



Hort Headlines

September 12, 2008

- **Number Of Apple Trees In Grant County Exceeds Yakima** – The latest tree census conducted by the Washington State Department of Agriculture shows Grant County with more apple trees in the ground than any other county. Yakima County, however, has more acreage in apples. Grant County has approximately 19 million trees on the ground compared to 18 million in Yakima County. The higher number reflects the denser planting in Grant County. In comparison Grant County has almost 500 trees per acre compared to Yakima County at 400 trees per acre, where development continually moves closer to farm areas.
- **Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking (PIRT) Meeting - Sept. 18** – On September 18 there will be a Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking Panel meeting from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the Department of Health located at 101 Israel Road E, TownCenter 1, Room 163 in Tumwater, Washington. Agenda items to be discussed are: Organic Diets Significantly Lower Children's Dietary Exposure to Organophosphorus Pesticides, Air Monitoring for Organophosphates, and the EPA Decision on Metam Sodium. View the complete [agenda](#) or visit www.doh.wa.gov/ for more detailed information.
- **Apple Season Slightly Delayed** – According to a harvest estimate by the US Apple Association, throughout the state of Washington the apple harvest is slightly delayed by about 10 days. The 2008 state crop is estimated to be down approximately 1 percent from the 2007 estimate and 6 percent lower than the five-year average. The 2008 Washington apple crop is estimated at 99.6 million boxes,

which is the third largest crop on record. The report went on to say the quality of apples is expected to be good. Growers are encouraged to check with warehouses to determine what grades and sizes best fit the marketing program for that specific warehouse. The cooler-than-normal spring has led to the delay in this year's harvest.

- **Commercial Bees Might Spread Disease to Wild Bees** – A recent study by the University of Toronto shows that commercial bumble bees may be spreading disease to wild bees. The study postulates that commercially reared bumble bees may be responsible for the introduction of the contagious pathogen *Crithidia bombi* into wild bumble bee populations. The spread of this disease may be contributing to an alarming reduction in the natural pollinating bee population. Although there has been much speculation, the new study provides compelling evidence by analyzing the patterns of disease among wild bees located near greenhouses. The bees lose their ability to distinguish between flowers that contain nectar and those that don't and make many mistakes by visiting nectar-scarce flowers and, in so doing, slowly starve to death. The bees escape from the commercial greenhouses through vents and a simple mesh could help prevent their escape.
 - **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 Polaris ATV from Western Fruit Grower Magazine, and sponsored by Wilbur-Ellis Corp. 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.
 - **Trade Show Has New Name** – The 104th WSHA Trade Show has a new name but will provide the same quality vendors and information. Look for this year's NW Hort Expo formerly known as the Trade Show. The NW Hort Expo will be held at the Yakima Sun Dome, December 1 (Monday) and December 2 (Tuesday) from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. both days. 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 [Angie Fiscus](#) or call (509) 573.9858. The NW Hort Show is held in conjunction with the 104th WSHA Annual Meeting.
-

Headline Links

Growers Finish Smallest Cherry Crop In 8 years – The Pacific Northwest finished a difficult cherry season Aug. 17, harvesting just 9.3 million 20-pound boxes of cherries, the smallest crop in eight years. Learn more about this story at the [Wenatchee World](#).

Apple Exports To Australia Possible, But Not Easy – S. apple exports to Australia may be one step closer, but that the path to commercial sales to Australia is long and winding, U.S. apple industry leaders said in late August. Read more at the [Packer](#).

Foodservice Demand For Organic Produce Increasing – With food, fuel, labor and other costs on the rise, some operators are taking a second look at going organic. Read the following article at the [Packer](#).

Group Closes In On Traceability Standards – The Produce Traceability Initiative is moving closer to establishing implementation dates for case-level traceability standards. Visit the [Packer](#) to learn more.

New Labeler Places Tracing Stickers Rapidly – Packers can print and apply Price Look-Up numbers, Universal Product Codes and GS1 stickers instantly and randomly without touching the fruit, president Ched Greenhill said. Read the following article at the [Packer](#).

Tree-Free, Waterproof Wine Label Made From Stone – A wine label made from calcium carbonate is a natural fit for an industry already keen on going green, claims US supplier Label Impressions. Learn more at the [Food Navigator](#).

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