



Cranberry Station Newsletter

APRIL 2002

UMASS CRANBERRY STATION

1 STATE BOG ROAD

P.O. BOX 569

EAST WAREHAM, MA 02538

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

SIGN POSTING: The Basics

Sign posting regulations can certainly be confusing. There are now just two signs used in posting for pesticide applications: the WPS (Worker Protection Standards) sign and the Chemigation sign. The WPS sign says (in English and Spanish), "Danger! Pesticides. Keep out." The sign has a person holding up their hand in a stopping gesture. The WPS sign has replaced the State Restricted Use sign and the Aerial (Helicopter) sign. The Chemigation sign says, "Keep out. Pesticides in irrigation water" and there is a Stop sign in the center. Please note the discussion below is in two main parts. The first part describes sign posting as it relates to WPS; the second part describes sign posting to protect the public as mandated by the CMR.

Sign posting as per WPS (protecting workers)

You must post signs as mandated by the Worker Protection Standards (WPS). Signs must be placed at all points where workers usually enter. Signs must be placed at each access road and each established walking route. Signs must also be placed at any border that is adjacent to any labor camp. Signs are NOT needed when there are no workers on the farm during the application and the restricted entry interval (REI) has expired, and when no workers are within a ¼ mile of a treated area.

Post signs 24 hr prior to an application. Keep the signs up during the application and throughout the REI. Remove the signs within 3 days after the REI expires.

Central Notification Location. In addition to posting signs at particular entrances and places to notify workers of the most recent application, there must be a Central Notification area. It must be easily accessible by all workers. It consists of several parts:

- EPA Safety poster
- Name, address, and phone number of the nearest Emergency Medical Facility
- Facts about every pesticide application

The following facts need to be posted prior to the applications and remain posted for 30 days after the REI expires:

- Product name and EPA registration number
- Product active ingredient
- Location and description of the treated area
- Time and date of the application
- REI

Sign Posting as per 333 CMR 13 (protecting the public)

Sign Posting with Restricted Use Compounds. The WPS sign has replaced the Restricted Use sign and the Aerial sign. The WPS sign must be posted when using any state and federal Restricted Use Pesticide, and when using any State Limited Pesticide with the signal word, "DANGER". Signs must be posted whenever a pesticide application is made within 50 feet of a public way (e.g., road trail, walkway, etc.).

Sign Posting for Aerial Pesticide Applications. WPS signs must be up at least 10 hours prior to the application. Signs must be used when pesticide are applied at any site with 500 feet of a protected area (e.g., houses, school, hospital, public roads, etc.).

Sign Posting for Chemigation Applications. The Chemigation sign must be posted at all points of entry. If there are no usual points of entry, post signs at nearby corners. Signs must be posted at any site within 300 feet of a sensitive area (e.g., residential, business, any public area, etc.). Signs must be posted prior to the application and must be English. The signs must be facing out towards the sensitive area.

Common regulations:

• **For Aerial and Restricted Use applications:** WPS signs must be posted at any and all principal entrances to the treated area to which the public is likely to pass. In addition, signs must be posted every 200 feet along the edge of the treated area facing the public way.

- Signs must remain up throughout the REI, but cannot be posted more than 120 hours after the application. If there is no REI on the label, signs must stay up for 48 hours.
- Signs cannot be left up permanently. Permanent signs quickly become “background” for workers and the public, defeating the purpose of sign posting.
- Signs are available (through ag suppliers) that fold in half. Using these signs eliminates the need to physically remove and re-post the signs multiple times during the season. You can open them to display the sign when needed and then fold the sign over (blank side exposed) when not in use.

Information for this newsletter article was taken from a presentation by Mike McClean (Department of Food and Agriculture) at the recent CCCGA Annual Meeting and Environmental Workshops and from other DFA bulletins. If you have further questions about sign posting on your farm, contact Mike at 617.626.1782 or 1781, michael.mcclean@state.ma.us, or Hilary Sandler at 508.295.2212, x21.

**IPM PHONE MESSAGE RE-ACTIVATED
508.295.2212 x61**

The IPM Phone Message service will be available this year starting mid-May. Service had been suspended due to a low volume of tabulated call-ins. However, many growers called expressing their desire to see the service re-activated.

The IPM Phone Message provides weekly updates of scouting reports. Pest outbreaks, IPM methods, and relevant production practices are highlighted. The service is updated every Friday by noon (unless otherwise noted). Information sources are local scouting consulting services and Extension personnel.

It is important that we be able to document usage of this service. The only way the system can tally calls to the extension is by leaving a “message”. A “message” will be recorded when callers wait several seconds or say “Goodbye” after the message tone sounds. If you call the IPM Phone Message during the season, please help us document how frequently the service is used and its importance to the industry.

Thanks for your help.

**HILARY SANDLER
CRANBERRY IPM SPECIALIST**

MAINE COMPOST SCHOOL 2002

April 22-26
June 24-28
September 23-27
October 21-25

University of Maine Extension offers a multi-day compost school that is open to anyone interested in composting. The course is designed for farmers, municipal managers, public officials, compost marketers, etc. The objectives of the course are to provide participants with an understanding of medium and large scale composting, explore problems associated with the composting process, examine appropriate materials suitable for composting, and provide a forum for exchange of information.

Class sizes are small to encourage hands-on participation and maximum interactions. A Certificate of Program Completion is offered to show technical competence.

Registration fee is \$450 per participant. Lodging is approximately \$50 per night. Space is filled on a first-come, first-serve basis, so please apply early. Applications must be received at least 2 weeks prior start date. Call Neal Hallee at 207.581.1387 or email nhallee@umext.maine.edu. More information can be found at the composting website:

www.composting.org.

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East Wareham, MA 02538
(508) 295-2212 FAX (508) 295-6387

APRIL 2002 Issue

Deborah Cannon, Editor

Trade names are used for identification, no company endorsement or product discrimination is intended. The University of Massachusetts makes no warranty or guarantee of any kind, expressed or implied, concerning the use of these products.

Carolyn DeMoranville, Acting Director

!!!! LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER !!!!

**PESTICIDE SAFETY
MEETING**

**East Wareham Elks Lodge
April 23, 2002 8 AM - NOON**

AGENDA:

- 8:00 – 9:00 Protect yourself from pesticides**
Proper PPE – Martha Sylvania
Using the Correct Gloves – Carolyn DeMoranville
Applying Pesticides Safely – Martha Sylvania
- 9:00 – 9:50 Storing and securing pesticides properly**
Pesticide Storage – Martha Sylvania
Fire Department Procedures – Raymond Reimold

Coffee Break

- 10:10 – 11:00 Safe Water Quality**
Water Quality – Bob Bentley
Drift Issues – Martha Sylvania

- 11:00 – 12:00 Getting Chemigation Right**
Chemigation Requirements – Steve Ward and
Matt Beaton
Chemigation Demonstration – Steve Ward and
Matt Beaton

**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, at the Cranberry Station: April 24, May 29, and June 26. Anyone working on the bog must be trained 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 Debbie at 508-295-2212 (ext. 10) or Marty (ext. 20) to sign-up.

CHART BOOK CHANGES

Under either fruit rot or upright dieback, the following rates should be utilized for these two fungicides:

- Bravo Weather Stik: 4.0 – 6.5 pt
- Bravo Ultrex: 3.8 – 6.0 lb

The maximum allowable formulation is 19 pt for Weather Stik and 18 lb for Ultrex.

**FRANK CARUSO
PLANT PATHOLOGY**

**Registration Form for Pesticide Safety Meeting
Tuesday, April 23, 2002
8:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Wareham Elks Lodge**

Please register for the meeting using this form.

COMPANY_____

CONTACT_____

PHONE_____

NAMES OF ATTENDEES_____

Return complete form with payment by **April 12th, 2002**, include check made out to **UMASS, \$25 per person.**

Return to: **Cranberry Station
P.O. Box 569
East Wareham, MA 02538**

Attach additional sheets as necessary.

**PRELIMINARY KEEPING
QUALITY FORECAST**

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but as of April 1, there are **0 (zero)** out of a possible 10 (ten) points that favor keeping quality for the 2002 Massachusetts cranberry crop. The forecast is for a **VERY POOR** keeping quality. This is exactly where we were 12 months ago, and our third miserable preliminary forecast in succession (and four out of five). The final keeping quality forecast (issued June 1) could be upgraded if we have a cool and dry April and May. Based on this present forecast, normally this would be a particularly good year to hold late water. However, research has shown that this is not a good cultural practice to use after an especially mild winter. Unless the forecast changes dramatically, this would not be a good year to significantly reduce the number of fungicide applications or the rates of fungicides. Those beds that have a history of high field rot and beds that had rot in 2001 should be watched very closely. Don't shoot the messenger...all I do is compile the weather parameters and compare them to the standards in the formula. Nothing went in our favor this past year.

Frank L. Caruso
Plant Pathology

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