REVIEW OF FERTILIZER PRACTICES FOR NEW PLANTINGS

I am interested in reviewing and potentially revising my recommendations for fertilizer management on new plantings. In order to do this, I would like to examine the practices of many growers and determine which of these are the most successful in filling in the vine canopy and bringing the bog into production. So, I am asking for participants in a study of this practice. This is what I would ask of you if you choose to participate:

Provide information for Years 1-3:
- Planting date and method (density and plant material used)
- Fertilizer records for years 1, 2, and 3 of the new planting (brand, analysis, rates)
- Sanding - when and how much
- Yield information for first and second crops harvested

Allow my staff to visit the bog:
- October Year 1; July and October Year 2; July Year 3. They will randomly lay out tape measure transects (10 per bog) and record presence or absence of a plant at intervals along the tape (usually every half meter). This should be no more invasive than insect scouting.

If you planted this year (or are planning to) and are interested in contributing to this project, please call me at extension 25.

CAROLYN DEMORANVILLE

DEVELOPMENT STAGE PHOTOS

I have been documenting plant growth stages since early spring and posting the photos to our web page: www.umass.edu/cranberry. On that page is a link to “2011 frost tolerance photos” that takes you to a list of dates. If you click on a date in the list you will get a pdf file with a discussion of the stage and photos. I will continue to post photos every 1-2 weeks through the season. These documents are useful to get a visual of the growth stages that we use to determine when to apply fungicides and fertilizers. They are also useful in determining windows for herbicide applications. At the end of the season, I plan to assemble a document illustrating the progression of stages through the season.

CAROLYN DEMORANVILLE

THE LAST WORKER PROTECTION TRAINING FOR THIS SEASON !!!!

Cranberry Station Library 2-4 PM

The Final Worker Protection Trainings for 2011 for cranberry workers in the handler category will be offered this spring on June 29th.

There is a $5 fee to cover the cost of the WPS training manual. If you have a pesticide license, you do not need this training.

Contact Martha Sylvia: 508-295-2212, ext. 20 to sign up or for additional information.
The Keeping Quality Forecast for June 2011 is for **POOR** keeping quality.

We calculated 4 of a possible 16 points to arrive at this forecast. We were awarded 1 point for sunshine hours in February, 2 points for March sunshine hours, and 1 point for March precipitation. We received no additional points beyond the Preliminary KQF. This is a year that you should probably not reduce your fungicide rates and/or the number of fungicide applications. If you have a bed that had late water held this spring, you can still reduce your fungicide inputs in spite of the forecast. As usual, call me if you have any specific questions or concerns about a particular bed.

**FRANK CARUSO, PATHOLOGIST**