After waiting an eternity, the fungicide Aliette WDG finally received a Section 3 national clearance for use against Phytophthora root rot on April 23. We initiated field trials with this fungicide at the same time we started looking at Ridomil in 1987! Why it wasn’t registered earlier than this is a long story with many twists and turns. In our trials, Aliette performed comparably to Ridomil in the control of the disease. Its active ingredient, aluminum tris (O-ethyl phosphonate), has a mode of action that is entirely different from that of Ridomil’s active ingredient. We have been looking to register Aliette all this time because we were concerned that prolonged use of Ridomil would lead to development of resistance in the fungus Phytophthora cinnamomi. There are many documented instances of resistance to Ridomil, but none that I know of to Aliette by Phytophthora species. I do not have reason to suspect that the P. cinnamomi that attacks cranberry has developed resistance to Ridomil. Where the fungicide is being utilized, it appears to be working well and when used with other control strategies (drainage improvement, sanding, fertilization, etc.), growers are not applying it in an excessive number of times. However, it is always good to have another chemical available with a different mode of action.

Aliette can be applied by chemigation or other equipment. You must use your own judgment in deciding whether to treat the entire bed or to spot treat those troublesome areas of the affected bed. The rate is 5 lb/acre, the same rate we tested in our field trials years ago. Aliette can be taken into the plant through the foliage, and consequently, it is not as important to apply the fungicide while watching weather forecasts for rainfall in excess of 0.5 inch or frost nights where the sprinklers will be run for a long period of time. Nonetheless, it is always a good practice to avoid a fungicide application immediately prior to these weather events to maximize the amount of active ingredient remaining on the plants for protection. Four applications are allowed, or a maximum of 20 lb per acre. The PHI (pre-harvest interval) is 3 days, much shorter than the 45 day PHI for Ridomil. The re-entry time is 12 hours after application. It is recommended that Aliette not be tank-mixed with copper compounds (Champ, Kocide or any of the copper-based fungicides or fertilizers containing copper) or adjuvants. Either of the latter materials may result in phytotoxicity in the cranberry foliage or flowers.

It is still recommended that you bring in samples of a suspected disease outbreak for diagnosis in our lab. We can culture the fungus in 48-72 hours, and determine what percentage of the roots in your sample are infected. I recommend drainage improvement before any fungicide is applied to the affected bed.

If you have any questions, please call (ext. 18) or email (fcaruso@umext.umass.edu) me.

**BEDS WITH A HISTORY OF UPRIGHT DIEBACK**

My doctoral graduate student, Nora Catlin, is looking for sites for field study this summer where upright dieback has traditionally been a problem. If you have such a bed and wouldn’t mind us using it as a site for her research, please contact me. She is ready to get going any time.

**FRANK L. CARUSO**
**PLANT PATHOLOGY**
SUMMER FLOODS

Management for crop elimination (plants and bog remain viable). In order to remain classified as a farm for purposes of property taxes (Chapter 61A) and to qualify for the agricultural exemption for certain management activities, it is crucial that your operation not become classified as an abandoned bog. Normal and continued maintenance activities associated with preserving the beds for future production should suffice to keep an agricultural classification. However, a property must generate some gross income from farming in order to qualify for Chapter 61A classification. For further information on Chapter 61A issues, contact CCCGA or Massachusetts Farm Bureau.

Flooding is a proven method to eliminate crop for a given year by killing blossoms. If you are planning to flood for this purpose, you may also consider eliminating some flowering potential by allowing the bog to be exposed to cold temperatures. Exposure to temperatures below the frost tolerance will damage flower buds and decrease flowering.

Short summer flood. If using this method, do not protect from frost in the spring unless a so-called ‘black frost’ (temperature at least 5º below tolerance, rapid temperature drop, low dew point) is predicted. This may eliminate some flower buds (depending on how the frost season goes). However, once the buds have passed the 25ºF stage, exposures to temperatures below 25º may damage the new growth as well as the flower buds.

Time the summer flood to begin when pinheads are observed. Most flowers will have opened or are at the pinhead stage (unopened pods will survive the flood). Hold a deep flood for about 5 days. The exact duration will depend on water depth and temperature. If water is warm and flood is shallow, floods as short as 2-3 days have been effective. However, if temperatures are low and water remains cool, a longer flood is recommended. Some growers held the crop destruct flood for as long as 7-8 days in 2000 with good bloom kill and no impact on the vines.

At the CCCGA winter meeting workshop on low cost management, Northland Cranberries’ use of a 1 month flood was discussed. At this duration, weed species may have been affected. However, areas where the flood was shallow showed extensive vine damage.

For whatever duration the flood is held, complete coverage of the plants (a good deep flood) is the key to success.

Traditional long summer flood. This flood will also suppress soil insects and briars (partial control of dewberry). Keep the bog well drained in the early spring. Apply the flood on May 12 — remove the flood on July 20. This flood is very tough on the vines and will likely reduce crop next year as well. If you do not need to control the target pests, this flood is NOT recommended. Scout carefully for large cutworms after the flood. Use no fertilizer in the year of the summer flood.

CAROLYN DEMORANVILLE

NEW INFORMATION ON CRANBERRY STATION WEB SITE

Hilary Sandler has recently updated the Cranberry Station web site. Go to “What’s Hot?” on the home page (www.umass.edu/umext/programs/agro/cranberries) for links to handouts from the Cranberry Management School and the Research and Extension Update. A presentation on fertility management for new and producing beds by Carolyn DeMoranville is available. Remember that old issues of the newsletter are also available through the web site.

HILARY SANDLER
CRANBERRY IPM SPECIALIST

UMass Cranberry Experiment Station
1 State Bog Road, P.O. Box 569
East Wareham, MA 02538
(508) 295-2212 FAX (508) 295-6387
Carolyn DeMoranville, Acting Director
MAY 2001 Issue
Deborah Cannon, Editor

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CAROLYN DEMORANVILLE
MANAGEMENT FOR NON-CROP BEDS
CHECKLIST:

✓ Maintain dikes and flumes. Keep ditches clear enough to avoid drainage problems.

✓ Irrigate so that the plants are preserved. Use a tensiometer or water level float for scheduling. Take the opportunity to manage the water table so that rooting depth is increased. Production of deeper roots takes energy from other plant processes such as fruit production, but when crop is eliminated, this is not a problem. With deeper roots, the bed should be more productive in later years.

✓ Consider frost protection only when the prediction is for more than 5º below tolerance or a severe frost warning is issued for the uplands.

✓ Scout for and control foliage chewing insects such as cutworms, army worms and especially fireworms.

✓ Control dodder. Failing to control dodder will lead to run-away infestations and reduced plant vigor (poor bud production) for next year. A short flood may work for dodder control, even on producing beds. Growers have had success with an 18 - 24 hour flood applied in mid-May. Time the flood to coincide with a frost night if feasible and particularly if trying this on a producing bed. Such a flood may also affect some insects.

✓ Control diseases as needed, consider one fungicide application to prevent buildup of fruit rot fungi which may also cause upright dieback. Note that Phytophthora root rot may be a problem in poorly drained areas after a summer flood is used.

✓ Use 1/3 the fertilizer rate as that for a producing bog (none if using long summer flood). Apply in late July or early August.

CAROLYN DEMORANVILLE

SCOUTING THIS SEASON

More than any other previous year, this season you want to minimize inputs and maximize profits. This strategy certainly relates to your IPM scouting program. This article summarizes information presented by Anne Averill at the UMass Cranberry Production Training Workshop on January 18, 2001 at the Plymouth Sheraton.

If you have limited time and labor resources, consider amending your scouting program as follows. Do not eliminate your spring sweeping. Try to sweep at least once, preferably twice or more, especially if your bogs have a history of cranberry weevil infestation. If you sweep only once, time your sweeping event for the week of May 25 or June 1. Overall, you should be monitoring for cranberry weevil, Sparganothis fruitworm, gypsy moths, cutworms, cranberry fruitworm, and soil insects.

As Anne mentions in the 2001 Chart Book, in today’s economy, the action thresholds for most spring caterpillars could be relaxed greatly because the value of the crop saved is too low to equal the cost of the spray. However, caution should be taken before ignoring high number of cranberry weevil, black-headed fireworm, and Sparganothis in the spring. This will result in a second generation infestation at bloom and fruit set and establishment of an infestation that may be harder to control in subsequent years.

Be sure to walk your bog thoroughly as often as your schedule allows. At minimum, inspect once during the early part of the season and once during the latter part. Look for things that seem out of the ordinary. Inspect bigger issues from the dike. Map or flag problem areas so you can easily locate them later in the season. In addition, do close-up inspections looking for signs of webbing, chewing, or actual insects. Closely inspect weak areas for girdler infestations and other soil insects. If you see discolored patches, this may indicate an infestation by southern red mite. Be aware that cranberry flea beetle populations may move in from July through September.

You should spray at least once for cranberry fruitworm, unless you are using the late water scouting method. Then, you would base your first spray upon the infestations (action thresholds) that you are finding as you intensively inspect fruit for viable, unhatched fruitworm eggs.

The use of pheromone traps for cranberry girdler, black-headed fireworm, and Sparganothis are recommended. They are fairly inexpensive to use (~$15-20 per 10 acres for the season) and are very important for timing sprays. Spray 10 days after peak flight for black-headed fireworm. The timing for cranberry girdler varies, depending on whether you are using 1 or 2 sprays. Pheromone traps for Spag are good for timing treatment of the second generation, which is 2 weeks after peak flight. Most populations of Sparganothis in the Carver, Middleboro, Plympton, Marion, and Cape areas are resistant to Lorsban and Orthene. You will need to use alternative options. Check with the Entomology lab for the most current information.

It is critical to maintain a basic scouting program, even though it may be tempting (seemingly economical) to drop this part of your production practices. I strongly encourage you to scout your bogs as much as you can afford to do. If you miss an outbreak this year, chances are the missed outbreaks will translate into more severe problems in subsequent years. This is particularly true for cranberry weevil and cranberry fruitworm. Be sure to keep good records of all the activities that you do perform. If you have any questions or concerns about your scouting program, feel free to call me at ext. 21.

HILARY SANDLER
CRANBERRY IPM SPECIALIST

UPDATED TELEPHONE EXTENSION LIST

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University of Massachusetts, College of Food and Natural Resources, United States Department of Agriculture, and Massachusetts counties cooperating. UMass Extension offers equal opportunity in programs and employment.
ORGANIC CRANBERRY CONFERENCE
MAY 14, 2001
UMass Cranberry Experiment Station

TENTATIVE AGENDA

9:00-9:10 Welcome
9:30-10:00 Don Franczyk, NOFA- Overview of new USDA Guidelines
10:00-10:20 Barbara Sanderson, Jonathan Farms - Packaging, Distributing, Marketing
10:20-10:45 COFFEE BREAK
10:45-noon Grower Discussion Panel
   Monika Mann, Mann Farms - Transitioning to organic
   Skip Paul, Wishingstone Farm - veggies and fruit/marketing
   Eric Sideman, Ridgelside Farms - Technical Service Director
   ME Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
   Tom Taylor-Lash, Gramps’ Farms
   Sue Tomkin, West Branch Farm Products - Exporting fruit/Certification process

Noon-1:00 LUNCH
1:00-1:30 Growers’ panel (continued)
1:30-2:30 Growing cranberries organically inMA- Pest and horticultural concerns
   Anne Averill, entomology
   Frank Caruso, plant pathology
   Carolyn DeMoranville, nutrition
   Hilary Sandler, IPM and weed management
2:30-3:00 Research idea brainstorming