



## Hort Headlines

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September 4, 2009

- **National Apple Crop Forecast Released** – The National apple crop was released during the US Apple Outlook Conference in Chicago. The final U.S. Apple Association forecast indicated a U.S. crop of 234,684,000 42-pound units, a reduction of the original USDA estimate but still a 1 percent increase over the 2008 crop. The USDA-project crop ranks as the 11th largest in the nation's history.
- **National Apple Month** – National Apple Month began in 1904 as National Apple Week. In 1996 the event was expanded to a three-month timeframe from September through November. The mission of National Apple Month is to increase apple industry sales and enhance consumer awareness of apple usage and products available.
- **Poster Session Invitation** – The call for poster presenters is now underway as part of the 105th Washington State Horticultural Association Annual Meeting and Postharvest conference. The poster session for this year's meeting will take place at the Wenatchee Convention Center December 7, 8, & 9 with a special poster presenter meet and greet Tuesday evening before the banquet. WTFRC is organizing and managing the poster session. If you would like to participate as a poster presenter please submit your request to [nlehrer@wsu.edu](mailto:nlehrer@wsu.edu) by November 13, 2009. Remember to include titles, author, names, organizations and your contact information. For more information download the [poster presenter invitation](#).

- Azinphos-Methyl (AZM) Use Changes Comments Invited** – EPA currently plans to phase out the use of Azinphos-methyl guthion (AZM) by September 30, 2012 due to farm worker and ecological risks based on their findings. Registrants have requested a change that would increase the rate reductions for some remaining uses of AZM that applies to cherries, apples, pears and blueberries. The rate is currently scheduled to be reduced down to 1.5 pounds of active ingredient. Growers typically use just one pound per application and this rate would limit growers to one application per year. Applicants are requesting a rate increase to 2 pounds per year allowing growers the option of using AZM twice per season. The EPA is requesting public comment on a request from azinphos-methyl (AZM) registrants to amend their registrations. The public comment period will close on September 21, 2009. Please submit comments to the AZM docket, EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0365, at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Read the [Federal Register Notice](#).
- State Offers Free Pesticide Disposal In Orondo** – The deadline to sign up for free disposal of pesticides for the Orondo area is Tuesday, September 8. 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 a 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](mailto:wastepesticide@agr.wa.gov). For more information visit [www.agr.wa.gov](http://www.agr.wa.gov).
- Employer Essentials Newsletter Announcement** – The Washington Farm Bureau has created an advisory newsletter "Employer Essentials" geared for employers that want to keep you up to date on the latest news and issues affecting labor with an emphasis on seasonal and agricultural employers. To learn more visit [www.wsfb.com](http://www.wsfb.com).
- Annual Meeting Helpful Reminder** – The 105th Annual Meeting and Trade Show will take place this December 7, 8 & 9 in Wenatchee, Washington. Hotel rooms are booking up fast in the area. Download our [area hotel guide](#) for helpful phone numbers and information to assist you with booking your room reservations.
- 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 director Nicole Brunner at 509-665-9641 or email [nicole@wahort.org](mailto:nicole@wahort.org). Remember, it is important to renew your WSHA membership promptly. Membership is required in order to register and attend the [WSHA 105th Annual Meeting and Trade Show](#) that will take place this December 7, 8 & 9 in Wenatchee, Washington. Thank you in advance for your membership investment.
- NW Hort Expo/Trade Show** – The 105th WSHA NW Hort Expo/Trade Show will be held at the Wenatchee Convention Center, December 7, 8 & 9th. Participating as an exhibitor is one of the best ways to share with visitors about

up-and-coming technologies and new products. If you have not received information about the upcoming NW Hort Expo or booked space for your booth please contact Dawn Milne at (509) 784-0357 or email [dmilnetime2ride@verizon.net](mailto:dmilnetime2ride@verizon.net). The NW Hort Show is held in conjunction with the 105th WSHA Annual Meeting.

- **Miller Travel Grant Applications Now Being Accepted** – Applications are now being accepted for the Charles J. Miller Memorial Travel & Study Grant. Qualified fruit industry fieldmen, extension workers or other fruit industry service personnel of North Central Washington are welcome to apply. The deadline for application submissions is November 16, 2009. Link to the Charles J. Miller Travel & Study Grant Announcement to [download an application](#). If you have additional questions email [lynette@wahort.org](mailto:lynette@wahort.org).

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## Headline Links

**Labor Department Wants To Raise H-2A Wages** – The Department of Labor wants to erase some reforms to the H-2A agricultural guest worker program that the Bush administration approved in January, leading to higher employer expenses if left unchanged. Learn more at [the Packer](#).

**Growers Adapt To Restrictions** – Northwest apple growers -- faced with a phase-out of organophosphate insecticides -- are adapting to new pest-control regimes, according to a Washington State University scientist. Learn more on this story from [the Capital Press](#).

**Apple Growers Report Good Times** – With fruit size up, crop volume adequate and the market showing signs of improvement, Northwest apple growers could be in for a good year. Learn more on this story from [the Capital Press](#).

**Large Pear Crop Worries Some Washington Growers** – Oregon and Washington pear growers began harvesting what may turn out to be the largest crop on record and that has some growers nervous that too many pears will drive down prices, according to a story in the Wenatchee World newspaper. Learn more on this story from [www.growingproduce.com](http://www.growingproduce.com).

**Pollination Puzzle Answers Elusive** – The results of that study, released earlier this month, failed to find a link between colony collapse and pesticide exposure. Learn more on this story from [the Capital Press](#).

**Bumblebees Dive In To Fill A Void** – Native pollinators such as these fat, fuzzy bumblebees, once an overlooked sideshow in the insect world, are gaining widespread appreciation among everyone from backyard gardeners to big-time farmers. Learn more on this story from [www.physorg.com](http://www.physorg.com).

**Orchardists Seek Alternative Pollinators** – The search for alternative pollinators may be intensifying as the U.S. honeybee population continues to struggle. Learn more on this story from [\*the Capital Press\*](#).

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