



Hort Headlines

March 26, 2009

- **Public Meeting On Pesticide-Related Issues** – A public meeting on pesticide-Related issues will be held on April 22, 2009 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Northwest Communities Education Center located at 121 Sunnyside Ave., Granger, WA 98932. Spanish language translation will also be available. There will be time for public comments after each topic and at the conclusion of the meeting. Download the Agenda to learn more in [English](#) or [Spanish](#). You may also contact Fran McBride (360) 236-3367 or email fran.mcbride@doh.wa.gov. For information on the PIRT Panel, visit www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/Pirt/.
- **ESD Comments On H-2A Rules Suspension** – Last week Employment Security posted comments to the Department of Labor (DOL) regarding the H-2A rules suspension. [Read the letter](#) by Commissioner Lee regarding this issue.
- **Alert On Endosulfan (Thiodan)** – The WSDA and DOE are conducting surface water monitoring for pesticide residues. The past spray season Endosulfan detections were found to be above ESA levels for the first time and of concern in some waters. In an effort to avoid the potential for cross contamination, have other Psylla control applications in the buffer area before applying Endosulfan outside of the buffer area. Industry representatives continue to work with the WSDA in an attempt to resolve these issues prior to further restrictions are established or the loss of use occurs.
- **Federal Grants Awarded** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture gave final approval to twelve Washington agricultural organizations who will receive federal

assistance as they work to increase opportunities for farmers and develop more efficient farming practices. The funding was made available through USDA's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program that is designed to enhance the competitiveness of the state's fruit, vegetable and horticulture products. Washington state is the third leading producer of specialty crops in the nation, and the state's growers rank number one in U.S. production of commodities. The grants were awarded to: That Washington State Horticultural Association, Washington State University, Washington Mint Commission, Washington State Potato Commission and the Institute for Washington's Future.

- **Doors Close For Historic Pear Group** – The doors close after 96 years of continuous operation for The Fruit Growers League, based on Oregon's Rogue Valley. The organization was founded in 1913 with a membership of approximately 400 people and businesses that were involved with pear production for Jackson County. The area is known for the Comice pear. As producers' goals diverged financial support became an issue. The Medford, OR office is officially closed with plans for league business to be wrapped up on June 1, 2009.
- **WSDA Hosts Free Pesticide Disposal Events** – The WSDA is hosting a free pesticide disposal event in Chelan on May 20 and Okanogan on May 21, 2009. Agricultural and commercial-grade pesticides accepted for disposal include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides and most chemicals that kill, repel or prevent unwanted pests. Customer sign up is **required by April 6**. To sign up, call toll free (360) 902-2056 or e-mail wastepesticide@agr.wa.gov. Visit the WSDA website at agr.wa.gov to learn more.
- **Find Out How Cold It Will Be In Your Area** – Fruit growers can get detailed information on frost conditions online at www.clearwest.com and beginning in mid-March available from a telephone recording for the Yakima, Wenatchee, Okanogan, and Basin Districts. Forecasts will run through May 31.
- **Get Geared Up For Golf** – Time to start planning for the 16th Annual WSHA Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament that will take place Tuesday, August 11 at the Lake Chelan Municipal Golf Course. This year's event is sure to be another big success with tree fruit industry golfers playing to benefit student scholarships. Put your company name in the spotlight by becoming a tournament sponsor by contacting Lynette at lynette@wahort.org to learn more.
- **WSHA New Web-Site** – WSHA is proud to announce the launch of our newly re-designed web-site. Check out the new [WSHA Website](#) and remember to add it to your favorites! **You will also find information on the 2009 Annual Meeting, Trade Show and Golf Tournament.** Current and new members will need to register to access the member's only section.

Headline Links

Ag-Related Bills Make Progress In Olympia – Several key bills for agriculture continue to progress through the Washington Legislature as the end of the session approaches later this month. Read more at [*the Capital Press*](#).

Pesticide Mixes Face Added Scrutiny – A recently released study revealing that pesticides can be even more harmful to juvenile fish when they combine with other pesticides raises questions about possible future restrictions on some agricultural pesticides. Learn more on this story from [*the Capital Press*](#).

Study Of Water Storage Options In Yakima Basin Gets \$2 Million – Washington state is proposing to spend \$2 million to continue a study of new storage in the Yakima River Basin into the next two years. Read more at [*the Yakima Herald*](#).

U.S. Deters Hiring Of Foreigners As Joblessness Grows – As more Americans lose their jobs, the U.S. government is actively discouraging the recruitment of foreign workers, from dude ranchers and fruit pickers to lifeguards and computer programmers. Read the following article at [*www.wsj.com*](http://www.wsj.com).

Fungicide Supplies Tight, Prices Up – Apple growers seeking to control early season scab will be among the first fruit growers to feel the effects of "complications" affecting the supply and price of fungicides. Read the following article at [*the Fruit Growers News*](#).

Is Life Too Hard for Honeybees – Commercial honeybees are tough. Read the following article at [*www.sciam.com*](http://www.sciam.com).

More Unions Favor Legalizing Workers – The dynamics of the farm labor population have changed since César Chávez and others began organizing workers in California's fields. Learn more from [*www.signonsandiego.com*](http://www.signonsandiego.com).