



Hort Headlines

October 24, 2008

- **Washington Apple Harvest May Run Into November** – The Washington state apple harvest is expected to last until the end of October; the harvest of late varieties may run into the first week of November. The latest forecast estimates that the fresh apple crop will be larger than initially estimated by two million 40-pound boxes. The robust crop is due to growth in the production of Gala and Golden Delicious apples. The fresh apple crop estimate remains at 101.6 million boxes. Gala apple production is up from 18.9 million to approximately 19.6 million boxes; Golden Delicious production has increased from 11.3 million to almost 12.2 million boxes. The late harvest could present some challenges should freezing weather hit before harvest is over.
- **BIOAg Program Will Address State's Organic Agriculture Sector** – The Washington State University BIOAg program will address the standing of the state's organic agriculture sector on Tuesday, October 28 in a symposium at the Junior Ballroom of the Compton Union Building in Pullman. Keynote speakers will be WSU Assistant Professor of Community and Rural Sociology Jessica Goldberger. She recently completed the first comprehensive statewide survey of Washington's organic producers. Sustainable Agriculture Specialist David Granatstein, the lead author of WSU's annual state organic profile, will also present. After the keynote, John Gardner, WSU Vice President of Extension and Economic Development, will discuss "Engaging the University in Sustainability Research, Education and Extension in the 21st Century." Keynote presentations will begin at noon. The symposium is free of charge and open to the public. For

more information contact Lynne Carpenter-Boggs at 509-335-1553 or email lcboggs@wsu.edu.

- **Washington State Unemployment Rate Drops** – In September the Washington state unemployment rate dipped to 5.8 percent from 6 percent in August. Although Washington's economic growth rate has slowed down, the state of the economy is substantially better than it was during the 2001 recession, when Washington's employment level declined for 20 consecutive months, said officials. In the past 12 months, Washington state job growth was 1 percent with 28,100 new nonfarm jobs. Nationwide, the number of jobs has fallen by less than 1 percent. The U.S. unemployment rate held at 6.1 percent in September.
- **WSHA 104th Annual Meeting Information is Now On-Line** – The Washington State Horticultural Association's 104th Annual Meeting program guide, registration form and lodging guide are now available on the WSHA web-site at www.wahort.org. This year's 104th Annual Meeting will take place December 1, 2, & 3 at the Yakima Convention Center. The theme this year is "*Celebrating Tree Fruit: Opportunities for the Next Generation.*" Don't miss the largest educational conference in the nation dedicated to tree fruit industry issues – sign up to attend today! To register contact Vicki at (509) 665-9641 or email vicki@wahort.org.
- **Poster Session Invitation** – The call for poster presenters is now underway as part of the 104th Washington State Horticultural Association Annual Meeting and Postharvest conference. The poster session for this year's meeting will take place at the Yakima Convention Center December 1, 2, & 3 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 be a poster presenter please submit your request to hanrahan@treefruitresearch.com by November 3, 2008. For more information download the [poster presenter invitation](#).
- **NW Hort Expo/Trade Show** – The 104th WSHA NW Hort Expo/Trade Show 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. 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

Congressional Candidates Sound Off On Ag Issues – Candidates in Washington's congressional races speak of the need to relieve the country's dependence upon foreign oil, the importance of water and their desire to seek fair trade for the nation's agricultural producers. Learn more on this story from [the](#)

[Capital Press.](#)

USDA Joins Chorus Against Residue Ban The USDA is objecting to the Environmental Protection Agency's plan to disallow residues from the pesticide carbofuran on all food crops, saying the proposal thwarts the intention of federal pesticide law. Read more at [the Capital Press.](#)

Nurseries Work To Keep Pesticides Out Of Water – It's no secret that pesticides in surface water are drawing more attention from state and federal agencies. Read the following article at [the Capital Press.](#)

Yakama Nation Considers Licenses Or Permits For Foreign Workers – A member of the Yakama Nation is working to create a tribal guest-worker program that would require licenses or permits for foreign workers and nontribal citizens working on reservation lands. Visit [the Seattle Times](#) to learn more.

Rise In Food Allergies Raises Labeling Concerns – The issues is of concern for the food industry as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said recently that advisory labeling of allergens in food "may not be protecting the health of allergic consumers". Visit the [Food Navigator](#) to learn more.

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