



Hort Headlines

February 12, 2010

- **New Pest Possibly Headed This Way** – According to Gwen-Alyn Hoheisel, WSU Extension faculty member who spoke at the Grape Fieldmen's breakfast recently, a new pest with the power to destroy fruit as it ripens may be headed this way. The spotted wing Drosophila has been discovered in 13 counties in Oregon to date. She emphasized that monitoring is crucial. For more on this story visit [*the Daily Sun News*](#).
- **Winter Snowpack Estimates Begin** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture is estimating the winter snowpack is now just 74 percent of average and down from 84 percent a month ago. Snowpack conditions in the Green River basin are only one-third of normal. The USDA noted record high temperatures and below-average precipitation could mean there may not be enough runoff to fill reservoirs that supply cities and farms this summer. The mild winter in Washington state the year is causing concern for managers of the state's water supply. Snowmelt from the mountains during the warmer months is a major source of water across the state.
- **WSDA Apple Maggot Working Group Annual Meeting** – Wednesday, February 17 the Washington State Department of Agriculture's Apple Maggot Working Group will be holding their annual meeting. The meeting will take place at the Cattlemen's Association in Ellensburg. Topics of discussion will include the apple maggot survey budget, 2009 survey results and plans for the 2010 survey. This is an open meeting to those who are interested, space is limited.

- **Pest Management Workshops** – WSU Chelan County Extension will be providing Pest Management Workshops. The IPM workshops cover various topics that highlight critical issues, discuss industry trends, and point out possible horticultural and business solutions. The training workshops are presented by Tim Smith, WSU Extension. For more information email smithtj@wsu.edu.
 - **February 25** | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Wenatchee Valley College Lyceum (2 credits)
(Note Below: attend both sessions 1 and 2 for complete pesticide license pre-testing training)
 - **March 4** | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (Part 1) Wenatchee Valley College Library Lyceum (2 credits)
 - **March 11** | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (Part 2) Wenatchee Valley College Library Lyceum (2 credits)
- **WSDA Hands On Pesticide Training** – On March 13 in Chelan, WA there will be "Hands On" Pesticide Training. To register contact the Growers Clearing House at 509-662-6181.
- **Washington Farm Bureau Labor Conference** – Make plans to attend the Washington Farm Bureau's Labor Conference: Measure Your Success on Thursday, February 25 at the Wenatchee Convention Center. The conference is a comprehensive discussion on topics such as I-9 audits, overtime in agriculture, the ballot initiative to prioritize workers' comp, changes in policy required by the new domestic partnership law, etc., and a total of 12 timely breakout sessions. The conference is designed for owners, senior managers, and HR Directors. Register online at www.wsfb.com.
- **GRAS2P Launches Web-Site** – WSHA is pleased to announce the launch of our GRAS2P Program web-site. Check out the GRAS2P [web-site](#) and remember to add it to your favorites!

Headline Links

H-2A Final Rule May Not Help Guest-Worker Program Make Sense For Growers – An 118,000-word final rule published in the Federal Register on Feb. 12 did little to make the agricultural guest-worker program easier for growers to use. Learn more on this story from [The Packer](#).

Apple Sales Roar Despite High Price – Washington apples are still selling at a record pace, but industry officials are not worried about running out of crop before the end of the season. Learn more on this story from [The Capital Press](#).

Ag Industry Buzzes With Electric Vehicle Movement – The future use of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles in agriculture all depends upon the battery. Learn more on this story from [*The Capital Press*](#).

Finland Rejects Apples Over Pesticide Residue – About 6,000, 40-pound boxes of Washington apples shipped to Finland were rejected there and destroyed because they didn't meet minimum pesticide residue levels, or MRLs, set by the European Union. Learn more on this story from [*The Capital Press*](#).

Apple Maggot Worries Some Growers – Countries concerned about getting new bugs will beef up restrictions on Washington apples if they perceive the apple maggot as a problem, Smith said. Learn more on this story from [*The Capital Press*](#).



GRAS2P "Tip of the Week" - Bulletin Board – Is your safety bulletin board up-to-date? Is it positioned in a place accessible to your workers (e.g. outside the orchard office, place where you hire, location where pay checks are distributed)? Now is a good time to verify required posters & safety educational materials are posted, as well as emergency procedures and emergency medical contact information. A complete listing of required items per Labor & Industries and the Washington State Department of Agriculture can be found at www.lni.wa.gov. Posting emergency procedures and contacts helps keep you and your workers safe, complies with state regulations, and meets a Global G.A.P. statement (All Farm 3.3.1 which is a minor must).

Washington State Horticultural Association
PO Box 136 Wenatchee, WA 98807
Phone (509) 665-9641 Fax (509) 665-8541
Web-site www.wahort.org