

Spring 2015

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Raspberry Industry Development Council

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2015 Board of Directors

- Arvin Neger, Chair
- Mark Van Klei, Vice Chair
- Paul Sidhu, Treasurer
- Sukh Kahlon
- Steve Phillips
- Mel Sidhu
- James Bergen
- Terry Gill
- Mark Sweeney, Ministry Rep

Raspberry Industry Development Council



Chair Report

The 2015 raspberry harvest is approaching rapidly. We have experienced warm temperatures and the plants seem to be a few weeks ahead of schedule. Some fields have recovered from the slow start they had, although there is still noticeable damage on some of the raspberry fields.

As many of you may know already, the RIDC board has voted to hold a plebiscite to increase the growers levy to 1 cent. The increased levy will be used to fund several projects that RIDC cannot currently fund. Our breeding program is critical to the future of raspberries in BC and we must ensure that the RIDC can continue to fund this program for the long term. Currently the government and the RIDC are involved in a 3 to 1 funding ratio. The RIDC will put forward 25% funding and the balance comes from government funds. The next round of funding could very well be a 1 to 1 funding ratio and the RIDC will be required to pay 50% of a project in order to receive 50% from government funds. The RIDC is already struggling to meet our 25% obligation. If we were to pay 50% the RIDC board is worried that we may have to cut some projects we are currently funding. There are many projects that the RIDC is wanting to fund in the future such as plant trials, fumigation trials and International trade expos; however, none of this is going to be possible without an increase in our budget. It is very important that the RIDC is able to financially secure itself for the long term.

Please note that the ultimate decision lies with the vote of the growers. The RIDC's goal right now is to educate growers as to why we need the increase. If you would like more information about the proposed increased levy please contact the office and our Council Manager Lisa would be more than willing to answer any questions you may have.

Just a reminder to please contact your packers again to ensure that they do not require any additional documents for the 2015 season. Food safety is becoming increasingly important and growers must have an open relationship with their packers when it comes to food safety and their GAP programs.

SWD pressure seems as though it is going to be higher this year. I highly recommend for growers to meet with their advisors and pre plan a SWD spray program. Growers need to be prepared ahead of time rather than scrambling last minute to put together a program. The raspberry market for 2015 looks optimistic and you do not want your fruit to be downgraded because of larvae. Just a caution note, please keep in mind that your packer may not want you to spray certain insecticides depending on the market they are selling in. Please discuss with your packer what your SWD spray program is before spraying.

I hope the best for all of BC's raspberry growers in the upcoming harvest. Please do not hesitate to contact the office or any other the board members with any questions or concerns you have in regards to the raspberry industry.

Arvin Neger
Chair

*2015 National Minor Use Priority Setting Meeting
Gatineau, Quebec*

**IRO 2016
Serbia,
Date and
time to be
announced**

**Advertise in
our Newslet-
ter**
Rates:
Business card:
\$100.00
10cm X 11cm:
\$150.00
15cm X 12cm:



*2015 Crop
Bees are fast at
work pollinating*

March 24 - 26, 2015
Mark Sweeney
Berry Industry Specialist
BCAGRI

Alf Krause, James Bergen, Karina Sakalauskas and I attended these meetings on behalf of the BC berry industry. As in past years, the objective of the meeting and process was to identify products for minor use registration to address the major pest challenges across all minor crops in the country. At the end of each day, 10 “A” priorities are selected for each discipline, entomology, pathology and weeds. These candidate products enter the Pest Management Centre’s minor use process and, if all goes well, ultimately become registered for use in Canada.

Our key objective at this meeting was to obtain new products for control of spotted wing *Drosophila*, and given the potential challenges with fungicide resistant Botrytis, to find alternative products. The berry group, working together with national berry colleagues, was successful in obtaining the following A priorities in 2015:

Blueberry	Spotted Wing Drosophila	Malathion	(increase rate)
Caneberry	Spotted Wing Drosophila	Malathion	(increase rate)
Raspberry	Weeds	Dual Magnum	(metalochlor)
Blueberry	Weeds	Heat	(saflufenacil)
Caneberry	Botrytis	Fracture	(BLAD polypeptide)
Strawberry	Thrips	Beleaf	(flonicamid)

Given the intense competition amongst all the commodity groups for the 35 available A priorities, this is a significant accomplishment for the berry industry.

There are many other benefits to the BC berry industry in having strong representation at these meetings. We have developed strong working relationships with berry sectors across the country. Pesticides registrants are now much more aware of the significance of the berry industry and the various pest problems. Because of this, more products are coming to Canada with berry crops on the first registered label, enabling the minor use process to be bypassed. Attending the meetings allows dialogue with the regulatory staff which affords them a better understanding of the BC berry industry needs.

Of specific interest, we were able to encourage movement in the registration of Danitol, learned that two new Botrytis products that are on track for berry registrations and a new potential SWD registration is also in the works.

Following the minor use meetings, a separate meeting was held with Richard Aucoin, head of PMRA, and his senior staff, to make a case for obtaining an emergency use registration (EUR) for Capture (bifenthrin) for SWD control in blueberries. Previously, PMRA had advised the industry that they would not entertain an emergency registration for this use. A very open discussion was held in which we were able to present the critical need and address PMRA’s questions and concerns. The outcome of the meeting was positive in that shortly after PMRA informed us that they would accept a submission for this use. While this does not yet mean the use will be approved, it is a very important first step that would not have been achieved without a face to face meeting.

Variety Development Update by Michael Dossett

The breeding program had a very successful 2014 season, with 39 new selections made, 90 new crosses, and about 4,000 new seedlings planted, as well as establishing a new machine-harvested yield trial with more than 200 selections for evaluation of machine-harvestability and yield potential. In addition, we've also been busy in the lab working to identify genetic markers for resistance to root rot, *Raspberry bushy dwarf virus* (RBDV), and aphids and hope to be able to start using some of these in the program by the end of the year.

While the program continues to make progress and we expect to have a number of selections with improved quality and disease resistance available for trial in the next few years, there are a few recent developments that growers should be aware of:

'Squamish' – 'Squamish' was tested as BC 92-9-15 and was formally released about a year ago. Initially, 'Squamish' was identified as having the potential to be an early season replacement for 'Malahat' with better tolerance to *Phytophthora* root rot and other soil-borne diseases. Further testing has shown that it also has the ability to machine harvest extremely well and that 'Squamish' has potential to be a dual-purpose variety for both fresh and processed markets. The fruit of 'Squamish' tend to be a little larger and firmer than 'Malahat' with very good flavor and have a similar season to 'Willamette'. 'Squamish' produces an adequate number of canes, but these tend to be concentrated around the crown without as much suckering as 'Meeker' and many other varieties. 'Squamish' also has resistance to six of the seven raspberry aphid biotypes found in the Fraser Valley, indicating that it may be a bit slower to acquire some of the viruses that have been associated with crumbly fruit. 'Squamish' has less vigor than 'Cascade Delight' and some other varieties and needs to be managed accordingly. That said, machine-harvested yields in replicated trial plots at the Clearbrook substation have been similar to 'Malahat' and 'Chemainus'. Plant availability of 'Squamish' is very limited and growers should talk to their nursery suppliers early if they would like to trial this new variety.

'Cascade Harvest' – 'Cascade Harvest' is a new release from the Washington State University breeding program in Puyallup, Washington. It was originally tested as WSU 1507 and noted as a seedling for its ability to machine harvest well. 'Cascade Harvest' has been trialled at several sites in Oregon, Washington and BC in recent years and has been very favorably reviewed. The fruit have very good flavor and machine harvest extremely well. In addition, 'Cascade Harvest' has a good degree of root rot tolerance and also carries the gene *Bu*, which gives it resistance to the common strain of RBDV. 'Cascade Harvest' also has yielded exceptionally well in trial plots. While 'Cascade Harvest' has many very good attributes, there are a couple areas to watch out for. There has been some concern that the color may be a little on the light side for some applications. The level of anthocyanins (fruit pigments) in 'Cascade Harvest' have ranged from nearly the same as 'Meeker' to slightly lower depending on the location and year. In addition, while the fruit machine-pick very nicely, they can also be a little on the soft side in some situations. Washington State University is currently working on the paperwork for making 'Cascade Harvest' available to growers in Canada, and all in all, I think 'Cascade Harvest' has lots of potential for growers in BC and I encourage them to look into trying it on their farms.

BC 5-11-1 – The last selection I will mention is BC 5-11-1. BC 5-11-1 comes from a cross between a BC selection with excellent root rot and aphid resistance with a selection from the WSU breeding program. The fruit are similar in size and color to 'Meeker' with very good flavor. In plots at the Clearbrook substation, BC 5-11-1 machine-harvested exceptionally well. While we are in the process of testing this selection more thoroughly, we are also working to get it tested widely to better gauge its potential. The breeding program worked with Eric Gerbrandt and Tom Baumann to establish 200 plants of BC 5-11-1 in trials on two BC grower farms in 2014. If trial results look good in this coming season, we hope to have more plants available in BC as well as some plants available for trial with cooperating growers in Whatcom County in 2016 and 2017.

Changes to your Board of Director

The RIDC Directors would like to announce the changes to the 2015 Board. We would like to start by acknowledging our exiting board members Baljit Dhaliwal & Ranjit Sidhu - thank you both for all that you have done for and with the Board during your terms of office. Your Board would like to now welcome the 2 new board members - James Bergen of Bergen Farms/J.A.L.S Farms & Terry Gill of M & G Farms. We appreciate that you accepted the nomination to the Board, and look forward to your assistance with the current directors in working toward the goals of your fellow growers... the continuing growth and development of the Raspberry Industry.

Granular Calcium with Nutrisorb Root Enhancer



Novacal II contains Nutrisorb, a registered natural fertilizer additive that stimulates root and plant growth and nutrient absorption. Enhanced root activity throughout the plant life cycle leads to more extraction of nutrients which results in higher quality crop and increased yields.

Novacal II Granular Calcium features 28% calcium and 19% sulphur, whereas regular gypsum has only 20% Ca. Novacal II is more economical than standard gypsum with 40% availability within two weeks of application. Its solubility makes it an effective calcium source, even when top-dressed.

For more information, visit www.tlhort.com or call us toll-free at 1-800-661-4559.

www.tlhort.com

TerraLink

SWD Spotted wing Drosophila

SWD Pressure Alert

As we expected, SWD pressure is hitting early. SWD larvae have been found in salmonberries, elderberries and other wild fruit and Michael Dossett has seen larvae in his early fruiting seedling block at the Clearbrook substation. While raspberry machine harvest could be starting soon, most fields are now starting to ripen fruit, particularly on weak laterals and loops. We learned in 2013 that this fruit must be protected or it will act as an SWD magnet and carry into an infested first pick. A Malathion spray is recommended now to protect this early fruit followed by a Capture application just before harvest.



Spotted wing Drosophila male (P. Beauzay, NDSU)

Note: If there is still bloom in the field, sprays should be applied at night to protect the bees.

See the production guide at:

<http://productionguide.agrifoodbc.ca/>

for detailed recommendations.

Field Day

Mark your Calendar....

Clearbrook Station field day

July 7 from 1:00 - 3:00

Michael is looking to hold a low key event again this year, Growers will have the chance to look at the Raspberries from the machine harvested plots...



Summertime Raspberry Treat *not just for Kids*

Coconut Freezer Pops

by: Katja from Savory Lotus Serves: 6 large popsicles

Ingredients

- 1 can coconut milk
- 2-3 tbsp honey or maple syrup
- 1-1/2 cups fresh BC raspberries

Directions

- Mix coconut and sweetener of choice together until well combined
- Stand popsicle holders upright and fill partially with berries or chopped fruit
- Pour coconut milk mixture over fruit, gently jiggling popsicle holder to get milk to settle in and fill the holder
- Place in freezer until completely frozen (don't forget to put in the Popsicle handles!)
- Enjoy!!



savorylotus.com

**COCONUT
FREEZER
POPS**
(dairy free)

The RIDC office continues to promote BC Raspberries through Social Media, with accounts on Facebook and Twitter, if you have something that you would like to share from the field please like us on either site or bring it to the attention of RIDC office 604.854.8010 or email us at: council@bcraspberries.com

Facebook: Raspberry Industry Development Council

Twitter: @bcraspberries



We're on the Web!

www.bcraspberries.com