GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWERS

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) invites proposals from Massachusetts agricultural operations for participation in the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP). The AEEP program is a competitive, reimbursement grants program.

A proposal form is available on the web and must be completed and delivered to Agricultural Resources by the response date deadline. Applications that are sent by fax or electronically will NOT be accepted.

There are two response due dates:

ROUND ONE: November 11th, 2005 ($200,000 will be awarded under this round)
US Postal Service date stamp no later than November 11, 2005 or hand delivered to Agricultural Resources by 4:00 PM. Construction projects will only be considered in Round 1.

ROUND TWO: February 1st, 2006 ($100,000 will be awarded under this round)
US Postal Service date stamp no later than February 1st, 2006 or hand delivered to Agricultural Resources by 4:00 PM. Construction projects will not be considered in Round 2 due to the short time frame for implementation.

Please complete and return the proposal form to:
Gerard Kennedy, Environmental Analyst
Department of Agricultural Resources,
251 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114

The purpose of AEEP is to provide support to agricultural operations in Massachusetts for the mitigation and/ or prevention of negative impacts to the Commonwealth’s natural resources, including water and air, that may result from agricultural practices.

Responsive proposals selected to participate in AEEP will be reimbursed for approved costs of materials to install and or implement agricultural best management practices that improve water quality, conserve water or reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Examples of practices funded in previous years include purchase and installation of flumes, trickle irrigation lines, compost pads, solar powered pumps, fuel efficient low emission motors and removal of sources that may release petrochemicals into the environment. For 2005/2006, Agricultural Resources is particularly interested in funding proposals that reduce impacts on water bodies from livestock operations. Innovative proposals with the potential to successfully address these impacts from livestock operations will receive a higher ranking. Reimbursement of up to $24,000 will be awarded on a competitive basis.

For more information about the AEEP program please access the following website:
http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aeep/
or call Gerard Kennedy at 617-626-1773.

CRANBERRY MANAGEMENT UPDATE
RADISSON HOTEL PLYMOUTH HARBOR
Wednesday, January 18th, 2006
7:30 AM - 4 PM

This educational program is a streamlined session with “how-to” information for growing cranberries effectively and economically by implementing the latest research. It is a combination of Cranberry Production Training and Research & Extension Update.

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. $15.00 charge includes a morning coffee, a mid-morning coffee break and handouts. 4 contact hours are being requested for Pesticide recertification credits for the cranberry category.

SCHEDULE TO BE ANNOUNCED
SIGN-UP PAGE 3
**FALL WEED CONTROL**

Several options are available to control weeds after harvest. Please review the following to see if these would fit into your activity schedule.

**Evital 5G:** Many growers have told me, “Evital in the fall or not at all”. This preemergence herbicide does seem to provide good control of target weed species when applied in the fall. Evital is best for control of sedges and rushes. The label permits application rates up to 160 lb/A in the fall. I am running additional tests this fall to fine-tune dose recommendations, but based on experience, you should use low rates (60-80 lb/A) on sensitive varieties, such as Stevens and McFarlin. Use Evital sparingly on newly planted bogs; rates as low as 25 lb/A applied in the spring have caused injury. Allow at least 3 weeks between the time of treatment and application of the winter flood. Crop injury is most likely to occur with Evital on bogs that have poor drainage, so consider this factor when choosing herbicides.

**Casoron 4G:** I would have to say that the jury is still out on the benefits of using Casoron in the fall as compared to the spring. Some growers prefer it and some never use it. My personal feeling is that this decision usually comes down to whatever fits best in your schedule. I have not seen any improved or increased control by using Casoron in the fall. Casoron is best suited for control of broadleaf weed species and may give some control of a few grasses and sedges. For whatever timing you use, you are limited to using 100 lb/A in any 12-month period. So if you used or plan to use Casoron for dodder control in the spring, you must adjust your rates accordingly. Provided there is at least one month between application and sanding, you can use Casoron in the fall prior to sanding. In the spring, you should apply Casoron after sanding. Do not sand on top on a Casoron application. Allow at least 3 weeks between the time of treatment and application of the winter flood.

**Stinger 2E:** Stinger can be used postharvest to control members of the Aster family (e.g., pitchforks, asters) and Pea family (e.g., wild bean, indigo). Stinger can injure cranberry plants, even after harvest. Always use the lowest effective dose. Stinger works as a growth regulator so it would be LESS effective postharvest since many plants are going into dormancy at this time. However, the use of Stinger may be appropriate in some situations. If you are spraying very susceptible plants, like wild bean, use about 0.5 teaspoon per gallon of water. Wiping solutions are typically made up at 5 Tablespoons per gallon of water.

**RoundUp:** Postharvest sprays of Roundup are permitted. The label states mixing rates of 0.4-0.7% solutions (3-5.5 teaspoons or 15-27 ml per gallon of water). Solutions of 1% or more cause serious vine injury to vine death, so be very careful!! Howes seems to be a bit more susceptible to injury than Early Blacks. We tested various spray concentrations against narrow-leaved goldenrod and nut sedge. Late October applications seem to give better weed control for NLGR, but these applications seem to hurt the vines more than November applications. Nut sedge did not seem to be controlled for any of our test combinations. I think use of RoundUp sprays could be useful for areas that are overwrought with weeds (like with a dewberry infestation) where you have virtually no vines in the area. You could spray the weeds, remove the dead plant material and then replant next spring. Be very careful with spray applications of RoundUp! RoundUp is designed to kill any plant with chlorophyll in it; it is very non-discriminating.

If you have any particular questions or concerns about fall weed management, please call me at the station (x21).

**HILARY SANDLER,**
**IPM SPECIALIST**

UMass Cranberry Station
1 State Bog Road, P.O. Box 569
East Wareham, MA 02538
(508) 295-2212 FAX (508) 295-6387
NOVEMBER 2005 Issue
Deborah Cannon, Editor

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CRANBERRY STATION NEWSLETTER & REVISED 2006 CHART BOOK RENEWAL

YOU MUST RETURN THIS FORM EACH YEAR TO STAY ON OUR MAILING LIST!!

The Cranberry Station Newsletter is provided free to all MA growers, cranberry researchers and IPM consultants nationwide. Annual subscription fee of $15 is required for out-of-state growers and industry personnel. All persons wishing to receive this newsletter (whether paying or not) must complete and return this renewal form to maintain a subscription. Include a check (made out to UMass) with the renewal form if you are out-of-state or are industry personnel. All subscriptions sent by email, including out-of-state and or industry personnel are FREE.

Everyone must respond to this notice by Dec. 31, 2005 or your name will be taken off of our mailing list for 2006!

| NAME ______________________________________ | Please check one: |
| COMPANY ____________________________________ | Owner __________ |
| ADDRESS ____________________________________ | Employee ______ |
| TOWN _______________________________________ | Researcher ______ |
| ZIP _________________________________________ | Consultant ______ |
| PHONE ______________________________________ | Industry ________ |
| EMAIL: ____________________________________ | Private sector ______ |

No. of acres:_________  Change of address? (Y or N)____________

Please Choose One!!!  Postal delivery____ or Email____

Registration Form for Cranberry Management Update
Wednesday, January 18, 2006 7:30 AM - 4 PM
Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor

Please register for the meeting using this form.

| COMPANY________________________________________________________________________ | Return with payment by: |
| CONTACT________________________________________________________________________ | January 7th, 2006 |
| PHONE____________________________________ | Include check made out to: |
| NAMES OF ATTENDEES_______________________ | UMASS |
| _________________________________________ | In the amount of: |
| _________________________________________ | $15 per person. |
| _________________________________________ | Return to: |
| _________________________________________ | UMass Cranberry Station |
| _________________________________________ | P.O. Box 569 |
| _________________________________________ | East Wareham, MA 02538 |

Attach additional sheets as necessary.
University of Massachusetts Extension announces the availability of its ever popular Garden Calendar for 2006. The theme for the 2006 UMass Garden Calendar is Garden Images.

Like many of you, we Extension Educators love plants and love taking pictures of plants, having constantly used plant photos in most of our educational efforts. We firmly believe that “a picture says a thousand words” and that it is easier and more enjoyable for people to understand when pictures accompany words. However, we are not only horticultural professionals, but also passionate gardeners with combined gardening experience of over 180 years. So, in a shift from our usual themes, we thought we would show you some of our favorite garden images. Each image is accompanied by a brief description to help understand what plants or garden features excite us. Information on garden pests and management strategies are also included in the daily gardening tips, always a feature of the UMass Garden Calendar.

For more details, go to www.umassgardencalendar.org.

As always, each month features
* An inspiring garden image.
* Daily sunrise and sunset times.
* Daily gardening tips for Northeast growing conditions, such as when to plant peas and how to manage grubs.
* Phases of the moon.
* Low gloss paper for easy writing.
* 2006 regional Flower Show dates.
* Plenty of room for notes.

To order send $11.00, payable to UMass, to UMass Outreach Bookstore, Draper Hall, 40 Campus Center Way, Amherst, MA 01003-9244. Bulk orders of 10-50 copies are available at $7.00 each, while orders of more than 50 copies cost $6.00 each plus shipping and handling. For an order form and chart of shipping charges, or to order online, go to www.umassgardencalendar.org.

For more information, contact the UMass Outreach Bookstore at (413) 545-2717 or the UMass Extension Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Program at (413) 545-0895 or eweeks@umext.umass.edu.