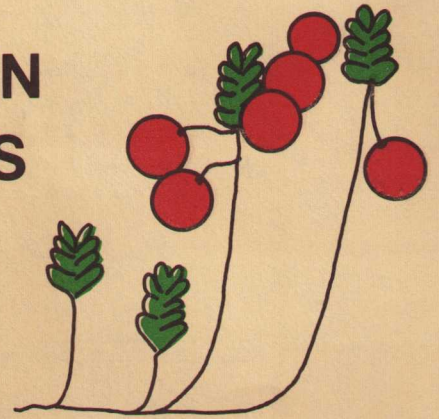


WISCONSIN CRAN TIPS



April, 1987

DEAR WISCONSIN CRANBERRY GROWER:

April!... and time again for CranTips. After an unusually mild winter, it appears another early spring is developing, as in 1986. Growing Degree Day (GDD, base 50°F) accumulations from March 1-April 8, 1987, at the Marshfield Experiment Station totaled 85.5. Average ("normal") for the same period over the long term total is 24 GDD's. This of course means some early season operations based on growth stages, i.e., early herbicide or first fertilizer application may need to be made earlier. That is, if early development is not slowed by cold weather yet to come.

Turnout by cranberry growers for the reports by UW faculty on research sponsored in part by the WI Cranberry Board, Inc. on March 24 was excellent. More than 50 persons attended and hopefully found the more indepth reports informative and useful. I join with other faculty in expressing our appreciation for your interest and support! Without it cranberry research in Wisconsin would be very limited. Enclosed with CranTips is a copy of a history and description of the 'Searles' cranberry, recently published in the Fruit Varieties Journal. It was written at the request of the editor, Dr. David Ferree, Ohio State University, as a cover feature. Other cover stories have featured 'Concord' grape and the 'Delicious' apple, other fruit varieties which have had a dramatic impact over time on the fruit industry and society. 'Searles' now is part of that historical record. My special thanks to Clarence A. Searles for his help on this. We all wish you every success in 1987!

FUNGINEX REGISTRATION APPROVED . . .

The "Special Local Needs" (i.e., 24[c]) registration of FUNGINEX 1.6EC (triforine) to control cottonball on cranberries in Wisconsin is approved for 1987, through 1991. Meanwhile, FMC Corporation has informed me that they have submitted a package to EPA for a permanent label. Approval of this is pending, but don't hold your breath!

A copy of the new label is included in this mailing of "CranTips." Please read it carefully as several changes have been made. The application interval is now 7-14 days, instead of 10-14 days. I am recommending that the material be applied in four consecutive applications, beginning at bud break and then at 7- to 10-day intervals (see 1987 edition of "Cranberry Pest Control in Wisconsin," UWEX publication A3276). Currently, we are not recommending applications be made during bloom as the label recommends. Previous research in Washington demonstrated that triforine, in the emulsifiable formulation, significantly lowered cranberry yield when two applications were made during bloom. Until proven otherwise under Wisconsin conditions, applications of FUNGINEX during bloom should be avoided. Please note:

FUNGINEX is NOT to be mixed with spray adjuvants (see label). In addition, we are not recommending application through the irrigation system UNLESS you previously have had success with this method of application. If questions arise, please feel free to contact me at (608) 262-6241.

-Steve Jeffers

PERSPECTIVES . . .

The level of risk from pesticide exposure is less than that of driving motor vehicles, swimming, bicycling, hunting, using home appliances, skiing, smoking, drinking alcohol or 19 other sources according to the magazine Science of Food and Agriculture. However, pesticides were perceived as the 4th greatest cause of risk by college students and 9th by adult women. In 1983 there were 2866 accidental deaths from medicinal poisoning in the U.S. compared to 22 related to pesticides. Accidental deaths from pesticides could be reduced even further if everyone would follow the procedures specified on the label.

GOOD-BYE DIFOLATAN?? . . .

Chevron Chemical Company has stopped producing their fungicide DIFOLATAN (captafol) as of August, 1986. This decision was based strictly on economic circumstances. Questions regarding the environmental fate and toxicology of DIFOLATAN have been raised, and other fungicides have taken away a significant part of DIFOLATAN's market. Thus, the expense of defending and re-registering this product was not justifiable financially. Current supplies are reported to be adequate for 1987 needs. The material can be used as long as it is available. There is a remote possibility that another company may produce DIFOLATAN, but at the present, this seems unlikely.

This is a severe blow to the cranberry industry. DIFOLATAN was, by far, our most popular fungicide for managing storage rots in Wisconsin and was popular in other growing regions as well. At present, BRAVO appears to be the best alternative.

-Steve Jeffers

PHOTODEGRADABLE FILM . . .

Plastigone, a photodegradable plastic with wide applications in agriculture, is now available in the U.S.

Plastigone is a polyolefin polymer film that will disintegrate totally after exposure to sunlight during a predetermined time period, ranging from four weeks to seven months. Unlike ordinary plastic, which presents a major disposal problem after use, Plastigone is environmentally safe and dissolves completely into the soil, leaving no residue.

For more information, contact Plastigone, Sheldon Langinberg, Ideamasters, 7337 Northwest 35th Avenue, Miami, FL 33147, Tel. (305) 836-7400.

POTPOURRI ON INSECTS . . .

Dan Mahr attended a cranberry research entomology workshop sponsored by Ocean Spray in Plymouth, Massachusetts, April 8-10. The following bits of information will be of interest.

Parathion may not be reregistered by major producers and may not be available 2-3 years from now. Entomologists are continuing to evaluate alternative controls.

Drs. Carl Shanks (Washington), Glenn Fisher (Oregon) and Larry Dapsis (Ocean Spray) are evaluating insect-parasitic nematodes for control of soil insects (grubs, etc.). These nematodes can be applied like an insecticide and do not affect plants. Preliminary studies are very encouraging.

There can be big variations in pheromone trap catches between beds. Bottom line: the more traps you use, the more reliable the information.

The Massachusetts cranberry IPM program will have about 400 acres this year.

Dr. Joan Lasota (Massachusetts) is beginning a detailed research project on tipworm.

Black vine weevil is becoming a major problem in east and west coast growing areas, but damage is confined to dry-harvested beds which are not winter-flooded.

Lorsban at 3 pts/acre applied by air after fruit set can, under some circumstances, speckle berries.

Lorsban appears to be equally effective at 1 1/2 - 2 pts/acre as at the currently labeled 3 pts. Dow will be contacted about including lower rates on the label.

Mahr (Wisconsin) will be conducting research on shortening the Lorsban harvest interval. However, because it ties up in the waxy layer on the berry, it may not be possible to shorten the interval and stay within federal residue tolerances.

- Dan Mahr

LEADED GAS OBSOLETE?

By 1988, leaded gas will be banned entirely in the United States, if a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposal is carried out. Already, Amoco has become the first company in the nation to sell only lead-free gasolines, after testing the switch in 1,700 of its 15,000 service stations across the country.

However, Congress has required that before a total lead ban can take effect, EPA and the U.S. Agriculture Department must conduct a study to determine whether banning lead in gasoline will cause problems for farmers.

Most engines manufactured after 1973 use hard steel and don't need the build-up of lead on valve seats that prevents excessive wear, EPA officials say. Until EPA-USDA engine test results are known, farmers are advised to continue using leaded gas in gasoline engines that specify its use, and to insist on hard steel valve seat inserts when a valve job is required on a gasoline engine.

Of the 100 billion gallons of gasoline sold nationwide last year, about 40 percent was leaded.

From Wisconsin Energy News
Jan-Feb, 1987

1987 WISCONSIN CRANBERRY FIELD DAY - AUGUST 4, 1987 . . .

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the 1987 Cranberry Field Day. John Rezin and his family (Russell Rezin & Son Cranberries, Inc., Warrens) have generously agreed to host the field day. The plantings and facilities are excellent - we encourage you to attend! Nodji Van Wychen, 1987, President and the WCGA program committee will meet with Dave Olson, Monroe County Extension Agent, Dan Mahr, myself and the Rezin family in May to review planning details.

If you have ideas to improve the Field Day please contact one of us by May 1.

WATCH FOR RED SHOOT DISEASE . . .

This summer, we will be looking for marshes that have a problem with red shoot disease. Symptoms become most prevalent in July and August. These include enlarged red or yellowish leaves on spindly, elongated current season's shoots, and lack of flower blossoms. The disease has been reported previously from Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. We currently know of several infestations here in Wisconsin but would like to know the full extent of disease occurrence to determine if a significant problem exists. If these symptoms occur or have occurred in your marsh(es), please give me a call at (608) 262-6241 or send a sample to my lab (Dept. of Plant Pathology, 1630 Linden Drive, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706). Thanks for your assistance.

- Steve Jeffers

UW SOIL AND PLANT ANALYSIS SERVICES

A new brochure outlining many routine and special soil and plant analysis services offered by the UW Laboratories is available. For a copy contact your UW county Extension office or send a postcard to: Soil and Plant Analysis Lab, 5711 Mineral Point Road, Madison, WI 53705 or call Madison (608-262-4364) or Marshfield (715-387-2523).

A TEMPORARY "AUF WIEDERSHEN" . . .

Some of you are aware I will be in Finland through October 1. My wife Judith and I will leave May 14 for Piikkio, in southwestern Finland where I will initiate a cooperative research program with scientists at the Institute

of Horticulture, Agricultural Research Centre, a part of the federal agricultural research system of Finland.

Emphasis in the research is on Vaccinium species, close relatives of the North American cranberry, including blueberry, European cranberry, Vaccinium oxycocum and the lingonberry, Vaccinium vitis-idaea. It is my intent to reintroduce lingonberry as an alternative crop to Wisconsin, with a limited research program to develop cultivars adapted to our climate and soils.

My current research program on fruit set in cranberry will be continued at full speed in 1987 by Brian Birrenkott, graduate research assistant. Dr. "Mac" Dana has kindly agreed to handle grower requests in my absence. Dr. Dan Mahr will serve as contact and coordinator for our Extension fruit crop programs including CranTips in the interim. Our fruit programs are in good hands!

I'm pleased and honored to have been awarded a Fulbright-Hays grant which provides the financial support for this research program. The Fulbright program, initiated by Senator Fulbright in 1947 was created to foster understanding of other countries and their culture and to promote educational and scientific exchange. The program in Finland is administered by the Finnish government under the Finnish-US Educational Exchange Commission.

I'm looking forward to a productive time in Finland and to sharing my experiences and knowledge with you after our return.

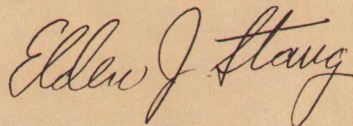
SMILE . . .

-Before television no one ever knew what a headache looked like.

-Call the love in your life intelligent and he or she will overlook your other lies.

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