



WASHINGTON STATE  
HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

## Hort Headline Update

Keeping the Washington Tree Fruit Industry Informed Since 1904

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**February 20, 2004**

- **Hort and Other Ag Groups Appeal Restricted Spray Buffer Zone Ruling** - A coalition of more than 30 agricultural groups, which includes Hort, has filed an appeal to the ruling by U.S. District Judge John C. Coughenour that established restricted spray buffer zones for 38 pesticides along salmon-bearing waterways. The ruling was in response to the WA Toxics Coalition lawsuit brought against the EPA, which found the EPA failed to consult with other federal agencies. We will keep you updated on developments in this case through *Hort Headlines* as it moves forward.
- **Apple Commission Board Supports Continuation Referendum** - The Washington Apple Commission's board voted unanimously on February 5 to support an amendment to its enabling legislation that would provide for a continuation referendum to be held at the request of growers. For more on this story, go to this article in the [Good Fruit Grower](#).
- **Commission Board Members Are Unopposed** - The Washington Apple Commission's board will have one new face and two empty seats when it meets on March 17 in Yakima. Murray Michael of Quincy will take the place of Jim Fleming, who stepped down after serving a three-year term on the board. Positions that were held by Loren Horsley of Yakima and Dave Carlson also of Yakima still remain unfilled. To read more on apple commission board positions, go to the [Good Fruit Grower](#).

- **Apple Commission Hires More Staff** - The Washington Apple Commission has hired a part-time assistant to help with paperwork for the federal Market Access Program and other administrative jobs, this according to a *Good Fruit Grower* article. The commission is also in the process of hiring an export assistant to work with Export Director Tracy King and to assist the Washington State Fruit Commission with cherry promotions overseas.
- **USDA To Purchase 3 Million Pounds Of Dried Cherries** - Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman on Wednesday announced plans to purchase up to 3 million pounds of dried red tart cherries for donation to child nutrition and other domestic food assistance programs. The dried cherries are used by recipients for baking, as toppings on foods such as cereal and mixed with other products.
- **Ag Forestry Program Now Accepting Candidates** - The Washington Agriculture and Forestry Education Program is now accepting applications from individuals who are interested in joining their two-year leadership program. Candidate applications will be accepted until April 30, 2004. For more information about the program or to recommend a candidate, visit the WAFEF website at [www.agforestry.org](http://www.agforestry.org).
- **Former Chelan Fruit General Manager Joins Oneonta** - Dalton Thomas, owner and president of Oneonta Trading Corporation, recently announced the appointment of Willem Drost as the company's new CEO/General Manager. Drost, who resigned as general manager of Chelan Fruit in December, will focus primarily on international food trade activities in his new position.
- **Attention Students & Parents** - The Washington Apple Education Foundation Universal Scholarship Application is now available at [www.waef.org](http://www.waef.org). Scholarships totaling over \$100,000 are available to students from 23 participating tree fruit organizations! Act now -- applications must be completed and returned by April 1, 2004. For more information, contact the Washington Apple Education Foundation at (509) 663-7713.

## Headline Links

**Bill Would Make Apple Commission A State Agency** - Find out what apple industry insiders are saying about the legislative re-construction of the Apple Commission by reading this [Packer](#) article.

**Unnecessarily Wide Net Cast By Pesticide Ban Ensnares State's Farmers** - Connect to this opinion article that appeared earlier this week in the [Tacoma News Tribune](#) that voices strong opposition to the restricted spray buffer ruling.

**Black Rock Gets A Preliminary Thumbs Up** - A preliminary federal Bureau of Reclamation review suggests there is enough Columbia River water available to fill the proposed Black Rock reservoir east of Yakima according to this article in the [Yakima Herald-Republic](#).

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## Flash Facts

Canned pear imports are now capturing 6-12% of the annual "domestic usage". This rate of import growth has caused concern amongst Northwest pear processors about the low price of pears entering the U.S. from China. --WA/OR Canning Pear Association Dec. 2003 Newsletter.

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