in the scale. Talking to growers and seeing first hand the field rot in certain beds, I cannot rest on my laurels and say, "I told you so." There were cases where a grower used more than the usual number of fungicide applications (in fact, six in one instance) and there was still a tremendous amount of field rot. Late water, a cultural practice advocated for its ability to disrupt the life cycle of many of the pathogenic fungi and consequently, to reduce fungicide applications, was unsuccessful in other cases. Stevens is a cultivar noted for its rot resistance. However, this year had the worst quality I have ever seen in this cultivar. The fruit quality has also been disappointing for Howes so far. The bright spot has been Early Black, where the quality has been very good. In fact, growers were still harvesting this cultivar on October 23! The largest downside to the high rot levels was the fact that growers fell below their quota because of the unacceptable berries lost to fruit rot. Had the grower known about these levels, they never would have done crop destruct on other beds and they would have fulfilled their quota.

I presently have at least eight instances of high field rot that have me very perplexed as to why it occurred where it occurred. To try to better understand what happened in 2001 (and some situations that occurred in 2000 and 1999 as well), I would like to convene an

UMass Cranberry Experiment Station
1 State Bog Road, P.O. Box 569
East Wareham, MA 02538
(508) 295-2212 FAX (508) 295-6387

Dr. Carolyn DeMoranville, Acting Director

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Deborah Cannon, Editor

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UMass Extension Mailing Signoff

Dr. Carolyn DeMoranville, Acting Director

informal meeting here at the Cranberry Station in January with fruit rot as the only topic. There will be no formal presentations (and consequently, no credits will be offered). I would like to give you my perspectives on the growing season and then open it up to the audience for discussion. Many of you have your own story to tell and some of you have your own theories on what went wrong and how we can prevent it from occurring again in 2002. I want to hear your comments and try to answer some of your questions. Are our fungicides working as well as they should? What are the consequences of reduced management so far? What direction should my research take on this disease?

I am thinking about the last week of January for this meeting. I would like to get a handle on how many of you would attend such a meeting. I'd appreciate it if you would call (508-295-2212, ext. 18), fax (508-295-6387), or email (fcarus@umext.umass.edu) me and indicate your interest in attending. Please indicate whether you would prefer a meeting during the day or after 6 pm. If the response is overwhelming, the library here will not be a suitable location, and we will need to find another site. As you respond, I will add your name to a list that will insure that you have a spot.

This is the type of meeting that used to be a regular occurrence when the regional cranberry "clubs" met. This should be a good opportunity to compare "war stories" and we should all be able to learn something in the process.

Frank L. Caruso
Plant Pathologist and "Rot"-ologist

WORKER PROTECTION TRAININGS CRANBERRY STATION LIBRARY 2 - 4 PM

Worker Protection Trainings for cranberry workers in the Handler category will be offered in the spring of 2002: March 27, April 24, May 29, and June 26. Anyone working on the bog must be trained every five years unless they are a family member or already have a pesticide license. There will be a \$5.00 charge that includes training book and EPA verification card. Contact Martha Sylvia: 508-295-2212, ext. 20 for additional information.

CRANBERRY STATION NEWS UPDATE

Goodbye and Good Luck Phil!

As of November 3, 2001, Phil Bailey has retired from the position of Cranberry Station Farm Manager after 21 years of service at the Cranberry Station. I hope you will join me in wishing Phil a long and fulfilling retirement. We will all miss Phil and wish him the best.

New Environmental Physiologist

We have hired a new faculty member for the Station Staff to replace Bruce Lampinen, our former Environmental Physiologist. Justine Vanden Heuvel will be coming to us from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada in June of 2002. We are very excited to have recruited such an excellent scientist to join our group. Justine has worked on raspberries and most recently on wine grapes, studying distribution of resources within the plant. Justine is a classically trained "whole plant" physiologist who will bring expertise in water use, photosynthesis, plant biochemistry, and plant resource distribution including fruit set processes. We are arranging to have Justine visit us during the January meeting (see notice in this newsletter) so that we can introduce her to the grower community prior to her official arrival on staff.

Winter meeting Changes

In light of the current state of the cranberry industry and the increased demands that have been placed on your time, we have rearranged our winter meeting schedule. We want to keep you current and provide you with recertification opportunities while limiting the amount of hours spent away from jobs and the bogs. We have decided to combine the Cranberry Management Training workshop (previously the cranberry school) with the Research and Extension Update (previously held in March) into a single "Cranberry Management Update" meeting. The announcement for the meeting, to be held on January 15th in Plymouth, is in this newsletter. Station faculty will report on current projects and issues and new management options, guest speakers will discuss pollination and business matters, and a grower panel will lead a discussion of new or revisited ground-application methods and technologies. During breaks, we will present posters showcasing Cranberry Station

and UMass Dartmouth research projects. We hope that this format will provide you with useful information, pesticide credits, and a chance to reconnect with the research community with a minimum of time commitment.

Since there are few new folks getting into cranberries at present, we have decided to suspend the Beginners Cranberry School this year. Instead, we are organizing a pesticide safety training (for credit) to be held in April. We plan for this to be a very focused program covering safety issues, protective equipment, and a review of good pesticide handling practices. This will be an excellent opportunity to sharpen your skills and prepare for the 2002 spray season.

As in 2001, we will organize Bogside Chats at grower farms and at the State Bog during the 2002 season. If you would like to be a host for such an event - we are always happy to accept volunteers!!

State Bog Harvest

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the AD Makepeace Company and the Beaton's Cranberry Growers Service for once again providing harvest services for the State Bog. Unfortunately, much work was done for little result - State Bog had the worst crop in my memory and perhaps ever (about 20 bbl/a) due to a severe infestation with pesticide-resistant cranberry weevil. I know we are not alone in this situation. Certainly, I have seen equally impressive damage at other sites in the Wareham/Buzzards Bay area. The entomology and IPM staff at the Station will be giving this insect top priority in an effort to devise some control strategy as soon as possible. In the meantime, we certainly did our part to ease the surplus!

CAROLYN DEMORANVILLE
ACTING DIRECTOR

PESTICIDE SAFETY WORKSHOP **Date and Location to be announced**

This new training is a focused session on "what you need to know" regarding the safe and effective use of pesticides. It is being offered in April in place of the Beginners Cranberry School, which will not be offered this year. Recertification credits will be offered.

**Registration Form for Cranberry Production Training
Tuesday, January 15, 2002 8-1 PM
Plymouth Sheraton**

Please register for the meeting using this form.

COMPANY _____

CONTACT _____

PHONE _____

NAMES OF ATTENDEES _____

Return complete form with payment by:

January 7th, 2002

Include check made out to:

UMASS

In the amount of:

\$10 per person.

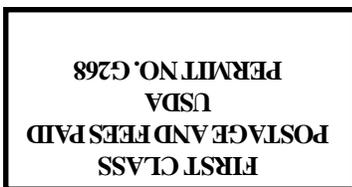
Return to:

Cranberry Experiment Station

P.O. Box 569

East Wareham, MA 02538

Attach additional sheets as necessary.



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