



# HORT MATTERS

OMAFRA Specialists in Horticulture and Specialty Crops.

VOLUME NO. 9, ISSUE NO. 17

AUGUST 5, 2009

## August - Time for Pruning Apples?

Leslie Huffman, Apple Specialist

Apple shoots have stopped growing, and trees have set terminal buds. Growth has been strong again this year after spring rains and moderate summer temperatures. However, much of the fruit is now shaded which will reduce colour at harvest maturity. Even well-pruned trees with open structures have this problem and would benefit from summer pruning.

Summer pruning, or as I prefer to call it, "August" pruning, is another management tool to manage vigour and improve fruit quality. August pruning is a quick haircut for the trees - only **some** the current season's growth around the fruit is removed. This is **not** the time to remove major limbs or make structural changes in the trees - leave that for next winter.

Removing leaves at this time removes energy from the tree, which can be a good thing for high vigour trees. However, it does reduce photosynthetic area, so is not recommended on low-vigour trees or on young trees that have not filled their allotted space.

Excessive amounts should not be removed, because over time, this would reduce the fruiting area of the tree. August pruning is best with done with hand pruners, and only standing on the ground - leave those ladders in the barn. Pruning from a ladder now is too expensive, and may cause bruising from dropping branches.

Avoid summer pruning if diseases like fire blight are present in your orchards. Your pruners can become infected with bacteria and your next cut will infect another tree. But if woolly apple aphids are a problem, summer pruning will reduce the populations and open the trees if sprays are required.

Time of summer pruning is important. Prune as soon as terminal buds are set, but do not delayed until late August or early September, or fruit may drop and trees may not harden off properly. Varieties that are prone to sunburn like Idared and Jonagold should be pruned early when fruit is smaller and less susceptible to sunburn. Be cautious about removing too much growth on Jonagold as it may affect the tree's ability to finish the fruit.

Generally, growers have found that the time they spend summer pruning reduces the time required to dormant prune. August pruning is a quick job to remove current season's growth, which will greatly benefit fruit colouring and finish on red apples.

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<http://www.ontario.ca/crops>

## COMING EVENTS

August 11, **Grape Tailgate Tour**, Niagara area. For more information see page 10

August 14-16, **Prince Edward County Wine Growers Association Tradeshow and AGM**. For more information visit <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/conferences/20090814.htm> or email Bonnie Evans at [cwhevans@bellnet.ca](mailto:cwhevans@bellnet.ca)

August 18, **Simcoe Vegetable and Alternative Crop Open House**, 1:30 p.m., Simcoe Research Station. Please RSVP by Aug 14 to 519-426-7127, ext 323.

For more info see page 4 or visit:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/conferences/20090818.htm>

August 20, **Ontario Potato Field Day**, H.J. VanderZaag Farm, Alliston. For more information contact Eugenia Banks at [eugenia.banks@ontario.ca](mailto:eugenia.banks@ontario.ca)

September 23, 24, **Handle with Care Symposium, Guelph Food Technology Centre, Guelph**. Connect with innovation and global experts in gentle processing. For more information about registration, contact Denise Horseman 519-821-1246 ext. 5068 or [dhorseman@gftc.ca](mailto:dhorseman@gftc.ca)

**Permit to Take Water Workshop**—9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m., Simcoe OMAFRA office.

- October 15, November 19, December 17

For more information call 519-426-4920 or visit

[http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/facts/pttw\\_course.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/facts/pttw_course.htm)

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To receive a fax version of Hort Matters, send your fax number to: OMAFRA, Vineland Resource Centre, Box 8000, 4890 Victoria Avenue N, Vineland Station, ON L0R 2E0 or fax to 905-562-5933.

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## Suggestions?

We'd like to hear from you

Hort Matters

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## Raspberry Crumble

Pam Fisher, Berry Crop Specialist

Raspberry harvest is in full swing in Ontario. The summer crop of raspberries usually comes and goes in the space of a few short weeks. During that time, we hope for good weather. Growers like to harvest raspberries early in the morning, before the day gets warm, but, it is also important to wait until the dew evaporates and fruit is dry. Rainy weather during harvest can create problems with fruit rots. It is important to keep on top of the picking in these conditions. Keep all ripe fruit picked on a regular basis.

Raspberries are so fragile! They must be handled gently and cooled quickly after harvest. Another tip for maintaining a high quality product is to harvest into small ½ pint containers so that fruit is not crushed.

One problem that shows up at harvest is crumbly berries. This is how we describe fruit that falls apart in your hand when picked. The individual drupelets that form the fruit are not cohesive and do not stick well together. There are several things that could cause this condition.



Sometimes, a variety tends to be crumbly, just because of its genetics. These varieties usually have a weak neck or collar where the fruit detaches from the plant.

Poor pollination and very low humidity during pollination can cause crumbly fruit, especially in greenhouses or high tunnels. Symptoms generally do not recur on the same plants the following year.

Sometimes crop nutrition is a factor in crumbly berries. To diagnose this problem, do a leaf analysis for micronutrients and test the soil pH.

Plant virus diseases such as raspberry mosaic, and tomato ringspot virus are the most common causes of crumbly fruit. Symptoms develop in a few small areas in the field, and re-occur in the same place every year. Affected areas gradually expand and the planting becomes unproductive with time. Virus diseases can be diagnosed at the pest diagnostic clinic at the University of Guelph. The lab there has recently expanded the number and types of tests that can be done to diagnose virus diseases.

Crumbly fruit has several causes. However, affected fruit is edible. Although it is difficult to harvest, it makes a great berry crumble.



**2009**  
**ONTARIO POTATO FIELD DAY**  
**Thursday, August 20th**  
**H.J. VANDER ZAAG FARM**  
**5900 Simcoe Road 10, ALLISTON**  
**3:00 pm**

- Display of new potato varieties
- Display of farm equipment
- 5:30 Barbeque

**Contact:**  
Dr. Eugenia Banks, OMAFRA  
[eugenia.banks@ontario.ca](mailto:eugenia.banks@ontario.ca)

## Rhizopus - A disease of wet soils

Sean Westerveld, Ginseng & Medicinal Herbs Specialist

With the very wet weather in some areas, Rhizopus may begin to show up in ginseng gardens. Rhizopus is a common soil fungus. It is also commonly found in the air and you may have seen it as a bread mould. It would appear as a fluffy white growth with tiny black dots. The dots are spore cases and they release tiny spores that disseminate on air currents. It is not a serious problem on ginseng every year, but because it is present in the soil, it can invade damaged roots when conditions are right. In wet gardens, it can cause a mushy rot of the lower stem on older roots and a stem and crown rot of seedlings. It does not usually move from the lower stem to the crown on older roots unless conditions are wet and warm and the crown is damaged by another disease. It can easily be mistaken for Pythium. On older roots it can infect roots that are already infected with *Cylindrocarpon* and the resulting rot causes the root to become a white gooey mass covered with soil. The only way to control Rhizopus in the field is to reduce soil water by proper site location and drainage and to reduce damage to roots by other diseases.

Rhizopus can also be a problem in the kilns. Rhizopus can remain alive on roots through the cooling, washing and drying procedures. It is usually present in soil that clings to the roots or can be present in the kiln itself if it was not properly disinfected. Rhizopus usually develops slowly until it is placed in the kiln. If the air is very humid in the kiln at the start of drying, the fungus can develop rapidly. Infected roots, once they are dried, exhibit grey patches (Figure 1) with a slight blistering. When sliced, these roots will have a dark or grey discoloration and dark rings inside (Figure 2). They will also have an off taste and smell. To avoid Rhizopus damage to roots in the kiln, ensure that dryers are properly disinfected. Also, avoid overfilling kilns because humidity will remain high for a longer period of time, and this will allow a longer window for Rhizopus to develop on the roots.



**Figure 1.** A dried root with extreme darkening due to Rhizopus infection in the kiln.



**Figure 2.** Moderate damage from Rhizopus after drying. Note the darkened interior in spite of little darkening at the surface.

## New Crops Workshop

### New Crops, Old Challenges: Non-traditional crops integrated crop management workshop

**Date:** Tuesday August 18, 2009 (*Rain Date: Thursday August 20, 2009*)

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Come out to the **Simcoe Research Station** to learn about:

- Non-traditional and specialty crops: demonstration plots of example crops
- Pest management and sprayer technology: discuss with provincial specialists
- Cover crops: opportunities to save your nitrogen dollars
- Current nitrogen research conducted by the University of Guelph
- Enjoy refreshments, meet with other producers and take the opportunity talk with University of Guelph staff and OMAFRA specialists

**PLEASE RSVP BY AUG. 14 BY CALLING 519-426-7127 ext. 323**

## Cowpea Aphids

Jennifer Allen, Vegetable Crop Specialist

This season has certainly been interesting. Springtails and sap beetle larvae feeding on garlic, black aphids on onions, herbs and weeds, and...wait a second, black aphids? When I think of the aphids in root, bulb and leafy crops, I think of the green peach aphid, the cabbage aphid, the turnip aphid, the potato aphid, the sunflower aphid and occasionally the foxglove and buckthorn aphids. So when I was given a sample of some black aphids found on onions I was stumped. I wasn't sure what species it was. Then I visited a grower who was suffering from something feeding on his herbs.

As we walked the rows of basil and oregano I noticed that the stems of the weeds interspersed within the crops looked black. A closer look revealed the fact that the stems were covered in black aphids. One on top another, dozens if not hundreds huddled together the entire length of the colonized plant's stem.

After some microscope work I had a name—these were cowpea aphids, *Aphis craccivora* Koch. Sometimes they are called black bean aphids; however true black bean aphids are a different species, *Aphis fabae*. What's interesting about cowpea aphids is that it has a wide host range (more than 50 crops) including alfalfa, legumes, ground nuts, peas, beans, cucurbits and brassica. As well, it feeds and reproduces on shepards purse, lamb's-quarters, smartweed and curly dock.

Like other aphids, cowpea aphids cause damage by injecting toxins into plants, transmitting viruses and producing honeydew that can result in sooty moulds.



Photo source: UC IPM Online



Photo source: Oklahoma State University

# Herbicide resistant weeds not just in field crops

Kristen Callow, Weed Management Program Lead - Horticulture

With far less herbicide options in horticultural crops as compared to field crops, horticulture producers tend to accept more weed escapes. The reality of this practice is that we could be harbouring and increasing herbicide resistant weeds in our fields and orchards. The following list documents the confirmed herbicide resistant weed species in the province of Ontario by herbicide Group: <http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/resistant-weeds/>

Herbicide Group*	Weed Species	Location(s)
2	Pigweed – redroot & green	Bruce, Elgin, Essex, Hamilton-Wentworth, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford, Perth, Stormont, Dundas and Glengary , Wellington
2	common lamb's-quarters	Elgin , Kent , Middlesex, Simcoe
2	green foxtail	Huron, Lambton, Perth, Wellington, Victoria
2	giant foxtail	Lambton
2	common cocklebur	Lambton
2	eastern black nightshade	Bruce, Elgin, Huron, Middlesex
2	common ragweed	Elgin , Essex, Haldimand/Norfolk, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford, Perth
2	waterhemp	Bruce, Lambton, Essex
4	wild carrot	Halton, Wellington
5	common lamb's-quarters	Numerous counties throughout Ontario
5	redroot pigweed	Waterloo
5	common ragweed	Brant, Essex, Haldimond/Norfolk, Hamilton-Wentworth, Lambton, Lennox & Addington, Niagara, Wellington
5	barnyard grass	Waterloo
5	yellow foxtail	York
5	old witch grass	Grenville, Grey, Haldimond/Norfolk, Prescott, Wellington
5	late flowering goosefoot	Brant
5	wild mustard	Glengarry
5	common groundsel	York
5	common waterhemp	Essex, Lambton
6	redroot pigweed	Essex, Kent
6	smooth pigweed	Essex
7	green pigweed	Middlesex
7	redroot pigweed	Simcoe
22	Canada fleabane	Essex
22	Field peppergrass	Essex

**Group 2 Herbicides** – are acetolactate synthase inhibitors (imidazolinones, sulfonyleureas, sulfonyleamino-carbonyl-triazolinones and triazolo-pyrimidines), such as Pursuit and Accent.

**Group 4 Herbicides** – are synthetic auxins (phenoxyacetic acids, benzoic acids and pyridines and quinoline carboxylic acids), such as 2,4-D, Dicamba and Lontrel

**Group 5 Herbicides** – photosystem II inhibitors (triazines, triazinones and uracils), such as Simazine, Sencor and Sinbar

**Group 6 Herbicides** – photosystem II inhibitors (benzothiadiazoles and nitriles) with the same site as groups 5 and 7 but different binding behaviour, such as Basagran and Buctril

**Group 7 Herbicides** – photosystem II inhibitors (ureas) with the same site as groups 5 and 7 but different binding behaviour, such as Lorox

**Group 22 Herbicides** – photosystem I electron diverters (bipyridilium), such as Gramoxone and Reglone

Glyphosate resistant giant ragweed is suspected and being investigated as well. Growers should be aware that these weeds are in horticulture production regions across the province and in the event of control failures herbicide programs will have to be altered.

You likely have a resistant weed population if you have a weed species that should have been controlled but is healthy while other susceptible species have been controlled or a weed control failure even when the correct herbicide rate was used and it was applied at the appropriate weed stage and under favourable environmental conditions.

You can report suspected resistant weeds by contacting the Agriculture Information Contact Centre 1-877-424-1300. By taking advantage of this toll-free number, suspicious weed species will be tested for resistance by the University of Guelph. Any information obtained from this service will allow weed researchers to develop control options for resistant weed populations.

You can also send samples directly to the University of Guelph. The University of Guelph will test, free of charge, suspected resistant weeds. Visit the link below for complete submission instructions.

<http://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/resistant-weeds/services/>

In order to prevent the development of herbicide resistant weeds growers should take into consideration the following practices:

1. Rotate herbicides with different modes of action. For example, do not use simazine (Princep Nine-T) continuously. Consider other pre-emergence broadleaf herbicide options. Avoid making more than two applications of the same herbicide in the same year.
2. Scout orchards and fields to identify weeds. Respond quickly to changes in weed population by controlling weeds before they spread throughout the entire orchard or field.
3. Use non-selective post-emergence herbicides (Round-up, Ignite, Gramoxone) in your weed management program.
4. Use herbicides only as-needed.

Gratitude is expressed to Dr. Peter Sikkema and Mike Cowbrough for their review of this article.

**Minor Use Updates**  
Jim Chaput, Minor Use Coordinator

## Pre-harvest interval amended for edible podded beans (snap beans) on Matador/Warrior insecticide labels via Minor Use Program

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) recently announced the approval of URMULE registrations for edible podded beans (snap beans) in Canada for **MATADOR** and **WARRIOR** (cyhalothrin-lambda) insecticides for control of labeled insects at a reduced pre-harvest interval (PHI) of 7 days. The active ingredient cyhalothrin-lambda was already labeled on a wide range of crops including grains, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits. Note that Warrior will eventually replace Matador in the marketplace.

Management of insect pests of snap beans requires consistent and timely monitoring and appropriate application of pest control products when pest thresholds are reached. This registration for a reduced PHI has been granted to improve upon necessary pest management strategies without compromising the safety of the harvested crop and also harmonizes the PHI with our U.S. producer colleagues.

The following is provided as a general outline only. Users should consult the complete label before using Matador or Warrior insecticides.

Matador or Warrior insecticide can be used for control of labeled insects on snap beans at a rate of 83 – 233 mL product per hectare in 100 to 200 L water per hectare. The application interval is 4 - 7 days depending on the presence of significant populations as determined by local monitoring. Do not make more than 3 applications per season by ground or 2 applications per season by air (Matador only at 83 ml/ha only).

Do not apply within 7 days of harvest for snap beans.

Follow all other precautions and directions for use on the Matador and Warrior insecticide labels carefully.

Matador or Warrior insecticides should be used in an integrated pest management program and in rotation with other management strategies to adequately manage resistance.

This minor use project was sponsored by the Quebec Horticultural Council (CQH) in collaboration with the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAPAQ). We also wish to thank the personnel of **Syngenta Crop Protection Canada Inc.** for their support of this registration and the personnel of the **Pest Management** Regulatory Agency for evaluating and approving this important pest management tool.

For copies of the new minor use labels contact Jim Chaput, OMAFRA, Guelph (519) 826-3539, Elaine Roddy, OMAFRA Vegetable Specialist at Ridgeway (519) 674-1616 or visit the Syngenta Canada website at [www.syngenta.ca](http://www.syngenta.ca)

## Control of Lygus bugs on Sunflowers added to Matador/Warrior insecticide labels via Minor Use Program

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) recently announced the approval of URMULE registrations for sunflowers in Canada for **MATADOR** and **WARRIOR** (cyhalothrin-lambda) insecticides for control of Lygus bugs (*Lygus spp.*) including Tarnished Plant bug. The active ingredient cyhalothrin-lambda was already labeled on a wide range of crops including grains, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits. Note that Warrior will eventually replace Matador in the marketplace.

Management of Lygus bugs on sunflowers has been identified as a key insect pest for several years especially in Western Canada where large acreages of sunflowers are produced. Lygus bugs, including Tarnished Plant Bug have become a common and widespread pest of many crops across Canada. Producers of sunflowers in all regions of Canada will benefit greatly from access to this safe and effective pest management tool. For more information about Lygus bug damage to sunflowers see <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/fae02s00.html>

The following is provided as a general outline only. Users should consult the complete label before using Matador or Warrior insecticides.

Matador or Warrior insecticide can be used for control of Lygus bugs on sunflowers at a rate of 83 mL product per hectare in 100 to 200 L water per hectare. The application interval is 7 days depending on the presence of significant populations as determined by local monitoring. Do not make more than 3 applications per season.

Do not apply within 7 days of harvest for sunflowers.

Follow all other precautions and directions for use on the Matador and Warrior insecticide labels carefully.

Matador or Warrior insecticides should be used in an integrated pest management program and in rotation with other management strategies to adequately manage resistance.

This minor use project was sponsored by the National Sunflower Association of Canada (NSAC) <http://www.canadasunflower.com> in collaboration with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI). We also wish to thank the personnel of **Syngenta Crop Protection Canada Inc.** for their support of this registration and the personnel of the **Pest Management Regulatory Agency** for evaluating and approving this important pest management tool.

For copies of the new minor use labels contact Jim Chaput, OMAFRA, Guelph (519) 826-3539, Melanie Filotas, OMAFRA at Simcoe (519) 426-4434 or visit the Syngenta Canada website at [www.syngenta.ca](http://www.syngenta.ca)

## Golf Course Turf and Sod Farms Receive Minor Use Registration for Control of *Pythium* Blight

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) recently announced the approval of a minor use label expansion for **Banol Fungicide (propamocarb HCl)** for control of *Pythium* blight on turfgrass in golf courses and sod farms. Although this product has been available to U. S. turf producers for many years, this is the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian registration of this product for turf and addresses a long-standing, identified minor use priority for turf production.

The original minor use label expansion request was made by Victoria Brooks of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research station in Agassiz, BC back in 2000. It has taken many years of dedicated effort on the part of the registrant, provinces, stakeholders and the PMRA to address the outstanding data requirements; however golf course and sod farm turf producers now have a key resistance management tool available to them to help manage this disease.

Banol fungicide can be used for preventative control of *Pythium* blight and *Pythium* damping-off on turf for golf courses and sod farms at a rate of 64 mL product per 100 square metres. Apply as a preventative treatment to established turf during high temperature or humidity favourable to the development of *Pythium* blight. For curative control of *Pythium* blight apply at a rate of 64 mL product per 100 square metres to established turf as soon as a *Pythium* blight outbreak has occurred. Curative control will only be achieved if a preventative application has previously been made.

Use water volumes of 7.5 – 19 L per 100 square metres. Retreat at 7 – 21 day intervals if conditions remain favourable for disease development. Do not apply more than 2 applications of Banol before alternating with a fungicide of a different group with a different mode of action. Do not apply more than 3 applications per growing season.

Follow all other precautions and directions for use on the Banol fungicide label carefully, including beginning applications when indicated by field monitoring.

Banol fungicide should be used in an IPM program and in rotation with other management strategies to adequately manage resistance.

This label expansion submission was originally sponsored by Victoria Brooks, Agassiz BC, in 2000 and subsequently re-opened by the minor use office of OMAFRA in 2007. We also wish to thank the personnel of **Bayer Environmental Science** for their support of this registration and the personnel of the **Pest** Management Regulatory Agency for evaluating and approving this important pest management tool.

For copies of the new supplemental label contact Pam Charbonneau, Turfgrass Specialist, OMAFRA, Guelph (519) 824-4120 ext 52597, Jim Chaput, OMAFRA, Guelph (519) 826-3539 or visit <http://www.bayeres.ca>



# Grape Tailgate Tour

*Come find out what's new in grape research*

**August 11, 2009**

**12:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Free BBQ to follow**

- 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.**     **Sour rot and MALB research**  
Wendy McFadden-Smith, OMAFRA  
Erik Glemser, University of Guelph  
*- Across from 2201 Robbins Rd., south of King St. off 11<sup>th</sup> St.*
- 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.**     **Composting project**  
Helen Fisher, University of Guelph  
*- Vineland Research and Innovation Centre*
- 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.**     **Fungicide efficacy trials**  
Kathryn Hoshkiw  
*- Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, vineyard north of  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*
- 4:30-5:30 p.m.**     **GIS/Remote Sensing**  
Andy Reynolds, Brock University  
Ralph Brown, University of Guelph  
*- Thirty Bench Winery, 4281 Mountainview Road, Beamsville*
- 5:30 p.m.**     **Sponsored BBQ**  
*- Thirty Bench Winery, 4281 Mountainview Rd, Beamsville*

**Signs will be posted**

**To RSVP for the BBQ please call 905-562-1631 by August 7**

