

CRANBERRY STATION NEWSLETTER

September 28, 2022 Vol. 23:6



UMass
Cranberry
Station

Research
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News from the IPM/Weed Lab

By Hilary Sandler and Katie Ghantous

USING FALL HERBICIDES IN 2022

Allow at least 3 weeks between the time of application and the winter flood. Flooding within 3 weeks of application moves the herbicide into the water and away from the target.

Flooding too soon will reduce efficacy, increase environmental risk, and waste money. Although temperatures will be lower and the risk of volatilization is lower (especially important for Casoron), it is important to plan your application just prior a rain event to favor soil incorporation.

This is critical if you still have conventional sprinkler heads, which have been removed for harvest. If your bog has pop-ups, you have the option to water the herbicide in if no rain is forecast.

Evital is good against sedges and rushes and works well when applied in the fall. Evital must be applied with a ground applicator. The fall rate can be as high as 160 lb/A on an established bog and up to 80 lb/A on new plantings; only one application can be made per year. People tend to use higher rates in the fall than the spring. Use higher rates for switchgrass and woolgrass. Lower rates can be used to control barnyardgrass, rice cutgrass, needlegrass, and smokegrass. Evital can injure vines on bogs that drain poorly, so be careful. Varieties such as Stevens and McFarlin are sensitive to Evital injury, so use lower rates. **Please let us know if you use(d) Evital on any of the super hybrids** and how it worked for you and if it caused any injury. Apply before a predicted rain to encourage soil incorporation.

Roundup sprays can be used as spot applications on the bog (and in the ditches) in the fall. Rates as low as 1-2% solutions can injure or kills cranberry vines, even into November. So BE CAREFUL! Use this herbicide in situations where the weed(s) have gotten so bad, there are few vines to worry about. Good candidates might include patches of



dewberry and poison ivy infestations. Weeds should be non-dormant when using Roundup (and all glyphosate products) and note that it mainly enters plants by absorption through leaves. If there are no leaves left on the weeds you are targeting, you may not see any control.

Some growers are re-experimenting with fall applications of **Casoron** for perennial weed control (especially PG). If you are doing fall applications vs PG, please let us know! Asters, loosestrife, nut sedge, woolgrass, narrow leaf goldenrod (follow by late water in spring), and spike rush are among the weeds that may respond to fall applications. Remember you can only apply 100 lb/A in a 12-month period. Casoron is labeled for use in the fall prior to ice sanding but you should not sand on top of a Casoron application. Single doses of high rates are needed to control many established perennial weeds.

The effectiveness of Fall applications of **Devrinol 2-XT** has not been documented by our lab, but maybe some of YOU have tried it; let us know!

Zeus is currently not labeled for applications in the fall. Applications should be done in the spring prior to budbreak.

Controlling Poverty Grass (PG) in the fall. The best option at this time of year is to hand-pull or otherwise physically remove PG. Our research has shown that plants will not regrow from leftover roots as long as the crown of the grass clump is removed. Seeds have already been produced and disseminated, so you cannot do anything about those until next year. Fall Evital (80 lb/A) does suppress existing plants but has not been observed to control plants in the spring. You will get some reduction in growth or vigor by spraying Roundup (0.5-1% solution) into the center of the plant if the PG is still green. Be very careful; the Roundup sprays will injure cranberry vines! Poast is very safe on cranberries and will also cause some reduction in PG growth and vigor when applied in the fall (but not nearly the effectiveness of summer applications). It is unknown if Casoron in the fall will have any effectiveness against PG, so if you try it, please let us know.

GENERAL HERBICIDE NOTES

Observations on Zeus this season. This spring some growers reported seeing patchy injury from Zeus applications on some beds. Old growth on vines remained red/dormant color despite buds elongating and appearing to develop normally. We believe that the symptoms were occurring in areas with previous stressors (e.g., scale infestations, pruning, water stressed areas), but more information is needed to understand what the risk factors for injury are. Injury was not widespread across entire beds, and vines appeared to develop normally.

To quickly get the data needed to get cranberries on the Zeus label, we tested the herbicide in a limited fashion. Now that it is labeled for use, the herbicide is being applied to different varieties under different circumstances, some of which may cause injury. We rely on your feedback to develop appropriate use pattern recommendations. To better help you use Zeus (or any new product) in the most effective manner, it is critical that we hear about your experiences. Please let us know if you saw Zeus injury this year. Please contact Hilary Sandler (413-800-6531 or hsandler@umass.edu) and Katie Ghantous (kghantou@umass.edu).



News from the Pathology Lab

By Leela S. Uppala, Salisu Sulley and Michael Nelson

LATE WATER BOGSIDE WORKSHOP RECAP

We held a Bogside Workshop on September 14, 2022, in Carver at A.D. Makepeace's Mullica Queen late water bogs to discuss the "Late Water" cultural practice and how it could be effectively employed to improve fruit quality and reduce fungicide use. We also discussed the progress of our late water research project, funded by USDA-NIFA SARE (United States Department of Agriculture- National Institute of Food and Agriculture-

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) grant, and demonstrated our draft “Late Water Decision-Making Model” interface. Our grower participants (Matt Beaton, John Mason, and Domingo Fernandes) shared their perspectives on late water, including factors to be considered for its implementation and advantages and challenges associated with its use. Thanks to all the growers that attended the workshop and provided us with valuable input to make the Late Water Decision-Making Model tool grower friendly and more efficient. Please feel free to reach out to Leela Uppala (suppala@umass.edu or 508-296-5330) with any questions.

Station News

By Hilary Sandler, Director

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Work for the lab renovation is nearing completion, especially for the upper levels where our labs and offices are located. We have been able to move desks, bookcases and filing cabinets but are still awaiting our temporary certificate of occupancy (TCO), which would allow us to work in those spaces. We remain hopeful the TCO will come in October. As for the new building, the elevator is being installed, most of the windows are installed, and the siding is going up. According to the current schedule, the new building and the lab building are slated to receive their full Certificate of Occupancy by mid-November.



When you come to see the new facilities, I hope you will agree that it has been worth the wait! The 2 new “library” labs look terrific. One is the new Plant Pathology Lab and the second one will be a shared Instrumentation Lab, well-stocked with new equipment that will enable us to do high-caliber analyses. There are also 2 new Sample Prep Labs on the upper level, fitted out and ready to go. The 3 new labs on the lower level are considered “soft shell”; these rooms have the basics and are just waiting for casework and connections to utilities as soon as funds become available. The renovated Lab Building, with all its upgrades including the HVAC, will enable us to continue to produce top-notch data to help move the industry forward. Finally, the current Admin Building is being repurposed to house a small meeting room/library as well as additional offices for staff and students.

Many exciting changes are just around the corner! We look forward to having the Cranberry Station back to being fully operational and accessible to all you so that we can work together to solve horticultural and pest management issues that are important to you and your farm.

OPEN HOUSE SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars! We will be hosting an **Open House on Wednesday December 7, 2022, Noon-4 PM** and you are invited. There will be guided tours throughout the afternoon and refreshments will be served. We are excited to showcase our new facilities! Tours will include our new meeting room and offices spaces located in the new building and the renovated lower and upper floors of the Lab Building. Be on the lookout for your formal invitation arriving in the mail. We hope you can join us!

JANUARY MEETING SAVE THE DATE!

The **2023 UMass Cranberry Management Update meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2023, via Zoom**. Please be on the lookout for more information including agenda and registration in our upcoming newsletters and on our website: www.umass.edu/cranberry.

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