



Hort Headline Update

June 11, 2004

- **Rain Delays Cherry Harvest In Areas** - Northwest cherry growers experienced a few rainy days in some production areas this week, but cool weather throughout the region has kept rain damage to a minimum and left a large crop out on the trees. Growers affected by the rain halted picking for about 48 hours, but then quickly resumed harvest.
- **Fruit Commission Still Estimating Sizeable Cherry Crop** - B.J. Thurlby, president of the Washington State Fruit Commission (WSFC) said that despite the rain and picking delay, the group still estimates this year's cherry crop at 11 to 12 million boxes. Thurlby estimated that 3 to 4 thousand acres of Northwest cherries may have been lost to rain this week, but said over 40,000 acres of cherries are left to sell. The WSFC expects cherry shipments to peak around June 22.
- **Hort Launches New Web-Site** - We at Hort are proud to announce the launch of our newly designed web-site that boasts information about the Hort board, committees, the upcoming 100th Annual Meeting and Postharvest Conference, and a large variety of other information. The new web-site allows us to post important documents like meeting registrations and the Annual Meeting program guide so that you as a Hort member can easily access this information at your leisure. The new site also hosts an industry calendar, which we strongly encourage all industry members to help us keep full by providing us with meeting and event information. Be

sure to check out the new Hort web-site at www.wahort.org and don't forget to add it to your favorites!

- **Stemilt Rolls Out New Organic Cherry Package** - Stemilt Growers has introduced a new package this year to add to their organic cherry product line, according to a company press release. The new 1 ½-pound random weight bag comes in a "peel-and-seal" format that allows consumers to reseal the bag for multiple uses. Matthew Jarmin, Stemilt's organic specialist, said Stemilt will likely pack and ship 65,000 boxes of organic sweet cherries this year, up from 55,000 boxes last year. Approximately 80% of the organic cherries will ship in consumer-type packages, of which roughly half will be shipped in the new "peel-and-seal" bags and half will be shipped in clamshells.
- **Learn More About Cholinesterase Monitoring And Record Keeping.** - The WSDA Farm Worker Education Program in partnership with L&I is holding a free workshop in both English and Spanish on cholinesterase monitoring and record keeping. The workshop will be held in Yakima at the WSDA in meeting room 238B located at 21 N. 1st Ave. on Tuesday, June 15. The English session will be held from 1:00-3:45 p.m. and the Spanish session will be held from 6:00-8:45 p.m. For more information or to register call Flor Tovar with WSDA at 509-662-0590.
- **Tee It Up At The Hort Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament** - You are invited to *Tee It Up* at the Washington State Horticultural Association's 11th Annual Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held on Tuesday, August 10 at the Lake Chelan Municipal Golf Course. All proceeds from the tournament support scholarships that are awarded to students in honor of past tree fruit industry leaders. Click here to [download a tournament brochure](#) or contact Darby Zahn at 509-665-9641.



- **Fruit Commission Works Closely With Retailers To Move Cherry Crop** - To help move this year's sizeable cherry crop, the Washington State Fruit Commission (WSFC) has been keeping in close contact with over 200 retail groups through informational e-mails. B.J. Thurlby, president of the WSFC said the e-mails help to keep retailers focused on maintaining their cherry promotional plans by sharing with them crop information, dollars per square foot generated by cherries at retail, and

other information. Click here to view a [cherry promotional video](#) that was supplied to retailers by the WSFC.

Headline Links

Fruit-Export Executives Hit With Federal Charges - Link to this article in the [Yakima Herald-Republic](#) that says executives of a Yakima-based fruit export company were arraigned yesterday on federal charges that they sent under-priced fruit to Mexico and falsified inspection records.

Northwest Cherries See Only Limited Damage From June Rains - Connect to the [Produce News](#) to find out what industry insiders are saying about the recent rain storm and it's effect on cherries.

Judge Approves Apple Commission Settlement - Go to this [Good Fruit Grower](#) story to get an in-depth look at the recent Apple Commission hearing.

Yakima River Basin Water Users Being Left High and Dry - Read this [Yakima Herald-Republic](#) story that cites a judge's ruling that some 200 water users will have to stop using water this summer so it is available to farmers in the Yakima Irrigation Project.

Hort History Fact

Did you know that M.H. Gilbert of Yakima was the fifth President of the Association and that to date three generations of Gilberts have served as president of the Association over the years?

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