



CRANBERRY WEB

The Newsletter of the BC Cranberry Marketing Commission and the British Columbia Cranberry Growers Association

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cranberries



Advisory Committee

The Commission has structured an Advisory Committee as soon will be required in the amended regulations that guide its operations.

The advisory committee includes Darshan Banns, Rick Ball, Jane Kelly, Grant Keefer and Steve Robinson and will be independently chaired by Linda Delli Santi who is also Vice Chair of the BC Vegetable Marketing Commission.

The Committee will review all aspects of the Commission and make recommendations on any changes or improvements it believes would be helpful and most importantly it will be able to appoint an independent person to sit as a Commissioner. The Committee will determine the process and criteria it will use to select the independent Commissioner.

Allen May Re-Elected to the Commission

Allen May was re-elected for a three year term at the Commission's 2010 AGM. Allen has completed two previous terms as a Commissioner and during that time has been responsible, among other duties, for the Field Days.

Mr May is also Vice Chair of the BC Council of Marketing Boards, the organization representing all 8 Boards and Commissions in British Columbia.



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Research Farm

Discussions are continuing with Gateway Program officials aimed at securing title to the property for the Cranberry Research Farm. Commission Chair John Savage told the recent AGM that he was optimistic

that negotiations will be concluded by this summer. The issues under discussion include road access, site preparation, utilities, water, and price.

2009 BC Cranberry Crop

The 2009 BC Cranberry Crop came in at 820,000 barrels, the third largest harvest since 2003.

The 2003 crop was over 830,000 barrels while the 2004 crop topped 850,000 barrels.

The 2009 crop was up over 18% compared to the 2008 crop.

Research reports
available on-line at
www.bccranberries.com



Two species of
parasitoids discovered
emerging from
cranberry tipworm.

Industry and IAF Funded Research Project

Study of Reproductive Behaviour of Cranberry Tipworm, *Dasineura oxycoccana*: Prelude to Identification of Pheromone for Monitoring This Insect Pest

Dr Sheila Fitzpatrick

This is a summary of the project on Tipworm recently completed by Dr Fitzpatrick. The Research Committee in reviewing the project results were pleased at the progress and optimistic that continuing this line of investigation may lead to the development of an effective control for tipworm.

Project Summary

Pheromone-release behaviour, known as “calling”, was observed during the morning of the first and subsequent days of female midge life until. Calling females extended their ovipositors and remained motionless. Sometimes the ovipositor was only partially or slightly extended; this behaviour was termed “subtle calling”.

Females on their first, second or third day after emergence called throughout the first 8 hours of the 16-hour photophase (light period). In the second 8 hours of the 16-hour photophase, calling was infrequently seen. During the photophase, females sometimes curved their ovipositors to the substrate then walked or flew dragging the ovipositor. A drop of fluid -- possibly a marking pheromone -- was left where the ovipositor first touched the substrate. This behaviour was called “marking”. Females were not watched during the 8-hour scotophase (dark period), so their behaviour during that time remains unrecorded.

During three months of observing cranberry tipworm midges under controlled conditions, we saw male tipworm midges that were attracted to containers vacated by calling females, to

the calling females themselves, and to drops of fluid deposited by marking females. We have yet to conduct controlled experiments to demonstrate that male tipworm midges are attracted to calling female in the lab and field.

We began designing containers to hold live female tipworm midges in pheromone traps. We found that female (and male) tipworm midges are very dependent on humidity, and died very quickly in dry air. We made a number of attempts to wick water vapour into the tiny tube containers, but were not successful at maintaining the female midges for more than 12 hours. Further work on this objective is required.

In July and August, 2009, R. Gries at SFU began investigating the chemical components in female tipworm midge pheromone. She immersed calling female midges in hexane to extract chemical components, then injected the hexane extract into a gas chromatograph. Effluent from the chromatograph was split to pass over a flame ionization detector and a male tipworm midge antenna connected to two electrodes. In this early work, Gries obtained several gas chromatograms of potential pheromone components and electroantennograms of male antennae responding to these compounds. G. and R. Gries have agreed to collaborate on this research in 2010.

Additionally, D. Peach discovered two species of parasitoids emerging from cranberry tipworm, and M.P.M. student M. Cook obtained comprehensive and unique data on cranberry tipworm phenology on cranberry and blueberry.



BCCGA AGM February 4, 2010

Mike Wallis, M.Sc., P.Ag. Executive Director

The BCCGA Annual General Meeting was held at the Delta Town & Country Inn following the BC Cranberry Marketing Commission AGM on Thursday morning February 4, 2010. As usual, it was an absolutely beautiful spring like day which likely reduced the number of members attending. However, the directors would like to thank those members from the Island and other regions who made the effort to turn out and hear about last year's activities and enjoy a hearty lunch following the reports.

Darsh Banns (Highland Redi-Green Turf Ltd.), Bob Hopcott (Meadows Feedlot) and Grant Keefer (Yellow Point Cranberries) were re-elected to the Executive for a term of 2 years.

One issue that received significant discussion at the AGM was the reduction in dues received from the membership for the 2008 crop (2009 budget year). The 2009 BCCGA Budget membership revenue projection was \$35,000 (based on 5,000 producing acres @ \$7.00/acre) and \$26,593 (as reported in the review engagement performed by Heather Newport Inc.) was received from members, a 25% shortfall.

The situation is a bit disconcerting, considering the Association just celebrated its 20th Anniversary this past August at the Cranberry Field Day.

The importance and value of the BCCGA should not be taken for granted. The BCCGA is a provincially registered Society, separate from the BC Cranberry Marketing Commission, yet it works in conjunction with the Commission on many initiatives, sharing Committee members between the two organizations.

The value of the BCCGA is that it's Board and Chair are all elected and can directly lobby government and/or related agencies on behalf of BC cranberry growers, where the Commission

cannot. One example of this ability is the BCCGA's \$2,100 contribution in 2008/2009 to the BC Agriculture Council's legal action at the BC Labour Relation Board, questioning the ability of United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) to unionize foreign workers under the BC Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (BCSAWP). Short of going into significant detail, the BCAC was not successful in it's action but awareness of the UFCW and its detrimental effect on BCSAWP was increased, within and outside government hallways.

The BCCGA runs on a very limited budget with a part-time Executive Director who is a contractor, not a paid employee. Office facilities in the past were shared with other organizations to reduce costs; since March 2009, the office has been relocated to the Executive Director's home office, rent free.

BCCGA membership dues are voluntary and the Executive is keenly aware of the optics of carrying a surplus; being producers themselves they recognize and appreciate the responsibility of using contributed funds wisely and for the benefit of BC cranberry growers. However, the ability to represent industry needs at various levels is difficult to perform with a 25% funding shortfall.

The BCCGA will endeavor for 2010 to keep the membership more informed about what it is we do and where we are working on your behalf, through more newsletters, notices and website updates. If you have any questions about the BCCGA, its role, what we do and how we do it, please do not hesitate to call the office at

604-309-9868 or email
info@bccranberrygrowers.com

If you don't have a Director's phone number, give me a call and I will give it to you; any Director will be more than willing to talk.

February 2010

*25% membership
revenue shortfall
on voluntary
membership dues*



*Association continuing to
reduce costs, work on
growers' behalf and
use funds wisely*





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Cranberry Irrigation System Assessment Survey
PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!

At the February 5, 2010 BCCMC/ BCCGA Research Committee Meeting, funding approval was provided for the BCCGA to carry out a project titled: Cranberry Irrigation System Assessment Survey.

The objective of the project is to perform irrigation system assessments on a representative sample of BCCGA member's irrigation systems to determine peak efficiency and distribution uniformities. Individual assessment results may be used by the participating farm to evaluate and/or modify their irrigation systems. Aggregate results will determine whether increased or more frequent irrigation assessment should be considered by industry to enhance cranberry water use management and efficiencies.

Participating growers can also use the data generated to further assess their irrigation system peak flow rate and annual water use calculations towards

fulfilling Canada- British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan Certification.

The on farm irrigation assessment will ideally be conducted on two fields of your choice and will take approximately one day (at the most) to perform. Assessment will be scheduled at your convenience and performed pre-bloom so as to minimize any crop impact. The procedure would involve the completion of a questionnaire about the particulars of the irrigation system, a measurement of sprinkler operating pressures and nozzle wear and a distribution uniformity test. All individual results are confidential and only aggregate results will be discussed in the final report.

If you are interested in participating (at no cost to yourself), please call Mike at the office, 604-309-9868 or email info@bcccranberrygrowers.com. We are looking for 15 farms to participate which would represent approximately 20% of the cranberry industry in BC.

