

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

April 22, 2016



Production Insurance

Early season scramble - make sure you have hail coverage

A reminder that growers may contact the Production Insurance Branch to purchase **some** hail insurance at full blossom (but before fruit set) and then re-contact Production Insurance to obtain **full coverage** once fruit set occurs.

To make the process easy during this busy time, growers may telephone and pay the premium with a credit card.

Kelowna (Hardy Road) 250-712-3797 or Oliver 250-498-5250

Note that fireblight is not an insurable peril - check for [control practices in the Tree Fruit Production Guide](#).

Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program

It's a SIN

A reminder that SAWP workers must obtain a Social Insurance Number every year, after arrival in Canada. The employer must ensure that SIN numbers are obtained within the first 3 days of employment. Getting SINs on time is important, as the Service Canada Integrity Branch is active, and auditing SAWP information to ensure all rules and regulations are being followed.

Here's the information you need on [how to obtain a SIN number for SAWP workers](#).

Apple Clearwing Moth

Experimentation, Piloting, Monitoring and Outreach

As noted in our previous newsletter, with potential funding from BC Investment Agriculture, the BCFGa hopes to expand the project in 2016 to include the entire Okanagan and Similkameen.

Zone 3 (Winfield and north) - continue with kairomone and some pheromone treatments around hotspots.

Zone 2 (Peachland - Kelowna), about one half of the acreage will have Isomate-P mating disruption placed in orchards by SIR. Next year (2017), the other half of the orchards in the zone will have Isomate-P placed by SIR. The Isomate-P pheromone lures for mating disruption last 2 years. Of course, if a grower does not wish to receive the Isomate-P mating disruption dispensers and placement at no charge, then **a grower may opt out by contacting the BCFGa or SIR. If you wish to opt out, email glucas@bcfga.com before May 15**, as SIR may begin as early as last half of May to hang the dispensers.

Zone 3 (Summerland south to Oliver-Osoyoos) - about 300 acres will have Isomate-P mating disruption - in this area, growers themselves will place Isomate-P dispensers (estimated time is about 1 hour per acre per person). In order to participate, all apple growers in an area (e.g. an area like Fairview Bench) will agree to attend a brief workshop on ACM and placing pheromones, thus making a commitment to have area-wide coverage with mating disruption. Areas should include all orchards in a contiguous area of 50 - 150 acres. **For interested groups of growers in Zone 1 (Summerland to Osoyoos) - please contact Glen Lucas at glucas@bcfga.com.** Some isolated farms in the Similkameen will be contacted by Tamara Richardson to see if there is interest, but the remainder of the Similkameen will await further research into controlling very high populations of ACM.

Finally, some of the Okanagan-Similkameen apple orchards will have 'bucket traps' placed by SIR, as was done in 2012 and 2014, to sample presence and prevalence. In areas where Mating Disruption is in place, it is expected that ACM will be 'excluded' from bucket traps - so a zero count in bucket traps will indicate MD is working in those areas. We will be reducing the number of bucket traps in these areas. Also, several orchards will be visited to do 'trunk surveys' to detect ACM for comparison with bucket trap results and to detect population changes under area-wide pheromone treatment.

We wish to thank Gary Judd, Susanna Achaempong, Tamara Richardson, and all the staff at SIR for working hard to make this project possible. Many growers and BCTF field staff have contacted BCFGA to encourage the development of the project, and the input is very much appreciated. Finally, the seed funding from Summerland Varieties Corporation and the BCFGA Research and Development Orchard Ltd. has provided industry resources for the project.

Replant Update

Funding shortfall means lengthy waitlist

The new, 7 year, \$8.4 million replant program started in 2015. Project applications for the second year, 2016, were received last November. The province has directed that projects be scored and ranked according to the quality of the application. The number of applications has been higher than expected. At present with the current level of funding, about 115 of the eligible 216 blocks are expected to be funded.

The BCFGA has asked the Minister of Agriculture to reallocate funding within the Replant Program. If funding is reallocated from a later year to the current year, then about 175 of the 216 blocks could be funded.

Even with project slippage (e.g. funding released from approved projects that do not proceed), many growers project applications will be unfunded. Growers who received a wait-list letter may support BCFGA's request for more funding by [contacting your MLA](#).

How to contact the BCFGA Office

BCFGA Office ☎
250-762-5226
or
toll free 1-800-619-9022

- Brenda Zarr, Member Services and Replant Admin, local 1.
- Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2.
- Sheila MacGregor, Accountant, local 3.
- Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program, local 4.

Dates and Events- check the [BCFGA Calendar](#) on our website for more information