



## Hort Headlines

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**March 9, 2007**

- **Legislative Action In Olympia Shifts To House & Senate Floor** - A critical deadline looms before lawmakers next week, requiring long days and late nights as legislators try to beat the deadline for bills out of their house of origin. The March 14 deadline will once again pare the list of issues still alive for the 2007 Session. The WSHA Government Affairs Program will spend the next week working priority issues with key lawmakers and staff, including funding for the Pest Management Transition program.
- **2007 Water Forecast For Yakima Basin Looks Promising** - The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is calling for a normal or above normal water supply for the Yakima River Basin, with reservoirs expected to fill by June 1. They are currently at 116% of average for this time of year. The most promising news is the BOR is forecasting a "full water supply" for all users, junior and senior water right holders.
- **Section 18 Emergency Exemption For Oxytetracycline** - The EPA granted the Section 18 emergency exemption for oxytetracycline use on apples, and is effective 4/1/2007. The approved Section 18 labels are posted on the WSU web site and can be downloaded for use. At the time of application the Section 18 label must be in the possession of the applicator, and is only valid for the time period specified on the label.
- **Growers Could Save On Labor Costs Dwarfing Rootstocks For Peaches and Nectarines** - Some progressive stone fruit growers may soon realize the benefits

of ladder-free orchards similar to their apple-growing counterparts. Size-controlling peach and nectarine rootstocks are now available through several California nurseries and could potentially change the face of the industry with a cooperative project between USDA and UC-Davis. The rootstocks could potentially save growers on the biggest expense they have which is labor. Pruning, thinning, and harvesting would be easier and save valuable time by eliminating most ladder use.

- **Time To Spring Forward** - In 2005, as the price of gasoline spiked, Congress quietly passed a measure to begin daylight-saving time three weeks early this year. If it's lighter longer, went the logic, U.S. energy consumption would go down. Daylight saving time (DST) will start on March 11, 2007, which is three weeks earlier than usual, and it will end on November 4, 2007, which is one week later than usual. The new DST period is four weeks longer than in previous years. *Remember to move your clocks forward one hour before going to bed Saturday night.*

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## Headline Links

**Land-Use, Ag Issues Key As Wash. Session At Halfway** - With the legislative session halfway to the finish line, agriculture is enjoying some successes, although there have been disappointments along the way. Read more on this story at the [Capital Press](#).

**USDA Proposes Ending Fruit, Vegetable Ban On Program Acres** - Since the last Farm Bill was passed in 2002, there has been a general shortage of land available to growers of fruits and vegetables for processing. Visit the [Fruit Growers News](#) for more on this story.

**Migrants Are Out, Inmates Are In: Colorado Turns To Prisoners To Pick Its Crops** - Ever since passing what its legislature touted as the toughest anti-illegal immigrant laws in the nation last summer, Colorado has struggled with a labor shortage as migrants fled the state. Read more at the [Wenatchee World](#).

**Climate Change Is Altering The Wine Grape Map** - A growing number of climatologists are warning that by the turn of the next century, such a radically altered wine map could be the new reality. Learn more about this story at the [Wenatchee World](#).

**House Approves Eminent Domain Notification Measure** - The state House unanimously approved a measure Wednesday to require better notification of citizens before their property is condemned for a public purpose through eminent domain. To learn more visit [Seattle PI](#).

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