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University of Massachusetts Extension

# Cranberry Station Newsletter

**APRIL 11, 1996**

Cranberry Experiment Station
Glen Charlie Road
East Wareham, MA 02538

## The Bottom Line

Cranberry growers will no longer be able to buy Omite for control of southern red mite (SRM). Growers should not assume that they can use up their leftover, existing stocks of Omite to treat mites. If you treat with Omite that you have on hand, you may have nowhere to sell your berries: soon, each cranberry handler will be making a decision as to whether it will buy/use berries treated with any Omite in 1996.

If you had a severe problem with mites in 1995, a decision to hold late water must be made right now. There are no other miticides registered for cranberry. The single option is holding a late water flood from around mid-April to mid-May. While late water will eliminate all mites on your bog, this is an unusual year and possible negative impacts of the flood on yield must also be weighed to make an informed decision -- see next section. If you have questions about using late water, call Carolyn DeMoranville at 295-2212.

We are making every effort, in concert with Jere Downing and Don Weber (Ocean Spray), to get another miticide available as soon as possible.

ANNE L. AVERILL

## Using Late Water for Mite Control in 1996

As detailed in this news alert, late water (LW) provides excellent control for SRM. However, you may have heard that both Joan Davenport (Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.) and I have been telling people that 1996 may not be the best year for using this practice. Let me try to put the situation into perspective and provide some tips on how to make a decision whether or not to use LW for SRM control in 1996.

Any activity or weather condition that stresses the cranberry plants has the potential for lowering yield. LW can be stressful to the cranberry plants under some conditions. Usually, as long as you manage the flood properly (depth and temperature), the stress is minimal and crop is not reduced (or reduced less than 5%). Such minor losses are usually offset by using less fertilizer and pesticides (savings on materials and applications).

Because LW is an added stress, its use is not recommended if the bog is already showing signs of stress. Last summer was very stressful with many days of bright sunshine, high temperature, and no rain. This followed the winter of 1994-1995 which was abnormally warm. This past winter (1995-1996) was more normal but many bogs show signs of stress this spring. These include leaf drop and areas of off-color vines (usually a muddy brown). Such bogs are not good candidates for LW.

### 1996 Recommendations regarding late water for southern red mite control:

- Determine if your bog has the potential for significant impact by SRM in 1996. If SRM is not usually a problem or is not expected to be a problem this year - do not use LW in 1996.
- If you believe that SRM will be a problem on your bog - carefully inspect the vines for signs of stress.
- If the bog shows leaf drop, browning, or other damage - do not use LW in 1996. You may suffer more damage from holding LW in these conditions than you would from the SRM.
- If the bog looks strong and resilient - use LW in 1996 to control SRM.
- If you decide to use LW - follow the tips below and read the LW section in the Chart Book (pp 34-35).

University of Massachusetts, College of Food and Natural Resources, United States Department of Agriculture, and Massachusetts counties cooperating. UMass Extension offers equal opportunity in programs and employment.

**Late Water Tips (if you decide to use LW):**

- Make sure that you get the flood on soon - as close to **April 15th** as possible for inland locations. Cape bogs can be flooded as late as April 20th.
- Watch for signs of algal scum. Remember that the algaecides registered for use in LW are *preventatives* - they will not remove algae already present, they just prevent new algal growth.
- Monitor temperature towards the end of the 30 day flood period. If temperatures are very warm the flood may be removed a few days early. If very cold, you may hold for a day or two longer to protect from frost danger.
- Remember that once the flood is removed you must protect for all temperatures below 30°F.
- Take advantage of LW impacts on insects and fruit rot. LW impacts many other pests besides SRM. The preliminary keeping quality forecast is excellent - on LW bogs, fungicide use can be greatly reduced. LW also impacts cranberry fruitworm - see the Chart Book for recommendations for IPM protocols and a reduced spray schedule for LW bogs.

If you have further questions regarding LW in 1996 or how to manage LW bogs, call me at the Cranberry Station.

CAROLYN DEMORANVILLE

UMass Extension Mailing Signoff
Anne L. Averill, Small Fruit Specialist

# OMITE CANCELLATION

On Friday April 5, an agreement was reached between EPA and Uniroyal Chemical Company whereby 10 crops, including cranberry, would be cancelled from the Omite 6E label effective immediately. The reason for the expediated cancellation is a higher than acceptable dietary risk from the estimated residues of Omite for several fruits and vegetables that are common in the diets of infants and children. The cranberry use was included in the cancellation only because of extremely limited sales, and not due to any dietary risk. As part of the agreement, Uniroyal has offered to buy back all available stock of Omite 6E through their distributer network, and EPA is strongly urging growers to return product to their dealers. EPA does not want Omite applied to these crops where Omite has been cancelled. EPA has the option to revoke the tolerance of Omite 6E on the impacted crops in the near future which would mean any residue on the crops would be illegal and the crops would be unfit for sale or consumption.

JERE DOWNING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CRANBERRY INSTITUTE

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