



# WASHINGTON RED RASPBERRY COMMISSION NEWS

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## Your Industry Needs You!



The Red Raspberry Commission Board will be preparing the 2006 Workplan and Budget in the next few months. We take very seriously the responsibility to use the funds you supply us on the issues most important to your farm.

We need to hear from you so that we make the right decisions about what activities to emphasize. A survey is included for all raspberry growers with 11 short questions that will prove most helpful to us as we weigh how to apply your assessment dollars.

Your opinions don't help us much if we never hear them. This survey is designed to be short and focused. You can fill it out in minutes or take the time to make comments. We'd much appreciate hearing from you either in person or via the survey.

A stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience. We hope you will fill out the survey and return it along with your grower reports as soon as possible. The grower reports are due September 30th.

Thank you for helping us improve the industry and pave the way towards a more profitable future for your farm.

### Plant Pathology Vacancy

The WRRC has spent much of the summer devising ways to have our needs for plant pathology research addressed. We have been fortunate to have had Pete Bristow for so many years. Pete was with the industry at the inception of the WRRC in 1976. Replacing him is not possible. But finding some means to address our need for plant pathology concerns is a vital interest of our industry.

Unfortunately the pathology department at WSU is undergoing substantial budget cuts and it appears that both Pete's position and that of his research assistant are no longer being funded.

WSU has been trying to find ways to serve the industry by assigning pathologists from Prosser to spend some time with berry growers. The new WSU Horticulture position filled by Tom Walters will also be of assistance. USDA Ag Research Service in Corvallis provides some help as well.

The need remains for a dedicated and available researcher to address the vacancy left by Pete. We have explored many options to address this need but funding remains a significant problem. Growers should continually remind WSU and their State and Federal representatives of this need.

## Early results in for PCR sampling of raspberries in Washington

Craig MacConnell, WSU Extension/Whatcom County

Results from twenty eight raspberry samples for *Phytophthora fragariae* var. *rubi* have been received back from Oregon State University. The results are interesting to me. Thirteen of the twenty eight are positive for the specific pathogen *Phytophthora fragariae* var. *rubi*, while another thirteen are reported as negative for any *Phytophthora* species. One sample was negative for *P. f. r.* but positive for some *Phytophthora* species. Resolution of one sample is still pending.

I hope this gives raspberry growers pause to think about the soundness of applying Ridomyl® automatically to each field regularly. First of all those applications cost money and secondly that approach is the best way to force resistance of *P. f. r.* to Ridomyl®. Raspberry growers can remember the loss of other important fungicides which were primarily caused by repeated usage without the regular substitution of other products with different modes of action. The continued wide scale repeated usage of Ridomyl® is sure to repeat that loss of another important fungicide tool. Pete Bristow has already identified Ridomyl® resistant strains of *P. f. r.*, so we know that this is a possibility.

To learn how to submit raspberry samples for PCR analysis for *P. f. r.*, visit [http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/IPM/Phytophthora\\_Sampling\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/IPM/Phytophthora_Sampling_Guidelines.pdf) or contact the WRRRC office or Tom Peerbolt, email: [tom@peerbolt.com](mailto:tom@peerbolt.com), phone (503) 289-7287.

To see the anonymous survey results go to:

[http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/IPM/phytophthora\\_results.htm](http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/IPM/phytophthora_results.htm)

Funding for this survey is provided by Whatcom County, Washington Red Raspberry Commission, and the Washington Commission for Pesticide Registration.

### PCR TESTING PROCEDURE

- *Contact the WRRRC office, WSU/Whatcom County, or Peerbolt Crop Management in SW WA to obtain a sampling kit. All growers can submit at least two samples.*
- *Identify plants that you suspect may be suffering from root rot. Follow directions in sampling kit to obtain a pure sample.*
- *Bring samples to the above locations promptly for shipping to the lab. A \$50 check to the WRRRC is needed per sample. The WRRRC and the Pesticide Commission are paying the other half of the lab costs.*

## Take Home Lessons - International Berry Health Symposium

1. Nutraceutical research has moved far beyond the ellagic acid work we did in the late 90's.
2. The key concept coming out of this symposium is that it is neither sufficient nor wise to isolate individual properties or berries. Rather there seems to be increased health benefits from the synergy of consuming a multiplicity of berries. The properties of each enhance the other.
3. Raspberries need to pay to play. The current research is conspicuously devoid of red raspberry research. The fact is that the researchers work on what they get paid to research. The Ohio black raspberry growers have been particularly adept at getting federal and state funds to do black raspberry research. For such a small crop their information appears everywhere! The Blueberry Council, Cranberry Marketing Order, and the CA Strawberry Commission have also been quite active in funding this research. The Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission (ORBC) used to fund both raspberry and blackberry research but the decline in Oregon raspberries has focused them nearly exclusively in blackberry and black raspberry research. We are not riding on their backs any longer. We are well advised to use some of our promotion or research funds to ensure that red raspberries get attention in these health research projects.
4. There is a real desire among the berry industries for a team approach to promoting berry health benefits. It is clear that each of the berries have properties that are beneficial to consumers. There is much wisdom in cooperating in getting this message out. The WRRRC has been working with the ORBC and the OSU Food Science Dept. to develop a webpage that would contain berry health information and present it in a manner that communicates well to diverse audiences. We are also working towards linking the National Berry Crop Initiative with the berry health message.

## National Strategy for Berry Crops Being Developed

The National Berry Crop Initiative (NBCI) is a partnership of industry, academia and government formed to develop a strategic research and Extension plan for the continued growth and sustainability of berry crop production in the United States. Berry Crops include, but are not limited to: strawberry, brambles (raspberry, blackberry, others), blueberry, cranberry (including lingonberry) and Ribes (currant and gooseberry). A steering committee was assembled to draft a strategic plan that could be vetted nationally to farmers, academia and state and federal agencies.

The Pacific Northwest steering committee members include: Randy Honcoop, Henry Bierlink, Tom Peerbolt representing Washington and Phillip Gütt and Ron Fugii representing Oregon. The national committee has been meeting via phone conference throughout the spring and summer and has produced a draft strategy which will be circulated around grower groups throughout the fall and winter. Upcoming WRRC meetings and newsletters will feature more details of the plan. A few of the components are included below. Your comments and questions are always appreciated.

**Core Purpose:** The purpose of the National Berry Crop Initiative is to create an environment in which collaborative interaction leads to increased opportunity for success of varied but allied industries.

### Core Values:

- **Integrity** – of the products, of information, of the members
- **Interdependence** – capitalizing on common interests and opportunities
- **Working Collectively** – achieving common goals as a unified voice; what NBCI can do better than an individual industry working on its own; building trust
- **Stewardship/Sustainability** – environmental, economic, social
- **Respect** – internally and externally
- **Leadership** – for berry crops in particular and for Specialty Crops as a whole

**Vision Statement:** By 2020, the American berry crop industry will triple consumer use of berry crops while increasing the current market share against international sources. Increased berry consumption will contribute to improvement in human health and nutrition, prosperity for rural communities and sustainability of the berry crop industry.

**Mission Statement:** In order to achieve our vision, the National Berry Crop Initiative will insure outcome-based funding for prioritized, world-class research and Extension programs in human health aspects of berry crops, crop production and product utilization. NBCI will become a world leader in identifying and responding to trends that affect the sustainability of the berry crop industries. Leadership and funding will be provided through creative public-private partnerships among government, academic, nonprofit and private sector partners accountable for research, development and adoption of business, environmental and socially responsible best practices in the American berry crop industry.



**The weather at the Harvester Trial at Sakuma Brothers typified this year's harvest season. Note board member Glenn Sakuma's pleading request for the rains to end.**

**Washington  Red Raspberry  
Commission**

*Promotion, Fair Trade, and Research  
assistance for Growers*

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**Board of Directors**

Rob Dhaliwal, Pres.	John Ozuna	Darryl Ehlers
Erin Thoeny, Vice-Pres	Jon Cotton	Ralph Minaker
Glenn Sakuma, Treas.	Randy Honcoop	Bill Dallas

**Calendar**

September 7 - WRRC Board Meeting  
November 2 - WRRC Board Meeting  
December 1,2 - NWCSFR meeting, Portland  
December 7 - WRRC Board Meeting  
December 4-7 - Rubus/Ribes Symposium @  
*Pucon, Chile*

**News Notes**

- The 9th International *Rubus* and *Ribes* Symposium will be held in Pucón, Chile from December 4th to the 7th, with an optional pre-symposium tour from November 30th to December 4th. The tour will visit raspberry, blackberry, red currant farms and will see some wild *Ribes* along the different production areas of Chile. Pucón is a small town located in the southern part of Chile, 785 km from Santiago, in the “Region de la Araucania” (IX Region of Chile), at the bottom of the Villarrica volcano and lake. Raspberries, blackberries and red currants will be ready to harvest in Chile at the time of the symposium. Check out the website @ <http://www.rubusribes.cl/index.htm> for more information on the Symposium.
- Nominations for upcoming board positions will be received by the WA Department of Agriculture in September. They will be contacting you to announce the nominating procedure. It is time for those of you in Districts #1(Whatcom) and #3(Clark, Cowlitz) to be thinking about who you want to represent you. Terms are expiring for Ralph Minaker, Darryl Ehlers, and Erin Thoeny.
- The Grower and Processor Report Forms are being mailed along with this newsletter. The State Auditor has been critical of the low percentage of these forms that have been returned. Only YOU can help address that concern. Please return your completed form to insure you are properly credited for your assessment dollars.
- The mechanical harvester trials at Sakuma Brothers and Randy Honcoop’s farms were well attended. We hope your farm was represented in the discussion over what plant and berry qualities are to be prioritized in the search for new varieties beyond the Meeker. If not, be sure to join us next July and help us evaluate what are the most promising varieties to invest in.
- The WRRC is working with the Farm Service Agency to ensure that their crop disaster program and the risk management tools that they can provide are workable for raspberry growers. We are arguing that the basis for crop payments should be based on actual prices rather than the formula for calculating prices that the FSA currently uses. We encourage growers to provide FSA information to document actual prices received for berries. This information will help us build the case for making their programs more attune to actual conditions.