

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

March 4, 2016



Sterile Insect Release Program

Survey of Growers

The SIR program is asking growers to complete [a survey on the future direction of the program](#). Specifically, recent BCFGAs resolutions have been approved to ask SIR to extend its services to other pests and other types of tree fruit, and now broad-based grower direction is needed. The BCFGAs encourage all growers to participate. The survey takes a few minutes.

You can also attend a “Coffee Chat” with SIR to discuss the future of the program.

	<u>Kelowna</u>	<u>Vernon</u>
Time:	8 - 10 am	2:30-4:30 pm
Date:	March 15, 2016	March 15
Place:	Sandman Hotel	Sandman Hotel

Please RSVP sirinfo@oksir.org, or 1-800-363-6684

Tree Fruit Production Guide Meetings

<u>Keremeos</u>	<u>Summerland **</u>	<u>Lake Country</u>
9 am - noon	1 pm - 3 pm	9 am - noon
Monday, March 14, 2016	Monday, March 14, 2016	Wednesday, March 16, 2016
Royal Canadian Legion	Summerland Research Centre	Winfield Memorial Hall
510 Veterans Ave	(PARC)	10130 Bottom Wood Lake Rd
	4200 Highway #97, South	

** Video Conference at Creston College of the Rockies, Room 109, 301 16 ave S, Creston, BC
1 pm - 3 pm, Monday, March 14, 2016

New Variety Development (Ambrosia) Council

The NVDC is holding a vote to renew its mandate. The BCFGAs Executive notes a positive return on marketing and R&D levies for commodities that have these systems in place, as diverse as Blueberries and Cattle. Also of note, Washington State has a levy on all apples. The Executive encourages all growers to be informed by [reviewing the proposal](#), asking questions and discussing the proposal, and voting. Ambrosia growers have until March 24 to vote.

Certified Irrigation Technician Courses

Irrigation Industry Association of BC

Agriculture Trickle Design

March 8 & 9, 2016 - Kelowna

Certified Irrigation Technician - Level 1

March 23, 2016 - Kelowna

Certified Irrigation Technician - Level 2 Landscape

March 16 & 17, 2016 - Victoria

March 30 & 31, 2016 - Abbotsford

For more information click here: <https://www.irrigationbc.com/irrigation/courses/scheduled>

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, BCFGa Corp. Secretary at 250-762-5226 ext.4 or via email bnijjer@bcfga.com.

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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PAC Points – Upcoming events

Tree Fruit Production Guide Meetings are coming up and will offer PAC points.

Dates and Events

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