



Hort Headlines

August 22, 2008

- **Discovery Of Apple Maggots Heats Up Trapping Program In Walla Walla**
The state's apple maggot detection program has turned up two of the pests in Walla Walla County, prompting the distribution of hundreds of additional traps. The discovery marks the first evidence of the destructive insect in Walla Walla County, where there are more than 5,000 acres of commercial apple orchards. The discovery has caught the attention of agriculture officials in Oregon due to the potential impact of the apple maggot on fruit orchards in the Milton-Freewater area. Read more at agr.wa.gov.
- **Study May Shed Light On Bee Decline** – Researchers at the University of Toronto may be a step closer to explaining the mysterious decline in the honeybee population in the US. The decline has caused alarm in the food industry over honey supplies and among producers of crops dependant on bees for pollination. The study suggests the disease known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) may be spread by wild bumble bees to commercially reared bumble bees used to pollinate greenhouse crops. The study concluded that improved management of domestic bees may reduce the insect's parasite load and contact with wild bees, that may diminish or even eliminate the spread of disease. The various reasons for the decline in bees have been linked to poor nutrition, invasive mites and CCD, in which bees desert their hive and die.
- **Discovery May Attract Native Bumblebees With Dye** – Oregon State University researchers hope a fluorescent dye can attract more native bumblebees to farm fields. Bumblebees see in the ultraviolet spectrum, and researchers

recently learned that native bumblebees are attracted to the blue fluorescent dye. The fluorescent blue dye could lure bumblebees to the right areas at the right time of year. Honeybees that are domesticated aren't attracted to the fluorescent blue traps. The discovery may help boost bumblebee numbers and enable local farmers to rely more on the native insects as pollinators. Increasing the bumblebee population might lessen some of the impacts for the agricultural industry.

- **Burger King Apple Fries Fresh Success** – On June 30 Burger King rolled out its Fresh Apple Fries nationwide and they have become a crowning success. To date Burger King Corp. has sold more than 3 million servings of its new Fresh Apple Fries product, exceeding the company's expectations by 85 percent. Some stores sold out of the product after the national launch this summer. The Glycemic Research Institute, based in Washington, D.C., has named Fresh Apple Fries their kid-friendly product of the year.
 - **State Offers Free Pesticide Disposal** – The deadline to sign up for free disposal of pesticides is Tues. (Aug. 26). Two collection days will be held in October: Oct. 7 in Spokane and Oct. 9 in Prosser. WSDA is encouraging farmers, businesses, residents and landowners to bring in agricultural and commercial-grade pesticide products that are no longer needed or wanted. WSDA's collection events are a cost-free and liability-free opportunity to get rid of unwanted pesticides. To sign up, call (360) 902-2056, (877) 301-4555 (toll free) or send an e-mail to wastepesticide@agr.wa.gov.
 - **Cherry RMA Pilot Program** – The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation has approved the implementation of a new Actual Revenue History Pilot Insurance plan for sweet cherries, beginning with the 2009 crop year. The pilot is designed to protect growers against losses from low yield, low price, and low quality. After August 31 the premium calculator will be available at www.rma.usda.gov. The sales closing date is November 20, 2008. Visit www.rma.usda.gov for [ARH-Cherry pilot program](#) insurance materials.
 - **Have You Renewed Your WSHA Membership** By renewing your WSHA membership prior to the annual meeting you will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a Utility Vehicle from Western Fruit Grower Magazine. The drawing will take place at our annual meeting in December in Yakima.
 - **Don't Miss Out: Renew Your WSHA Membership** – WSHA membership invoices have been mailed out to all members. If you have not yet received your invoice please contact WSHA membership coordinator Vicki Young at 509-665-9641 x817 or email vicki@wahort.org. Remember, it is important to renew your WSHA membership promptly. Membership is required in order to register and attend the WSHA 104th Annual Meeting and Trade Show that will take place this December 1, 2 & 3 in Yakima, Washington. Thank you in advance for your membership investment.
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Headline Links

Apple Prices Expected To Spike On Short Supply And High Demand – Apple demand in the United States is higher than it has been in decades, and prices are expected to be higher than ever due to short supplies. Learn more about this story at the [Produce News](#).

Honeycrisp Storage A Growing Challenge As Supplies Increase – As more and more Honeycrisp apples are planted and growers strive to profit from the boundless consumer demand for this crunchy, juicy apple, the marketing pattern will likely change. Read more at the [Fruit Growers News](#).

Survey: Many Wash. Farmworkers Indigenous Mexicans – Indigenous Mexicans make up nearly a quarter of the farmhands who pick the apples, cherries and other crops in western Washington, a new survey has found. Read the following article at www.ap.google.com.

EPA Buzz Kill: Is The Agency Hiding Colony Collapse Disorder Information – The Natural Resources Defense Council filed a lawsuit today to uncover critical information that the US government is withholding about the risks posed by pesticides to honey bees. Visit the www.commondreams.org to learn more. Read another article at the Daily Green ["Credibility Collapse Disorder"](#).

Black Rock Backers Eye Property Tax – A property tax imposed across Yakima, Kittitas and Benton counties is one possible funding source being advanced to pay for the Black Rock reservoir and a series of other improvements to restore fish runs. Read the following article at the [Yakima Herald](#).

Marketing Groups Help Fruit Prices – Seven years ago, apple growers and fruit companies were having rough times financially. Read more at the [Wenatchee World](#).

25 Schools To Get State Fruits, Vegetables – Twenty-five schools statewide will be able to buy Washington-grown fruits and vegetables as snacks this year, thanks to new legislation. Read more at the [Seattle PI](#).

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