



WASHINGTON STATE
HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Hort Headline Update

Keeping the Washington Tree Fruit Industry Informed Since 1904

July 18, 2003

- **Comment Period For Apple Commission Settlement This Wednesday** - Judge Edward F. Shea will hear comments on the Apple Commission settlement this Wednesday in Richland. Part of the settlement calls for the commission to collect a mandatory 3.5 cent assessment per 42-pound box of apples. The hearing will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington located at 825 Jadwin Avenue in Richland. We at the Washington State Horticultural Association support the settlement and have notified the court of our support.
- **U.S. Wins WTO Case Against Japan's Restrictions On U.S. Apples** - U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick announced Tuesday that a World Trade Organization (WTO) panel agreed with the United States that Japan's import restriction on U.S. Apples was not justified and were in breach of Japan's WTO obligations. Japan had claimed that it needed to restrict imports of U.S. apples to prevent the introduction of fire blight. However, the U.S. was able to prove to the panel that there was no scientific evidence that harvested apples can transmit fire blight.
- **Judge Orders Tighter Pesticide Curbs Near Streams** - U.S. District Judge John Coughenour yesterday ordered the government to establish temporary buffer zones for more than 50 common pesticides along salmon-bearing streams while it creates permanent environmental regulations. The buffers apply to salmon streams located anywhere along the coast from Puget Sound to central California. The government will hold a public hearing on Aug. 14 to solicit suggestions on the size of the

temporary buffers. There's no set date for when the buffer zones will be established.

- **Washington Organics Get Double Boost** - Stemilt Growers Inc. recently announced that it would renovate its just acquired plant near Chelan to serve as an all-organics facility. Stemilt said apple varieties that can be pre-sized will be packed at the organic facility beginning this fall and that organic cherries would also be packed at the facility in the future. Following Stemilt's announcement, Yakima-based Snokist Growers and San Francisco-based Pac Organic Fruit Co./Pacific Organic Produce agreed to a cooperative packing and marketing effort on organic apples, pears and cherries. According to the *Packer*, Pacific Organic Produce bills itself as the largest organic tree fruit marketer in the U.S.
- **Washington Gets \$17.1 Million to Protect Wildlife** - On Monday, the federal government awarded Washington more than \$17.1 million in grants to preserve land used by endangered species. The grants, totaling more than \$70 million nationwide, were awarded under the Endangered Species Act. Out of the money, \$9.96 million will help to purchase 3,400 acres of forest on the Olympic and Kitsap peninsulas, \$1.85 million will buy and protect 1,140 acres of forest in the Cascade Range along Snoqualmie Pass and \$1.5 million will go to protect 300 acres of habitat along a corridor on the Cedar River.
- **Zuiches Steps Down As WSU Dean** - James J. Zuiches, who has served as dean of Washington State University's College of Agriculture and Home Economics since 1995, will step down from the post effective August 9. R. James Cook, who has held the Endowed Chair in Wheat Research at WSU for five years, will become interim dean of the college. A national search for a permanent dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics will begin in the fall.

Flash Facts

By the end of July, the Tri-Cities and Yakima areas will be one of three McDonald's marketing regions in the nation to begin test-marketing fresh apple slices and caramel dipping sauce as a "snack option" to french fries. In March, McDonald's began selling grapes and sliced apples at its British restaurant outlets for the first time.

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