

# COLUMBIA GORGE FRUIT GROWERS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2011

## NCAE REPORTS

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has resumed sending out No-Match letters to employers. This ends a long break that started when the Department of Homeland Security's 2007 no-match regulation (now rescinded) was blocked by a court. SSA's new letter says that the recipient is not required to respond, and that the letter alone should not be the basis for taking any adverse action against the employee listed. If you do respond to the letter, the SSA may share the information with the Internal Revenue Service or the Department of Justice.

If you receive an SSA No-Match letter, the SSA instructs you to:

- check your records to see if there is a discrepancy in the records submitted to SSA;
- ask the employee to check his or her records to determine if the information was accurately recorded/reported;
- instruct the employee to contact the SSA to resolve any discrepancy;
- provide the employee a reasonable amount of time to resolve the discrepancy; and
- document your efforts to resolve the matter.

The SSA, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Office of Special Counsel provide no additional guidance for an employer's obligations upon receipt of a No-Match letter. These agencies all appear to take the position that a No-Match letter is not evidence that the employee is unauthorized to work. They do not offer any clarification of what would be considered "a reasonable amount of time" to resolve the discrepancy, nor what to do if the employee is unable to resolve

Continued on page 3

## COLLABORATIVE PESTICIDE MONITORING PROJECT

This year, creeks around The Dalles are again being sampled for pesticides as part of the "Pesticide Stewardship Partnership" (PSP). This partnership involves Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers, OSU Extension, Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District, The Dalles Watershed Council, and Oregon DEQ. The Conservation District collects the samples, the DEQ lab analyses them, and all partners help with developing the sampling plan and deciding what to do next based on the results.

Local growers and the partner agencies have chosen to work together to monitor the streams because everyone wants pesticides to stay on target and out of the water. Pesticide results provide feedback on the success of current management practices. If problems are detected, partners like OSU Extension and the Conservation District can target their education and outreach programs, as well as their technical and financial assistance offerings, to help bring about solutions.

Last year, chlorpyrifos and malathion were both detected on Threemile Creek and Mill Creek. In response, orchard managers, the Conservation District, The Dalles Watershed Council, and Extension have been talking about strategies to reduce concentrations of these pesticides in streams. For just a couple examples, growers at an Orchard Managers' Meeting in March shared their experiences with alternatives to chlorpyrifos. And at the request of growers, the Conservation District plans to develop a workshop on spray buffers to reduce drift into streams.

Continued on page 2

## CALENDAR

May  
10 Winegrape Disease Management Workshop

June  
1 Golf Tournament—Indian Creek

July  
20 MCAREC Field Day

\*\*\*\*\*  
CGFG is organizing another CPR/1st Aid Class in Spanish for farmworkers in The Dalles. The cost will be \$40 for a four-hour class to be held at the Community College. This class will be held in May, so please call and sign up any employees that would like to be certified. The date will be determined as soon as we have enough students for a class.

## OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri 9am-1pm  
Afternoons subject to change. Call 387-4769 for hours.

**TRAINING MATERIALS**

The following training materials are available at the CGFG office.

**For sale on DVD - \$4 each**

- EPA Worker Protection Standard - Orchard Workers
- EPA Worker Protection Standard - Pesticide
- Tractor Safety
- Orchard Ladder Safety & Forklift Training

**For Loan on VHS**

- Load & Lift (English)
- Tripod Orchard Ladder Safety

**NORTHWEST HORT NEWS**

Northwest Horticulture Council filed comments in support of the Obama Administration's proposal to initiate a "Pilot Program on NAFTA Long-Haul Trucking Provisions." The proposed pilot program is part of the announced solution to the cross-border trucking dispute and the commitment Mexico has made to remove its 20% retaliatory tariffs on apples, pears cherries and apricots. Those interested in submitting comments have until May 13 to do so at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FMCSA-2011-0097-0001>

**COLLABORATIVE PROJECT**

Continued from page 1

In the end, the goal of the PSP program is to prompt the voluntary implementation of best management practices to reduce pesticide concentrations in streams.

For more information, contact Kate Conley, Watershed Council Coordinator with Wasco County SWCD, at (541) 296-6178 x.119.

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**NCAE REPORTS**

Continued from page 1

the discrepancy.

ICE Notices of Inspection for I-9 audits generally request copies of any correspondence received from SSA, including No-Match letters. It is unclear whether merely documenting an employee's inability to resolve a discrepancy without taking further action will satisfy ICE in the event of an I-9 audit.

The rescinded No-Match regulation outlined "safe harbor" procedures to dem-

onstrate that an employer had acted reasonably to a No-Match letter, including allowing the employee 90 days within which to resolve the discrepancy and completing a new I-9 form with updated documents. We recommend that you develop standard policies and procedures to address issues raised in SSA No-Match letters and implement them in a non-discriminatory way.

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## REPORT FROM STEVE CASTAGNOLI, OSU EXTENSION

In the Hood River area, pears are generally considered to be self-unfruitful. Most varieties require cross pollination by another variety for economically acceptable production. This lack of self-fruitfulness is a function of both self-incompatibility and the lack of parthenocarpic fruit set under prevailing weather conditions during and after bloom.

To satisfy this requirement for cross pollination, pear orchards are currently planted with trees of two or more *fruiting* (harvested) varieties arranged either in alternating rows or interplanted throughout the orchard. There are two fundamental requirements for two pear varieties to serve as *pollinizers* or sources of pollen for each other: they must be *genetically* compatible, and they must have sufficient bloom overlap for pollination and fertilization to occur.

Genetic compatibility is controlled by a system known as gametophytic self incompatibility, whereby self-pollen is recognized and rejected before it can reach and fertilize the egg or ovule. Most pear varieties have two variations of the gene that controls self-incompatibility. If the other variety has the same two variants, the two varieties are completely incompatible. This is the case for Bartlett and Seckel. If the two varieties share only one of the same variants, on average half of the pollen grains produced by each will not be rejected by the other, and the two are considered partly compatible. This is the case for Bartlett and Anjou. The third possibility is that the varieties have two different variants of the gene and are considered compatible as is the case for Bartlett and Bosc, and Bosc and Comice.

There are tradeoffs made due to the limitations of this multi-variety approach to addressing the need for cross-pollination. With two or more varieties in a block, there may be

- different pest or disease management requirements for the two cultivars
- incompatibilities of sprays for thinning or modifying fruit finish

Continued on page 5

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Continued from page 4

## Manufactured Home for Sale

Parkdale - A Must See For Sale! 1977 Marlett double wide manufactured home that DOES NOT look its age. Appraiser and manufactured home transporter both could not believe the excellent condition of this home. 1804 sq. ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, with spacious living area, sitting area with fireplace insert, new water heater, newly remodeled kitchen, master bedroom (hardwood floors), and bathroom. Electric forced air furnace/heat pump with digital thermostat. Master bathroom has heated tile floors with double sinks on a 10 ft. countertop. Price includes all kitchen appliances; new refrigerator, double ovens, dishwasher and cooktop stove. New exterior paint, gutters and newer roofing. \$12,500 and buyer to incur all moving costs (est. 10K-\$12K). \*Note - Upper portion of home for sale only, not foundation/basement. 5708 Miller Road. Call for appointment: 541-619-0105.

## OSU EXTENSION

- complications in harvest operations
- low value for fruit of the pollinizer variety
- lack of bloom overlap in some years

Are there alternatives to the standard multi-variety orchard design for northwest pear growers? Single variety apple orchards, which use crab apples as pollinizers, provide a useful model. In the literature on pear pollination and fruit set, there are references made by people like Mel Westwood and Porter Lombard to alternative pollinizers for pears. This idea of alternative pollinizers for pear is not new, but it has not been fully developed for northwest pear orchards.

There is a tremendous amount genetic diversity in the genus *Pyrus* with many pear species in addition to the commonly cultivated ones to choose from. According to the literature there is wide cross-compatibility among these. They also have a wide range of bloom times. I am evaluating nine different pear selections obtained from the USDA World Pear Collection in Corvallis as alternative pollinizers for our commercial pear varieties. My goal is to develop a set of alternative pollinizers for commercial pear varieties that have

- genetic compatibility
- good bloom overlap
- regular and abundant bloom

resistance to prevalent pests and diseases

Results of this work to date have been encouraging, but it will be while before I can recommend any of these as substitutes for standard pollinizers in commercial orchards.



### CLINIC SERVICES

- Injured Worker Care
- Physical Exams, inc. DOT
- Fit-for-Duty Testing
- Drug & Alcohol Testing
- Travel Vaccinations
- Hearing & Vision Testing
- Ergonomic Evaluations
- Carpal Tunnel Testing
- FAA Physicals
- Employee Wellness
- Mobile services

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**COLUMBIA GORGE FRUIT GROWERS**

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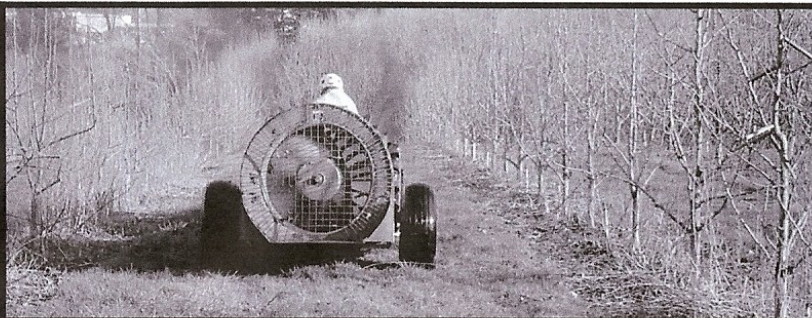
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OSU Extension Service will present a workshop on winegrape disease management to be held at the OSU Extension Service office in Hood River on May 10, 2-4:30 pm. The program will focus on management of powdery mildew and botrytis bunch rot in winegrapes. Presentations by pathologist Jay Pscheidt and viticulturist Patty Skinkis will cover strategies for managing these two important diseases towards the production of high quality fruit. The workshop will be offered at no charge, but pre-registration is required. To register for the program or for more information, email [steve.castagnoli@oregonstate.edu](mailto:steve.castagnoli@oregonstate.edu) or call the OSU Extension Service office in Hood River at 541-386-3343.

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