



Hort Headlines

November 14, 2008

- **Washington State Legislature Hearings** – The Washington State Legislature will hold hearings in Olympia Dec. 3 through 5. The hearings preview some of the issues on which the Legislature is likely to focus in the 2009 session. Lawmakers will hear reports from work groups that have been studying issues and developing policy recommendations since the end of the 2008 session of the Legislature last spring. Following are some hearings of interest scheduled for the first week of December. Most of the hearings can be viewed on www.tvw.org , and all hearings are open to the public. Click here for a [full slate of hearings](#).
- **Washington State Legislature Hearings Important To You**

December 4, (Thurs.) 2008

♣ **8:00 a.m. - The Senate Trade Policy and the Jt. Legislative Oversight Committees** will hold a work session on the affects of proposed federal trade legislation (S3083) on Washington state. S-3083 would require a review of existing trade agreements and renegotiation of existing trade agreements based on the review. With apple exports alone valued at about \$389 million per year, trade is an important issue for the state tree fruit industry.

1:30 - The House Local Government Committee♣ will hold a work session on a study to develop strategies to balance

environmental protection and agricultural viability. The committee will review the second progress report on conflicts between agricultural activities and "critical area ordinances." Declaring land a "critical area" -- such as a wetland or a stream border -- can significantly limit how the land is used and cause a host of regulatory requirements to apply to the land. [Click here for more information on the study.](#)

December 5, (Fri.) 2008

♣ **10:00 a.m. – The House Agriculture & Natural Resources** will hold a work session on the Walla Walla River Basin Water Plan, which updates water-management policies adopted in 1977 in order to protect existing water rights, accommodate future growth and improve fish runs.

- **2008 Pest Management Fruit School** WSU Tree Fruit Extension and PMTP are offering a two day Pest Management Fruit School. The courses will be offered December 10 from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and December 11 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The focus this year will be on integrated pest management. Jay Brunner, director of the WSU Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center in Wenatchee, will present the key note address. Registration for the live sessions is \$100. Three video-conferencing locations are also available. For more information or to register call (509) 663-8181 or visit <http://pmt.psu.edu/fruitschool>.
 - **Last Call: Annual Meeting Early Registration Deadline** – All WSHA Annual Meeting registration forms received by Wednesday, November 19 qualify for the early meeting registration rate of \$90. Meeting registration received after Wednesday, November 19 is \$115. Be sure to get the best available meeting rate by sending your registration form in early! This year's 104th Annual Meeting will take place December 1, 2 & 3 at the Yakima Convention Center. Also, be sure to attend the WSHA Banquet on Tuesday night. Thanks to the Western Fruit Grower and UPI, the first 200 attendees will receive a complimentary print of "Orchard Bloom," a painting by Wenatchee artist Jan Cook Mack. Visit www.wahort.org to register or email vicki@wahort.org to sign up today!
 - **Tree Fruit Day Set For February 3, 2009** – WSHA's 6th Annual Tree Fruit Day is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3 in Olympia. The one-day event will include visits with key legislators and agency officials. Tree fruit industry gift boxes will also be distributed again this year to all legislators and their legislative assistants. Visit the [WSHA web-site](#) to download a registration form.
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Headline Links

Record Apple Crop Concerns Industry – Washington will probably produce a record apple crop this year, but the size of the harvest and international financial turmoil are likely to push prices down, experts say. Learn more on this story from [*the Wenatchee World*](#).

Purfresh Boosts Safety, Sustainability in Washington's Apple Industry – Purfresh, Inc., provider of technologies that purify, protect, and preserve our food and water, announced today that Broetje Orchards has implemented Purfresh Cold Storage and Purfresh Wash systems into its post-harvest operations. Read more at www.marketwatch.com.

New Technology Could Increase Juice Safety – A combination of sonication and osmotic evaporation represents a promising new technology that could be designed to athermally produce safe, concentrated fruit juices, claims a new study. Read the following article at www.foodnavigator.com.

Tree Top Deal To Expand Fruit Portfolio – The fruit company Tree Top has completed an agreement to acquire the fruit puree processor Sabroso in order to expand its product portfolio and increase research and development. Visit www.foodnavigator.com to learn more.

Washington Agriculture Director To Keynote Pasco Ag Show – Organizers of the Pasco Ag Show have announced that the Washington State Department of Agriculture director will be the keynote speaker. Visit [*Tri-City Herald*](#) to learn more.

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