



## Hort Headlines

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September 18, 2009

- **Motorized Roller Hazard Alert** – The Washington State Department of Labor and Industries has issued an alert on motorized rollers. In the past 12 months, these shop-built devices that are designed to retrieve reflective material spread under fruit trees have been responsible for two amputations and broken bones in three separate incidences in eastern Washington. For more information regarding the official hazard notice visit [www.lni.wa.gov](http://www.lni.wa.gov).
- **EPA Implements Limits To 3 Pesticides** – The EPA has announced plans to place further limitations on the use of three organophosphate pesticides: chlorpyrifos, diazinon and malathion to protect endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead in California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Buffers will be based on a range of factors including application rate, and stream size. Manufacturers are being asked by the EPA to voluntarily adopt the new limitations on labeling for these pesticides. Should manufacturers reject this request, EPA will pursue regulatory action to enforce the limitations. In the past six years of monitoring in Washington State there hasn't been a water sample that has come close to the level of concern that was identified in the proposal. Read more from pesticide industry representatives at the [Capital Press](#).
- **The Last Beekeeper Documentary** – The documentary premiered Saturday on the cable channel Planet Green, and explored through the eyes of three struggling American beekeepers the "intimate relationship" between humans and bees. What prompted filmmakers to make the documentary were the alarming headlines two years ago regarding the mysterious disappearance of honeybees. Filmmakers

followed beekeepers from South Carolina, Montana, and Washington. The documentary doesn't answer the question as to what's killing the honeybees but researchers noted they are "getting close" to identifying a virus as the main culprit. Apiarists estimate that one out of every three bites of food you eat is directly or indirectly pollinated by honeybees.

- **Stone Fruit Shipment Barred By Pest Quarantine** – Recently a California stone fruit grower/shipper became the first to be significantly impacted by a federal quarantine that is in place to help prevent the spread of the little brown apple moth (LBAM). Currently, fruit grown in the Lancaster area cannot be shipped to Mexico. Officials continue to work on an agreement for an acceptable means of treatment that will allow shipments into Mexico, which is the number 2 stone fruit export market. In August, a total of 16 adult moths were discovered in the Long Beach area. Approximately 3,473 square miles are now under quarantine within California and more than 110,000 moths have been trapped. The draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the (LBAM) Program is under public review until Sept. 30. For additional information view the draft EIR report. [view the draft EIR report.](#)
- **USDA Unveil New Food Safety Consumer Web** – A new consumer Website was recently announced that is designed to help consumers and families get the latest information on food safety and food recalls in on convenient place. Visit <http://www.foodsafety.gov> for more information. The new site features information from all the agencies across the federal government that deal with critical food and food safety information, including preventive tips about how to handle food safely, alerts on life-saving food recalls, and the latest news from the key agencies.
- **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 [pmpt.info@wsu.com](mailto:pmpt.info@wsu.com) 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](#).

- **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 Booth Space Limited** – The 105th WSHA NW Hort Expo will be held at the Wenatchee Convention Center, December 7, 8 & 9th. **Currently there are limited booth spaces remaining.** 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

**Scientific Review Finds Flaws In USDA Apple Moth Research** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture had the authority to mandate quarantine and eradication programs for the light brown apple moth, but its reasoning for doing so was in part "not based on sound science," according to a independent review by a scientific panel. Learn more at [the Mercury News](#).

**Proposed Rules Discourage Negative Advertising By Farm Groups** – The

Agriculture Department wants farmers to fight fair as they compete for foreign customers. Learn more at [\*the Merced Sun Star\*](#).

**Gala Apple Harvest In Full Swing** – The Gala apple harvest is in full swing at many Mid-Columbia orchards, and early signs point to a solid apple season overall. Learn more at [\*the Tri-City Herald\*](#).

**Proposed MAP Guidelines Puzzle Grower-Shippers** – Grower groups are scratching their heads after the U.S. Department of Agriculture unveiled proposed new rules that would affect the department's Market Access Program. Learn more on this story from [\*the Packer\*](#).

**USDA Sponsors Tree Fruit Research** – Self-driving tractors and other precision ag tools have become mainstream in field crop production, but in the tree fruit industry those are still fledgling technologies. Learn more on this story from [\*the Capital Press\*](#).

**Illegal Immigration Crackdown Worries Ag** – With harvest in full swing across the West, a heavy cloud hangs over the fields: the uncertainty that comes with an intensified federal crackdown on employers who hire illegal immigrants. Learn more on this story from [\*the Capital Press\*](#).

**Elk Hunt Coincides With Pear Harvest** – The state Department of Fish and Wildlife opened its first general hunting season for elk in the Peshastin and Dryden areas on Tuesday in an attempt to reduce the number of elk causing damage in local pear orchards. Learn more on this story from [\*the Wenatchee World\*](#).

**Laser Labeling System Tattoos Fruits, Vegetables** – Researchers are awaiting Food and Drug Administration approval of a laser etching system that supporters say could replace sticky produce labels. Learn more on this story from [\*the Packer\*](#).

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