

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

April 8, 2016



Apple Maggot

Project funding approved for additional trapping

[Apple Maggot](#) is a serious pest of apples. A single Apple Maggot was found at a West Kelowna residential lot in 2015. For the remainder of 2015, no other traps or fruit were identified with Apple Maggot, so the Canadian Food Inspection (CFIA) continues to support a quarantine of the Okanagan-Similkameen-Creston valleys as free from the pest. Specific to the residential neighbourhood where the single detection occurred, the property and surrounding properties are under order not to move fruit, soil or trees from those lots. All host trees in the area have been mapped. The CFIA will more intensively trap around the single detection in 2016.

Leading up to the single detection 2015, a new trapping protocol was established based on research by Dr. Howard Thistlewood - one-third of the Interior apple-growing area was to have Apple Maggot traps each year, and each year would sample a new area. That way, the whole valley would be sampled in a three year period.

Since the detection in 2015, a steering group met to discuss the trapping for 2016, and it was agreed to speed up the sampling process with the remaining two-thirds of the BC Interior apple-growing area to be sampled in 2016. However, CFIA resources only allowed one-third of the area to be sampled each year. Dr. Susanna Achaempong, Tree Fruit entomologist for the BC Ministry of Agriculture, assisted in gaining approval for funding the final one-third of the Interior apple-growing area in 2016. The funding is provided through the federal-provincial Growing Forward 2. The BCFGAs are the project applicants and the SIR program is assisting in placing the traps. Many individuals and organizations have cooperated in coming up with an Apple Maggot trapping strategy and resources for 2016, and BCFGAs extend appreciation to everyone involved.

Apple Clearwing Moth

Project funding to be confirmed this week

Another critical pest is the Apple Clearwing Moth (ACM). The BCFGAs, with funding from Summerland Varieties Corporation, conducted a project in 2015 to determine how ACM could be controlled in very low population areas of the North Okanagan. This year, the 'low population' project will continue in the North Okanagan.

With potential funding from BC Investment Agriculture, BCFGAs hope to expand the project in 2016 to include the entire Okanagan and Similkameen. The project will examine how to control higher population areas - in particular, the project will be a "proof of concept" for area-wide mating disruption. Some areas will test an area-wide approach for Isomate-P on higher populations (previous tests were for individual orchards within a heavily infested area, not an area-wide approach).

The 2016 plan with extra funding from BC Investment Agriculture Foundation is as follows:

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.

Zone 3 (Summerland south to Oliver-Osoyoos) - about 300-400 acres will have Isomate-P mating disruption, but SIR is unable to place the Isomate-P dispensers in the area due to staff re-structuring, so 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, all of the Okanagan-Similkameen 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. 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.

Funding has been requested for 3 years. To the extent the area-wide "proof of concept" is successful for pheromone control of ACM, further planning will be needed.

Tree Fruit Production Guide and Industry Update - Creston

Time: 7 pm

Date: Monday, April 11, 2016

Place: Creston Recreation Centre, Creston

The BCFGGA is planning a session for members and friends in the Kootenays:

1. Growing the Tree Fruit Industry in the Kootenays
2. Tree Fruit Production Guide update 2016

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. A committee of horticulturists independently score the projects, then the scores in a category are averaged, with total score calculated as follows:

Variety Value	Current and possible future value of variety(s) in marketplace. Example: Ambrosia will score higher than Gala. Newer varieties of cherries will score higher than Lapin.	20%
The Planting	Variety, rootstock, spacing, training system, pollination requirements and soils are appropriately matched for maximum quality and production. Example: 2 feet x 10 feet is common spacing for apples and has demonstrated a balance between investment, efficiency of horticultural practices, and productivity, and 2 feet x 10 feet apple planting will be scored higher than other spacings.	20%
Planting System Supports	Irrigation, fertigation, trellis system, wildlife fencing and frost mitigation, as needed, are in place and adequate to support/maintain the planting.	10%
Variety Appropriateness	Variety(s) appropriate for growing area from both horticulture and marketing perspective.	8%
Pre-planting Preparation	Quality of tree removal, soil testing, soil amending & soil preparation plans. Example: applications with a soil bioassay will be scored higher than applications with a soil test alone. Note that a soil test/bioassay is not required for grafting projects.	6%
Planting Plan	Quality of nursery tree, tree storage, tree transportation, tree hydration, planting mechanism, planting timing & planting fertilization plans. Applications with trees from a 'home nursery' have greater variability in quality than trees purchased from nurseries. Unless a photo of the home nursery trees is included that shows healthy, good quality trees, a home nursery will be scored lower than trees from a certified commercial nursery.	6%
Post-planting Plan	Quality of irrigation use, fertilization & pest control plans.	6%
Cash flow	Reasonable assumptions on price, production and input costs that still result in positive cash flow by year 3 to 5.	6%
Map	Includes for all blocks in orchard; variety, spacing, age, row orientation and pollinizers. Also includes; North compass point, buildings, surroundings, wild-life fences, wind machines, gullies, hillsides etc, and is clear. A sample map of good quality is provided on the BCFGA website.	6%
Whole-Farm Planning	The new planting fits in with a whole farm plan that is efficient (larger contiguous blocks). Inclusion of whole farm financial plan. Note: an explanatory note to describe how the current planting fits in with existing and future plantings for the project can lead to a higher score.	6%
Application & Extras	Clear, complete, and addresses areas which deviated from norm or provided extra information where required.	6%

A total of 146 applications were received by the November 20, 2015 deadline. These applications include 245 separate blocks - each block a distinct area planted to a single variety. Of the applications received, most were deemed eligible - 14 applications were ineligible or withdrawn, comprising 29 blocks. The initial years of the Replant Program are funded at a lower level than later years. However, uptake 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.

The number of blocks funded depends on how much 'project slippage' occurs. Project slippage is when all of funding for an approved project is not required, because some of the projects are smaller than applied for or some other factor, such as tree density maximums, limit the funds for a project. Slippage is determined at time of inspection (July-October), so funding for the wait list is not released until harvest time.

The BCFGAs have delivered approval offers to the first group of growers accepted to the program. Of the remaining growers who did not receive approval letters, a few received 'denial' letters explaining why their project is not eligible. Many growers who applied received a letter explaining that there is currently not funding for their project, however future funding could be released for their project in future (a 'wait-list' letter). However, even with project slippage, many growers project applications will be unfunded. The BCFGAs asks growers who received a wait-list letter to support BCFGAs request for funding re-allocation by [contacting your MLA](#).

Farmers' Food Donation Tax Credit

New initiative to help boost donations to registered charities

The Farmers' Food Donation Tax Credit is a new non-refundable income tax credit to encourage farmers and farming corporations to donate certain agricultural products that they produce in BC to *registered charities, such as food banks or school meal programs*.

Some details of the tax credit are:

- The Farmers' Food Donation Tax credit is available to individuals and corporations that carry on the business of farming and donate a qualifying agricultural product to a registered charity.
- The qualifying agricultural product may include fruits or other produce that has been grown or harvested on a farm in BC.
- The credit is worth 25 percent of the fair market value of the qualifying agricultural product and must be claimed in the same year the donation is made.
- The credit is available for the 2016, 2017 and 2018 tax years, after which the credit will be reviewed.

For more information, visit [this webpage at the Ministry of Finance's website](#).

Dates and Events

Check [the calendar on our website](#) for more information

BC Fruit Growers' Association Executive

NAME		TELEPHONE
Fred Steele - President	Kelowna	Cel/text: 250-801-1968
Bhupinder Dhaliwal - VP	Oliver	Cell/text 250-490-7198
Ravinder Bains	Keremeos	Cell 250-499-0512
Deep (Sukhdeep) Brar	Summerland	Cell/text 250-462-5687
Surjit Nagra	Kelowna	Cell 250-863-6801
Sukhdev Goraya	Kelowna	Cell 250. 859.1229
Peter Simonsen	Naramata	Cell 250. 488--.0363
Harnek (Tony) Nijjar	Vernon	Cell 250-938-1820

Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program

(links to earlier articles, in case you missed them)

Airfares

[Mexico](#)

[Caribbean](#)

[Changes to Mexico SAWP for 2016](#)

SAWP program Housing Inspectors

Here is a [list of certified housing inspectors](#).

An Opportunity for Housing 12 SAWP workers in Kelowna

If you are seeking housing for your workers this season, the “Inn from the Cold” building located on 1157 Sutherland Road in Kelowna, BC is available for rent from April 1st to October 15th, 2016. The housing inspection has been done and the building is approved for 12 people (all male or female). The renter will need to provide one stove and arrange its electrical hook up. The building is located across from the Capri Centre Mall. The grower will need to provide transportation for the workers to and from the farm to the housing. Rent to be negotiated with the “Inn From The Cold” association. If interested, please contact Bunvir Nijjer, BCFGGA Corp. Secretary at 250-762-5226 ext.4 or via email bnijjer@bcfga.com.

Upcoming PAC points


Vernon Growers Breakfast Meeting

April 7th, Thursday, 7:00 AM

Pantry Restaurant, Vernon

Stan Swales and Danielle Hirkala speaking. PAC points available

How to contact the BCFGGA Office

<p>BCFGGA Office  250-762-5226 or toll free 1-800-619-9022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
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