

# BC Organic Grower

Vol. 8, No. 4

Winter 2005-2006



British  
Columbia  
Certified  
Organic



Cincott Farms:  
Organic Harvest Award Winner

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**COABC 3402 32nd Ave. Vernon BC V1T 2N1**

# President's Message

by Deb Foote

Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. Perhaps it's even time for vacation, or you've just returned. I am sure that most if not all of you have your seed orders in, and are in the process of developing or expanding on your marketing plan for 2006.

In 2006, I celebrate my 20th year with Wild West - hard to believe. Then again I know many of you have been working on your farms a whole lot longer than 20 years. George & Anna, Martin, dear Sophie, Ron & Andrea, Billy, Elam, Mary & Hans, Gary and Naty - just to name a few, the rest of you know who you are.

2005 has been an eventful year for COABC, with the West Nile issue, Supply Management, and National Standards being focal points for the Board. There are many people to thank for their efforts on behalf of COABC, and all organic producers in the province.

Paddy Doherty has been busy on the National front writing—and re-writing, and re-writing—draft Standards, and steering the Organic Regulatory Committee, a job which has required a high degree of diplomacy. The ORC



is a diverse group of people who are involved in a number of facets of the sector, including certification, accreditation, and advocacy. The role of the ORC is to work with the Federal Government to ensure that a regulation is developed that is in keeping with internationally recognised organic standards. We are fortunate to have Paddy in this position, which is a COABC project under the OSDP funding with support from a range of organic businesses. Paddy has been able to bring COABC's position to the table and has all but assured that we will be able to morph our current role of Provincial Organic Accreditation Body to that of a nationally recognised Accreditor. Paddy's work on this project will continue through 2006, as we transition into National Standards. The effect on our own Standard would appear to be minimal, as we will be able to certify to any standard higher than the National one; however, the pressure on our Standards Review Committee should diminish as many issues we have been wrestling with will be addressed at the national level.

On the issue of West Nile, we became alarmed at the proposal to spray Malathion as a control against the virus. A conference call took place in October involving a representative from BCMAL and their liaison to the BC Center for Disease Control, to raise the concerns of the organic sector. There was some discussion of appropriate buffer zones, an idea which we eventually rejected as unworkable. The other issue was compensation for farms which might have been contaminated; this, we agreed, is a highly variable factor, and we came up with a plan wherein key operators in different sectors

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of organic agriculture including but not limited to eggs, grain, poultry, beef, vegetables, and tree fruits, would be asked to estimate appropriate compensation levels. We also recognised that scale was an issue and thus feedback will be sought from operators of varying size. While the only perfect solution would be that there never be a need to spray Malathion - or any other broad-spectrum pest control - we feel that developing a standard for compensation will be our next best bet.

On the issue of Supply Management, the OSDP project (C-10) has wrapped up. In September The Farm Industry Review Board presented COABC with a document *Specialty Market and New Entrant Submissions - Policy, Analysis, Principles and Directions*. The COABC marketing board committee formulated and submitted our response. While we were generally pleased with the outcome, viewed as a "strong progressive stance," there were a few weaknesses that we pointed out to FIRB in the letter submitted. We have yet to see how the commodity boards will implement the directives from FIRB, but are confident that as long as BCMAL is supportive of Organics in BC there will be sufficient political will to ensure that the directives are upheld.

I want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who attended and or sponsored the First Annual Organic Harvest Awards. The event was a smashing success, as those of you who attended can attest. Next year will be even better. Watch the list serve or check the website and future issues of "The Grower" for updates as the year progresses. I want to encourage you to enter the awards, to and attend the event. You won't want to miss it. You can read more about the 2005 Awards in Kirsten's report, and in the wrap-up.

A good portion of this issue of "The Grower" is dedicated to the upcoming Conference and AGM. The Conference will be held the last weekend of February (24th to 26th) in Abbotsford. Do read further for all of the details. The theme of this year's conference is "Growing the Organic Sector" - an appropriate and timely topic as we continue to observe important changes, particularly in the organic markets. I look forward to seeing you there. ✓

**Is COABC doing what YOU want it to do?  
Come to the AGM and make sure.**

**Sunday, Feb. 26, 10:00 - 12:00**  
**Ag Rec Building, Abbotsford Exhibition Grounds**

## **BC Organic Grower**

is received by all members of organizations belonging to the Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia. BC Organic Grower is published quarterly by COABC.

We welcome letters to the Editor (500 words maximum) and articles (1000 words maximum). We reserve the right to edit for length.

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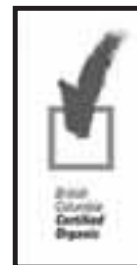
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**Next Issue Deadline:**  
**April 1, 2005**

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# Seminars, Awards, Projects

by Kirsten Kane



Hello Everyone, and Happy New Year! I hope you and your families find much love, luck and happiness in 2006.

A highlight of 2005 was the first-ever annual BC Organic Harvest Awards, hosted by COABC. We were thrilled by the response to our event, and are already making plans for next year. The evening was festive, and fun, and honoured some really impressive farms and products (see pp. 8-9 for profiles of the award winners).

The event would not have been possible without the tremendous support of our very generous sponsors, and we are grateful to all of them. A great many thanks also to our event co-ordinator, Lionel Wilson, the COABC staff (particularly Rob and Kristy) Deb and Paddy, and Mary Forstbauer – these people pulled together, worked tirelessly and made the event a smash success. I am really looking forward to next year. There will be some changes in the appli-

cation process and event format, so stay tuned, and make sure your farm or product gets included in the judging for the 2006 event.

Of course we are now focused on our annual AGM and conference, February 24-26 in Abbotsford. Co-ordinator Michelle Boshard has some very interesting programming and plans for the event. See pages 28-31 for details. Please be sure to take advantage of the early bird registration, for our sake as well as your own – it is always helpful to have the numbers as early as possible to facilitate planning.

## **Production Seminars**

Rochelle Eisen is now at work on the Regional Production Seminars series; these Organic Sector Development Program funded 'farmer-friendly' seminars will be coming to your region this spring. Stay connected with your CB or contact the COABC office for details.

In an earlier issue, I mentioned that BCMAL and COABC were hoping to work together on another series of seminars, 'Organics 101' at the Pacific Agriculture Show and LMHIA Horticulture Shortcourse in Abbotsford. I am pleased to report that this project is a go; there will be 3 seminars (Blueberry, Potato and Mixed Vegetable, and Certification) aimed at non-organic producers attending the Shortcourse. COABC has a booth at the Ag Show this year, and I will be there to staff it. As well, Susan Smith of BCMAL and I will be making a presentation to attendees on the BCMAL-COABC partnership. Details of projects we are working on at present will be the focus of the seminar. We are fortunate to have such great support in the Ministry, and I am gratified by BCMAL's commitment to the Organic Sector. At present BCMAL is putting together an overview of the BC Organic Sector, and is working with a group from COABC to get an accurate picture. Thank you to those from COABC who have volunteered their time to assist with this project (Hermann Bruns, Rebecca Kneen, Ben Brandsema, Deb Foote).



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**Cultivating Community**

Speaking of projects for the sector, we are tentatively looking at an Organic Beef Seminar, most likely in Prince George in April. Plans are currently underway for this, and more details will be forthcoming.

**OSDP Projects Funded**

The Organic Sector Development Program reviewed 12 applications for funding in 2005, granting funds for six of those applications. We have approximately 18 months to spend the balance of the trust, and are looking for projects that will allow us to do just that. Eligible projects can come from just about any individual or group so long as the project will (as much as possible) benefit the BC Organic Sector as a whole, can demonstrate industry support, and fits within the goals of the program outlined in the COABC Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan may be accessed through the COABC website or office. The OSDP committee would really like to be inundated with applications in 2006 so if you have an idea for a project – maybe a certain pest problem could turn itself into a research opportunity – please contact me at the COABC office to discuss it. The next deadline for applications is March 23, 2006. Information and applications may be found on the OSDP page: <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/osdp.htm>

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the office if you have questions about any of these projects. I am looking forward to working with your Board of Directors in the next year as we prepare to meet the challenges presented by the phenomenal growth in the organic sector. And I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM in February.



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**Soil Health Assessment**

Results from the OSDP-funded Soil Health Assessment in Organic Farming Systems project are now available on the COABC website

<http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/osdp.htm>. You can find the complete final report, or its 9-page executive summary to get you started, soil health assessment recording forms used in the project, and a 4-page technical bulletin at <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/osdp/Summary.htm#soil>.

The report appendices include a resource list as a starting point for other groups seeking information to develop their collaborative, bioregionally-adapted soil health assessment strategies. The resource list includes internet and hard copy resources for the following topics: local portals to soil resources on the internet, soil health assessment methods, equipment suppliers, laboratories, local soil information, sampling, finding resource people in British Columbia.

For hard copies of these materials (report, executive summary, technical bulletin) please contact Julia Wagner at [jwagner@shaw.ca](mailto:jwagner@shaw.ca). You can also contact Julia with questions or to share your feedback, or discuss possibilities for facilitating collaborative learning networks about soil health or other farming issues in your region.



**COABC Conference**

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Show your support for BC Organics. Sponsor the banquet, speakers, or scholarships. Make a cash or in-kind contribution. All donors and sponsors will receive a variety of recognitions based on the value of their contributions. For more info, or check out the COABC website or

**Contact Michelle Boshard: ph. 604-755-4329**  
or email [michelle@ruralresource.com](mailto:michelle@ruralresource.com)

# ...For Your Feedback

by the Standards Review Committee

## New Standards Changes

### Emergency Pest Treatment Standard

The standards review committee has developed a draft standard to address the emergency application of pesticides through a government mandate. This draft is in its preliminary stages and we welcome any input from the membership particularly with respect to the time frame in which the product must be excluded from organic production as well as a time frame with respect to egg production from affected poultry.

We propose that the standard be placed in section 2, following 2.13, which is the section on "Withdrawal of Certification Status", and before section 2.14 (to become 2.15) which is "Use of the COABC Name and Program Symbol".

#### **Draft Section 2.14: Emergency Pest or Disease Treatment**

9.1 When a prohibited substance is applied on an establishment or there is a chance that the prohibited substance applied on an adjacent property or road way may have drifted onto the establishment because of a federal or provincial emergency pest or disease treatment program and when the establishment otherwise meets the requirements of this standard, the status shall not be affected, provided the operator complies with the following conditions:

immediately notifies her/his certification body, providing information on the substance applied, method, rate and location of application;

any affected crop or plant part harvested within three months of the treatment shall not be sold, labeled nor represented as organically produced, nor fed to livestock, nor used as mulch on land under organic management;

any livestock or poultry treated with a prohibited substance applied as the result of a federal or provincial emergency pest or disease treatment program, or any products derived from such treated livestock or poultry, shall not be sold, labeled or represented as organically produced with the exception of:

milk or milk products produced more than 12 months

after the last date that the dairy animal was treated with the prohibited substance;

the offspring of gestating mammalian breeder stock treated with a prohibited substance shall be considered organic, if the breeder stock was not in the last third of gestation on the date that the breeder stock was treated with the prohibited substance.

### **Urgent Notice**

**Due to late publication of both the BCOG and this website, the SRC has extended the comment period for current standards changes to February 13, 2006. Please contact your SRC representative with comments.**

### Split Operations

While the SRC will not recommend that whole farm certification become mandatory, a change in the current wording of the standards is proposed to emphasize the need for strict control and regulation of split operations.

What is now section 3.3.3.1 deals with split operations, and will be moved from its current location to its own spot - Section 3.4.

#### **New Wording: 3.4 Split Operation**

3.4.1 Recommended: Organic operators must, wherever possible enroll their whole farm in the organic certification program.

3.4.2: "Regulated" Maintenance of a non-organic management system (split operation) on a farm enrolled in an organic certification program may be allowed if adequate distinction is provided. Approval of the certifying agency must be obtained. The producer is required to demonstrate that appropriate soil building techniques are used to maintain organic matter content and to reduce erosion of the soil on the non-organic portion of the farm and that the only inputs selected have the lowest possible environmental impact. The producer will submit input and production records for both portions of the farm to the certification body on a yearly basis.

3.4.3 "Prohibited": with the text that is currently 3.3.4 about parallel production.

**These standard changes will be ratified or rejected by the Board of Directors following the AGM, and if ratified will be integrated into the new Standards effective Jan. 1, 2007.** ✓

# Standards Review Committee Update

The SRC is currently working within the context of the upcoming Canadian National Organic Standard, which limits our activities in the interim. The revision of standards would no longer be the realm of the Accrediting Body under the new National Program. Therefore, the committee is focussed on completing the review of current proposals and finalizing some house-keeping while awaiting the final word on the status and implications for COABC of the National Standards.

### **Body Care Standards & Land Care Standards**

These standards cannot be adopted under the current Agri-Food Act which governs COABC. The COABC Board must request that the Act be changed to include non-food products before these Standards can be ratified.

### **Aquaculture Standards**

There has been an ongoing consultation with the Aquaculture subcommittee and the propo-

nents of these standards. A set of standards was created and underwent a review process where the government made some changes. Please communicate with your Board of Directors representative for an update on this Standard.

### **Mineral Oil**

The submission was to include petroleum-based mineral oil as allowed as a feed supplement. This proposal has been rejected.

### **Propagation**

The SRC recommended a re-write of the section on use of organic seed and transplants. This recommendation was rejected by the Board of Directors.

### **Manure**

The proposal was to allow only the use of certified organic manure. This proposal was rejected by the SRC. ✓

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# Awards for Organic Producers

## Organic Harvest Awards

The first annual **BC Organic Harvest Awards**, the only event that officially recognizes the growth and accomplishment of the province's organic sector, was a triumphant success. The event, which took place at the Coast Plaza Hotel in Vancouver on November 5, 2005 was a lively celebration that brought together the BC organic community and recognized organic leadership and innovation.

### Best Bakery Product – Nature's Path Foods for Carrot Raisin Manna Bread

This is a very pure, tasty and unique sprouted bread made without flour, yeast, sugar or salt.

Nature's Path's state-of-the-art plant was the first cereal and bakery in Canada or North America to receive third-party certified organic processor status.

### and Artisan Bake Shoppe for Ancient Grains Bread (tie)

The Bread is wheat free (made out of kamut, spelt, and a rye starter), and yeast free. We use 100% organic flour, grains, and seed in all our products.

### Best Non-Alcoholic Beverage – Happy Planet for Organic Happiest Orange Juice

Commitment to supporting sustainable agriculture; three flavours of great tasting organic juices; leader in family-size organic juices with new 1.89 L format.

### and Ethical Bean for organic coffee (tie)

Freshness, Attention to Detail, Quality Control

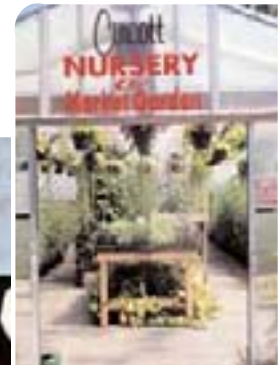
### Best Processed (non-livestock) Product – Kootenay Kitchen for Vege Pate

84% certified organic ingredients/handmade in BC. Vege Pate is a gourmet, certified vegan/specialty non gluten, highly nutritious, delicious, versatile, ready to eat food.

### Best Direct Farm Marketing Business – Cincott Nursery and Market Garden

In an area where organics is not easily recognized, we have managed to expand our busi-

ness to start competing with some of the larger suppliers out of the major centers such as Calgary. Local chefs are actually designing menus around what we grow. We currently supply to eight restaurants, three caterers, and a regular client base of sixty plus customers. We manage to do this in an area where we average only 93 frost free days.



### Best Integrated-Farm System – Alderlea Biodynamic Farm

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**Best Dairy Producer – Avalon Dairy/Bradner Farms**

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**Best Livestock Producer – Bradner Farms**

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*Previous Page, clockwise from top: Cincott Nursery, Ethical Bean roaster, Artisan Bake Shoppe, Nature's Path, Organa Farms' turkeys, Kootenay Kitchen receiving award.*

*This page, clockwise from top: Salt Spring NatureWorks display, Happy Planet juice, Crannóg Ales' being enjoyed, box of groceries from SPUD, Alderlea Biodynamic Farm, Bradner Farm (Avalon Dairy)*

which we maintain. All organic feed is produced in our own certified organic feed mill. Eggs are distributed to Avalon Dairy, Golden Valley, Choices and Wingtat.

**Best Processed Meat Product – Organa Farms for Smoked Turkey Bacon**

Since 1999 we have helped to educate the consumer about Certified Organic by attending Farmers Markets, advertising in magazines, speaking on the radio, on our website plus daily telephone calls to people wanting certified organic products, what to look for and how we can deliver them our products.

**Best Retailer – Salt Spring Natureworks**

Actively promote local farms and producers; Create a beautiful abundant community shop that encourages people to buy seasonal organic produce; Expanded our fresh produce offering resulting in an 85% increase over last year.

**Best Home-Delivery System (non-farm) – Small Potatoes Urban Delivery (S.P.U.D.)**

Small Potatoes Urban Delivery (SPUD) was started in 1997, by David Van Seters. Percentage of certified organic products that are BC certified: 49%; Percentage of produce sold by SPUD that is certified organic: 100%; Annual amount contributed to community groups since 2003 (cash and in-kind contributions): over \$50,000; Number of local organic growers that SPUD is purchasing from in 2005: Over 70.

**Best Alcoholic Beverage – Crannóg Ales for Backhand of God Stout**

The Backhand of God Stout has won four regional awards in the last five years, winning over both organic and non-organic beverages. This beer is a fitting match for the exciting flavours and high quality of BC organic food, and meets the needs of organic producers and consumers alike for high quality, flavourful and sophisticated beverages. This beer provides inspiration and fortification to farmers all over the province. ✓

# Feathers of Mass Destruction

by Cathleen Kneen

The outbreak of avian flu (H5N1 and variants) in Asia has infected 142 people to date, 74 of whom have died (out of a population of 1.3 billion). So far there has been no reliable report of transmission of the bird flu between humans; however, the possibility of the avian flu merging with a human virus and causing a 'flu pandemic' is being used to cause a panic across the globe. As with any panic, the actions being taken don't always add up to common sense.

For example: the version of the virus which resides normally in wild birds does not appear to be lethal, and the two ducks found in a hapless poultry farmer's barns in BC's Fraser Valley last month were also carrying a benign strain (though the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, CFIA, killed all the birds in both barns, just in case). Effective November 4, 2005, the province of Quebec has ordered that all domestic birds must be housed so as to ensure they have no contact with wild birds – as if that were even possible without killing every wild bird! The Union Paysanne has demanded that the order be reversed, pointing out that the Minister of Agriculture has stated that there is no danger to human health and these measures are aimed only at protecting the export markets for Quebec's poultry industry. The Soil Association in the UK is calling for selective culls and vaccination. They state "This use of vaccination in the form of a ring-fence is a proven, effective tool that should be used ahead of any moves to bring organic and free-range poultry indoors throughout the country and to prevent the mass-slaughter of UK poultry." They add, "The Soil Association is against bringing birds inside.

Permanent indoor housing provides ideal conditions for spreading any disease (not just avian flu) and so requiring the use of in-feed antibiotics - already linked to negative human health impacts. It would also be a huge backwards step in the progress we have made in developing free range and organic farms in this country and the great health and animal welfare benefits that these systems deliver."

The real trick is to prevent the benign strain of the virus from becoming virulent. While wild birds may be the carriers of avian flu, it is the concentration of genetically uniform birds in very large numbers in an enclosed environment which not only provides ideal conditions for the virus to spread but, it seems, to be selected into a more virulent form. Reducing the chances of transmission (by disinfection, wearing protective clothing, etc.) may actually increase the evolutionary pressure towards genotypes of the virus which are more virulent. Similarly, in Asia the close proximity of large numbers of people and live birds (and pigs) in less than ideal sanitary conditions appears to have been the source of the transmission of flu from birds to humans.

On the other hand, insisting on housing all poultry – in effect, legislating for the monoculture factory farm – will lead to a radical loss of the very biodiversity upon which such intensive operations depend to 'improve' their breeding stock, and which, ironically, is the best defense against any disease becoming pandemic. As a basic preventive measure, we should also be devoting energy and money to improving health conditions in the Asian countries where the disease has emerged.

Instead, the pandemic panic is creating a wind-fall for Roche, the company making the prescription antiviral drug Tamiflu, which is said to be the most effective medicine to prevent influenza or ameliorate the symptoms among those already infected. And it's put at least \$1 million into the pocket of Donald Rumsfeld, the US Defense Secretary and major shareholder in Gilead Sciences, the company that holds the patent on the drug. ✓

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# Weeds Teach Students a Few Things

by Nancy Furness,

with Mark Bomford, Greg Rekken and Art Bomke

The central goal of the UBC Farm <http://www.landfood.ubc.ca/ubcfarm/> on the Vancouver campus is to give students an opportunity to plan, manage and market the produce from a diverse market garden enterprise. The market garden produces over 250 varieties of fresh vegetables, berries, herbs, and flowers. Most produce is sold through a weekend farmer market on site, but the farm also supplies several restaurants and UBC food services. The market garden aims to operate as a financially self-sufficient business. With each year of operation, financial losses have become successively smaller, but the market garden enterprise is not yet turning a profit.

Weed management consumes a staggering proportion of time and money in the market garden. During May and June, student field workers may spend up to 60% of their time hand-weeding. Over a growing season, we estimate that up to 1,000 person-hours and 400 volunteer hours may be spent hand-weeding the 1.5 ha of mixed vegetable crops in the market garden. This means that for a small market garden with \$50,000 gross income, about \$13,000 is spent on weed control. This figure is almost 30 times higher than might be predicted from the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Land's enterprise budgets for organic mixed vegetable production suggesting that we still have a lot to learn

Although each organic system presents its own unique set of challenges, many weed management issues faced by the market garden are similar to those confronted by other organic growers. In all cases, the intent of a successful weed management strategy is not to eradicate weeds, but to encourage vigorous crops, and use weeds as indicators of soil and other environmental conditions. Organic weed management depends on good farming practices, which emphasize healthy soils and competitive crops.



Figure 1. Smartweed competing with pumpkin

We have tried increasing crop density to encourage denser crop stands and reduce resources available for weeds, and have found this impedes weed management. Similarly, narrower row widths which allow the crop canopy to fill in quickly need to be balanced with rows wide enough to allow inter-row cultivation. We aren't as able as prairie grain farmers to give crops a competitive advantage by manipulating planting date, as most of our crops have several planting dates to ensure a continuous harvest; it may however be possible to identify specific weed problems and plan rotations and planting dates taking this into consideration. While increased crop diversity may add to the complexity of weed management, it helps to ensure that a particular weed does not gain consistent advantage.

Cover crops or mulches can be used to increase plant cover and fill in canopy gaps, thus reducing the weed niche, while incorporation of cover crops (green manuring) contributes to soil health, and fertility. The residues of some cover crops such as rye or buckwheat may have an allelopathic (inhibitory) effect on weeds, but also subsequent crops; we can't plant lettuce, for example, after rye. As for mulch, we have developed a long list of pros and cons for both kraft paper and black plastic.

Balanced soil fertility has an important role to play in the management of weeds. We have learned that excessive use of nitrogen-rich manures or composts can stimulate germination of weed seeds and encourage nitrogen-loving weeds to flourish. For example, redroot pigweed was previously scarce at the UBC farm but suspiciously appeared this past summer in the chicken coop area. On the other hand, the crop may suffer under conditions of low soil fertility, while weeds thrive.

Prevention through scouting, good sanitation, and controlling weeds before they are able to set seed is the best medicine. This is particularly challenging as the time for opti-

mal weed control, when weeds are small, typically occurs during the busiest part of the season.

Failure to deal with weeds before they set seed will lead to establishment of a large seed bank, giving rise to the old adage “one year’s seeding, seven years’ weeding “. With each successive year the problem can potentially increase. Even after many years out of cultivation, the UBC Farm is faced with an intense weed seed bank. At one point, a thick blanket of smartweed in the pumpkin patch (Figure 1) made it difficult to find the pumpkins. The number of seeds

produced per plant combined with seed longevity of just a few of the weeds commonly found at the UBC farm gives an indication of how quickly a massive weed seed bank can become established (Table 1).

Next season, the UBC farm is planning to test a few strategies not used in the past. These include pre-emergence (blind) cultivation in which shallow cultivation is carried out after seeding, but before emergence, of the primary crop. We will test a stale bed technique, in which the plots will be cultivated and irrigated, but not seeded; weeds which germinate and grow will be flamed before the crop is sown. Extra effort will be put into mowing the field borders at early flowering stages for perennial weeds. Finally, weed management will be prioritized based on economic thresholds, to ensure early control in high-value crops and optimal scheduling and budgeting of resources.

We hope that our learning will be useful, not only to UBC Farm in Vancouver, but to other market garden operations facing the challenge of weed control.



**Table 1. Seed production and longevity of some common weeds**

*(Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives)*

Common weed name	Seeds per plant	Seed longevity (years)
Canada thistle	680	3-21
Lamb’s-quarters	72,450	2-39
Curled dock	29,500	39
Smartweed	3140	10-20
Shepherd’s-purse	38,500	16
Wild mustard	13,400	3-5

## Classifieds

**FRASER COMMON FARM CO-OPERATIVE SEEKING NEW RESIDENTS** Ten of us, aged six months to seventy one years, live in two households on a twenty acre Certified Organic farm in Aldergrove, an hour’s drive east of Vancouver. We are part of a thirty-year-old, rural-urban, intentional community affiliated with Community Alternatives Housing Co-op in Kitsilano. We live co-operatively, share meals, pay housing charges to the Co-op and practice consensus decision-making. We come from a diversity of backgrounds, make our livings on and off farm and support each other to be the best we can be. Together we steward the land, maintain the farm assets, and assure the farm’s financial viability. We are looking for two more like-minded adults, preferably farmers, to join us. Mechanical/repair skills appreciated. A family with one or two young children would be especially welcome. For more information, please contact David Catzel: phone 605-857-9057 or e-mail catzel@telus.net

**FARM EQUIPMENT WANTED** 1) onion transplanter, 3 rows, adjustable; 2 )vegetable seeder for carrots, Stan-Haye or similar. **We have onions / squash for wholesale.** Please contact Similkameen River Organic Farm at 250-499-5905

**BIODYNAMIC SEEDS:** vegetables , herbs, medicinal plants and flowers. Turtle Tree Seeds distributor in Canada. Contact us: Aux couleurs des saisons, 115 Des Myriques, Ste-Catherine de Hatley, Quebec, J0B 1W0, tel: 819-843-8488, email: laurier.chabot@sympatico.ca

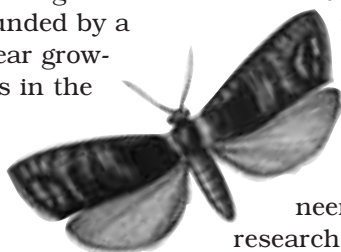
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# GE Moth Program Halted

by Linda Edwards and Fred Danenhower

The Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release (OK-SIR) Program has been overseeing the operation of orchard monitoring and sanitation and the release of sterile codling moth males to assist in control of codling moth for over 15 years. OK-SIR is a provincially legislated body made up of one representative from the each of the 5 regional districts, along with representatives from both the conventional and organic farm community. The program is funded by a mandatory tax levy on apple and pear growers plus a charge to all homeowners in the area. Grants from federal and provincial governments have also been a big part of the program. Although these are still in place, there is some concern that at some point one or both might be discontinued.



foreign materials that are necessary to make the primary gene work. When the moths died and ended up on or in the soil, horizontal gene transfer could occur: this is the process whereby the introduced DNA from genetically engineered plants that have died and decayed is taken up by soil bacteria that in turn are altered. There is no reason to think the same thing could not happen with the DNA in the altered moths. This is genetic pollution.

Also, just having a company which would be perceived to be the Monsanto of the genetically engineered insect industry carrying out such research in the area would have had serious market repercussions.

The OK-SIR board was approached about a year ago by Oxitec Ltd., a British biotechnology firm. They wanted to use the SIR's facility in Osoyoos to carry out research to see if they could produce and mass rear genetically engineered codling moths to be used in the SIR release program instead of the ones currently produced. They projected that these moths would be more effective than irradiated ones. Oxitec was not offering to buy the plant; they wished to just take over the program and staff and tax levy money as it currently is, on contract. Later in negotiations they also offered to bring some cash. Because of the uncertainty of public funding, the OK-SIR board was bound to consider every alternative funding proposal.

Meetings were held with representatives of the company and organic growers. Letters were written. The local newspapers and Country Life gave the topic considerable coverage. The majority of the conventional tree fruit industry

When organic growers became aware of this we knew we had to oppose such a possibility. Every certifying body in the world has regulations prohibiting the use of genetically engineered organisms or their products in organic production. If genetically engineered moths were released onto certified organic land - especially thousands on a weekly basis - any certifying body would have to decertify that land. The GE moths Oxitec wished to develop and release would all contain an introduced gene for sterility taken from a bacteria plus other




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also did not support this course of action and the BC Fruit Growers Association took a strong public position against it. This lack of support from both organic and conventional growers was the primary stumbling block for this proposal. There was also no cost benefit analysis done that would make the Oxitec proposal a viable public/private partnership. The real economic costs to organic growers if OK-SIR contracted with Oxitec (estimated at approximately \$6 million per year), the potential for trade barriers in conventional markets, especially overseas, and the possible problems with administering and monitoring the program once an agreement with Oxitec was in place, outweighed any economic gain that could be made by using this technology of the moth rearing. Eventually the SIR board concluded that since the stakeholders didn't endorse the idea of a such a partnership that they would not pursue an agreement with Oxitec.

This is the second time organic growers in the Similkameen and South Okanagan have spearheaded an initiative to stop the introduction of genetic engineering into their area. In 2000, they were successful in blocking the possible introduction of genetically engineered non-browning apple trees. ✓

## Plenary Speakers COABC Conference, Feb. 26

### **Organic Agriculture Research**

*Derek Lynch, Canada Research Chair in Organic Agriculture, Nova Scotia Agricultural College*

How can the new information on crop and soil management practices help BC farmers? How do the special needs of organic farmers related to the needs of agriculture in general? These and other questions will be addressed by Derek Lynch.

Dr. Lynch has been examining crop and livestock systems characteristic of organic agriculture, with an emphasis on system productivity, resource use efficiency, and soil quality. In addition, he has contributed to the development of innovative nutrient and crop management practices tailored to organic production.

### **First Nations Agriculture Partnerships**

*Jammi Kummar, BC MAL First Nations Development Agrologist*

Jammi Kummar will be talking about the potential and upcoming areas of opportunity for BC organic farmers. This includes potential partnerships with First Nations and new products.



## The Future of Food

### **Special Film Showing at COABC Conference, February 26**

There is a revolution happening in the farm fields and on the dinner tables of America — a revolution that is transforming the very nature of the food we eat. **The Future of Food** offers an in-depth investigation into the disturbing truth behind the unlabeled, patented, genetically engineered foods that have quietly filled U.S. grocery store shelves for the past decade. From the prairies of Saskatchewan to the fields of Oaxaca, Mexico, this film gives a voice to farmers whose lives and livelihoods have been negatively impacted by this new technology. The health implications, government policies and push towards globalization are all part of the reason why many people are alarmed by the introduction of genetically altered crops into our food supply. **The Future of Food** examines the complex web of market and political forces that are changing what we eat as huge multinational corporations seek to control the world's food system. The film also explores alternatives to large-scale industrial agriculture, placing organic and sustainable agriculture as real solutions to the farm crisis today.



# ***Environmental Farm Planning at the COABC Conference***

**Sessions being held during the COABC Annual conference  
Abbotsford Exhibition Grounds 24-26 February 2006**

***FREE registration is SEPARATE from conference registration.***

**EFP Workshop  
2-5:00 pm Friday,  
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**Introduction to the program and the  
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those who have not attended a workshop  
up till now.**

**EFP Help Clinic  
Saturday Feb 25 &  
Sunday Feb. 26  
in the afternoons.**

**Individual sessions (15, 30, 45, 60 minute slots  
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**For further information  
about Environmental Farm  
Planning call:**

On Vancouver Island and the  
Islands, Derek Masselink (250)  
629-6934 dmasselink@cablelan.net

On the mainland, Elaine Spearing  
(250) 747-3237 elaines@quesnel-  
bc.com

**To register for the Workshop or a Help session  
contact Elaine Spearing 250 747-3237  
elaines@quesnelbc.com**





# Spring Cleaning!

by Elaine Spearing

Planning to clean-up, clear out, re-organise, or re-build your storage area this winter/spring? Have some items you are responsible for that you would rather not have hanging around?

## Disposing of Unwanted materials

### Agricultural pesticides

Legally the options for disposing of unwanted agricultural pesticides are:

- 1/ Return unopened containers to the Dealer before winter.
- 2/ Use the pesticide according to label directions.
- 3/ Pay a hazardous Waste Disposal Company to dispose of the pesticide.
- 4/ Participate in a B.C Pesticide return. Occasionally, the government, pesticide industry and the BC Agricultural Council (BCAC) coordinate special unwanted pesticide collection programs.

There will be a few free pesticide collections for farmers in 2006 which are good opportunities to dispose of agricultural pesticides you no longer have any use for. These collections do not happen very frequently. The following dates are planned:

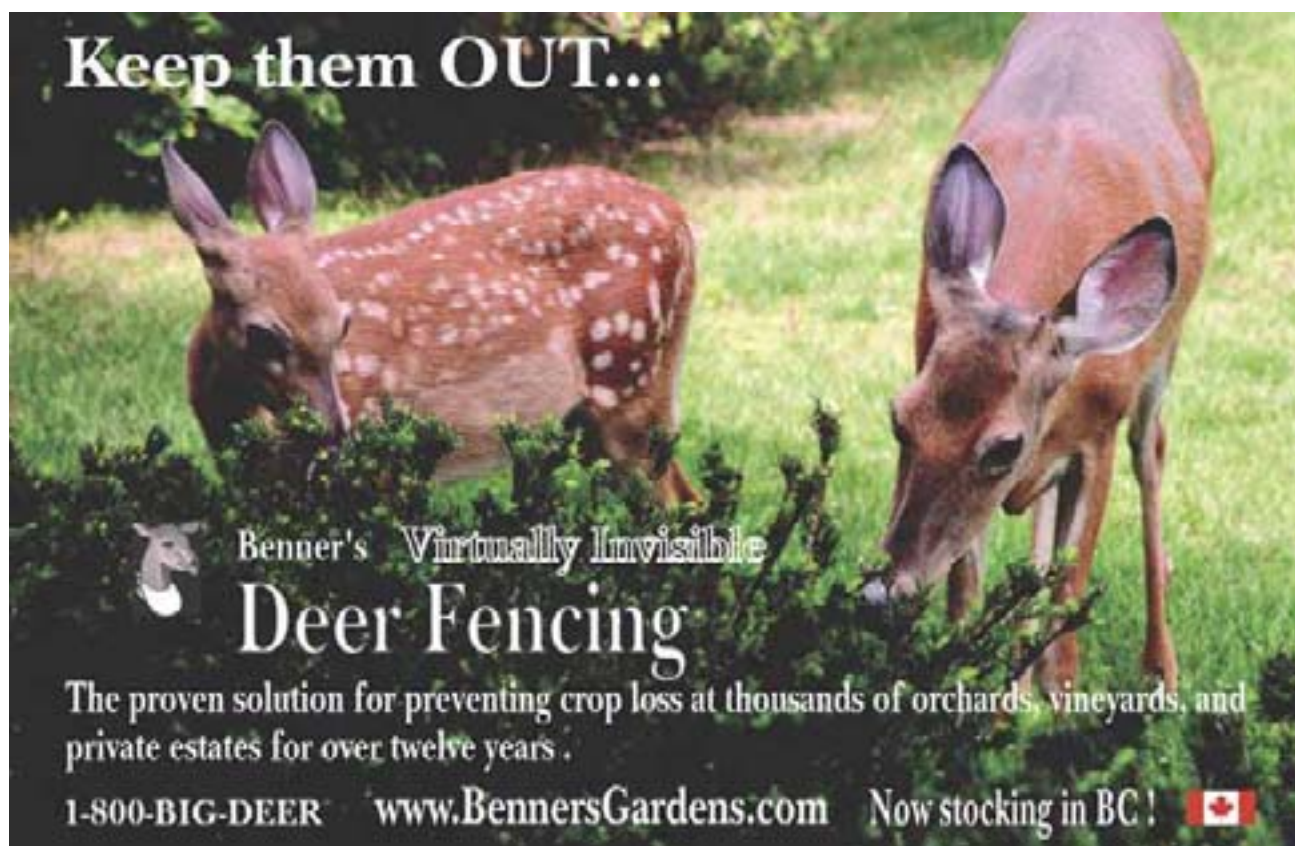
Delta February 27th & 28th • Abbotsford March 2nd and 3rd • Okanagan fall 2006

Remember that for certification, disposal records (i.e. receipts) must be kept as part of the audit trail.

### Consumer materials

For consumer (i.e domestic scale not intended for agriculture or industry) paints, solvents/ flammable liquids, gasoline and pesticides (pesticides must have the skull and crossbones symbol.) There are approx 35 depots across the province accepting these. Collected material is


*Spring Cleaning – continued on page 18...*



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... Spring Cleaning – continued from page 17

either re-used, recycled or used for its energy value. Suppliers should collect used oil, oil filters and oil containers of 30 litres or less.

### Improving storage areas

Improvements or rebuilding which reduce environmental risk may be eligible for incentive funding through the Environmental Farm Plan Program. This includes improved farm storage of fertilisers and shavings as well as pest control products. All types of structures for fertiliser storage are eligible for funding assistance with a limit on the area of the structure based on the type(s) of crop and area being farmed.

### Storage checklist

- ✓ Segregate fertilisers, fuel and pesticides.
- ✓ Containment for spills - Is there concrete with a curb, or metal pan, or other containment for small quantities to catch any spillage?
- ✓ spill kit near storage
- ✓ Wells are at least 100ft (30m) from the storage
- ✓ Watercourses are at least 50ft (15m) from storage
- ✓ Materials stored off the floor/protected from damp
- ✓ Storage area is above the 100-year flood level.
- ✓ Store dry formulations above liquids
- ✓ Labels on all containers
- ✓ Caps tightly closed
- ✓ Bags tightly sealed
- ✓ Damaged bags in strong plastic bags.

If any materials prohibited under the standard need to be stored for some reason, at a minimum the organically compliant inputs should be segregated from non-compliant inputs to minimise the risks of mistakes or contamination. (COABC 2.21).

Any material classified as pesticide should be in a building with a clearly visible warning sign and which is:

- Capable of containing spills
- Locked, with key stored away from lock.
- Insulated
- Vented to the outside
- Protected from collision



### Spring Cleaning Information Resources

#### about the BC Pesticide Return call:

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands 1-800-221-7141

Terralink: 1-800-661-4559

Or refer to the Ministry website:

[http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/pesticides/d\\_9.htm](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/pesticides/d_9.htm)

#### For the location of the nearest approved used oil collection facility:

1-866-322-8662

#### For other materials:

Recycling Council of British Columbia

[www.rcbc.bc.ca](http://www.rcbc.bc.ca)

Recycling hotline

604-732-9253 in the Lower Mainland

1-800-667-4321 throughout B.C

#### For information on the Environmental Farm Plan Program:

Elaine Spearing 250-747-3237

[elaines@quesnelbc.com](mailto:elaines@quesnelbc.com)

Or refer to the BCAC website

[www.bcac.ca/efp\\_programs.htm](http://www.bcac.ca/efp_programs.htm)



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# Leafhopper control in Organic Vineyards

by Hans Buchler

The Virginia creeper leafhopper (*Erythroneura zigzac*) and in some locations the Western Grape leafhopper (*Erythroneura elegantula*) are probably the most difficult to control insect pests in organic vineyards in the Southern interior of British Columbia. Both leafhopper species over-winter as adults and multiply over two generations in the growing season. They damage the foliage by sucking fluid from the cells, thereby affecting photosynthesis. While grape plants can tolerate a fairly large number of leafhoppers before the crop is affected by delayed maturity due to reduced photosynthesis, careful monitoring of egg and nymph numbers on the underside of the basal leaves is crucial to determine whether intervention is necessary; more so in organic vineyards, because control methods available to the organic grower are few and of limited effectiveness. Firm thresholds for organic management systems have not been established yet, but less than 20 nymphs per leaf, where some second-

generation parasitism is present, does probably not require intervention.

The main suppression or control approaches are based on mechanical, cultural (leaf removal, spray, etc.) and biological methods.

The most effective mechanical control uses yellow sticky tape (Hopperfinder from Western Farm Services, Ca), applied below the canopy before bud break in spring. This plastic tape is 15 cm (6 inches) wide and comes in 450 meter (1500 feet) long rolls. Where the overwintering population is substantial, tape should be applied to every row in the infested block to substantially reduce the resident leafhoppers. Extrapolation of informal counts in a block which was severely infested by leafhoppers in the previous season, shows that the yellow sticky tape caught between 500,000 (in lower pressure areas) and 1.2 Million overwintering leafhoppers per acre. Where previous year's damage was moderate the tape can be used for spot treatment, typically on the ends and outside rows and where plants bud out earliest. Taking stock of the sites with the worst infestation late in the season helps in mapping out areas to be treated with tape the next spring. Management practices such as cultivation or chopping prunings with a flail mower should not be performed while the tape is still trapping leafhoppers, as the dust build up will render it useless.

Tape can be wrapped around posts or stapled; it does however tear quite readily in high wind locations where staples are not recommended. In 2005 cost per roll was around Can \$ 75.00. This method is the most effective overall, where pressure is high and populations have been increasing over the years.

Another mechanical implement with some potential is a large over the row blower-vacuum system, which blows the adult leafhopper from one side of the row into a large vacuum head on the other side. Leafhopper counts showed a significant reduction compared to control sites. Travel speed however is very slow and repeated

*Leafhopper Control - continued on page 20...*

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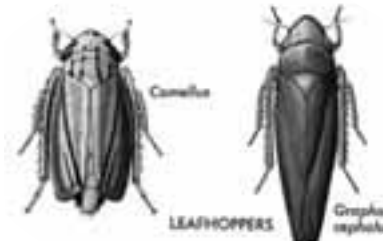
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passes are necessary. Timing is also crucial; biggest impact was achieved with passes on calm evenings just as the over wintering leafhoppers were beginning to lay eggs. This prototype machine will undergo some further development and be tested again next year.

Cultural control methods consist primarily of leaf removal and spraying with approved substances. Leaf removal is quite effective in some years where pressure is relatively low and when spring temperatures are relatively warm and consistent. Basal leaves are removed by hand where damage is visible as soon as the first nymphs begin to hatch. Under favourable conditions this can greatly reduce leafhopper numbers. In cool or changing spring weather however, first generation oviposition can extend over a number of weeks, which means that leafhoppers may still be laying large numbers of eggs after leaf pulling has been completed. Leaf removal at this stage has no adverse effect on fruit quality and helps in opening up the canopy around the fruiting zone, thereby reducing incidence of botrytis bunch rot. Early season leaf removal is a slow and expensive process and generally only feasible on a small portion of the vineyard. Another variation of this approach consists of delaying suckering, or even purposely leaving sucker spurs during pruning, to be removed after first generation egg laying has subsided. Suckers generally start growing early, attracting a lot of leafhoppers.



There are few insecticides available to organic growers. All of them work through direct contact only, with no residual effect; so excellent coverage is crucial for adequate suppression. Timing is also important, since these products work best on first and second instar nymphs, with no impact on adult leafhoppers.

Safers soap, applied at 1.5% to 2% to the underside of the leaves, when most first generation eggs have hatched, can substantially reduce damage, provided good coverage is achieved. The product should be applied with a spray gun to run off point or with an airblast sprayer if nozzles can be angled to reach the underside of the leaves. Where hard water is a problem, the addition of a handful of Potassium chloride (water softening salt) to the tank mix, can greatly enhance the efficacy of the product.

Summer oils and Neem are other options for the suppression of insect pests such as leafhoppers. They are both not yet registered for use on grapes in Canada. Summer oil is used in the same way as Safers soap, but it has some potential drawbacks. If used later in the season on second generation hoppers, it can inhibit photosynthesis and thereby delay maturity. Some informal tests showed a reduction of 1.3 to 1.8 Brix compared to an untreated control. This effect may however be reduced with the new generation of more highly refined summer oils. Oils are also incompatible with sulphur sprays and should not be applied within a week to ten days of a sulphur based powdery mildew spray.

There are a number of beneficial insects that can make a considerable contribution to keeping the leafhopper population stable. The most important ones are egg parasites, tiny, almost microscopic mymarid wasps called *Anagrus*. They over-winter on leafhopper eggs and emerge in spring, when they probably multiply on other, early leafhoppers. They typically move into vineyards at the tail end of the over-wintering generation oviposition. They can cycle through four to five generations a year, so have the potential to relatively quickly catch up to

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the leafhopper population. Parasitized leafhopper eggs can be easily identified with a hand lens, by the brick red colouration of the otherwise transparent, colourless egg. When *Anagrus* emerge from the host egg, they cut a round hole into the egg membrane, while leafhoppers tear the membrane open at one end. *Anagrus* seem to be very specific to the species of leafhopper present. *Anagrus erythroneuræ* is the egg parasite of the western grape leafhopper. Dr. Tom Lowery of PARC Summerland has found it overwintering on roses, probably on rose leafhopper eggs. Where substantial amounts of roses (wild or cultivated) are present, the grape leafhopper is rarely a problem. *Anagrus daanei* parasitizes the eggs of the Virginia creeper leafhopper. To date the local overwintering host has not been found, despite considerable effort. While Tom Lowery has succeeded in rearing *Anagrus daanei* in the lab for field release, this is probably not feasible on a large enough scale for commercial applications. In the long run, finding the overwintering host and then enhancing its habitat could, in some locations, reduce the need to intervene.

The earwig is another beneficial, contributing to the suppression of leafhoppers and other pest insects. It will often scrape the eggs from the underside of the leaves and occasionally even eat young nymphs. Earwigs are night feeders and spend the day in the shade under bark, leaves or in the soil. They are considered a pest in table grape vineyards because they often take shelter in grape bunches at harvest time. Earwig populations typically increase under organic management.

We have experimented for a few years with releases of lacewing eggs and larvae. Eggs were sprinkled on to the basal leaves with a modified saltshaker and stuck in place with a squirt of sugar water or gum Arabic from a hand spray bottle. Rates were around 20,000 eggs per acre, in two or three consecutive applications. Lacewing larvae (*Chrysoperla sp.*) are fairly active generalist predators with a preference for aphids; they will kill leafhopper nymphs by sucking them dry, but often move from the grape plant to the cover crop, where a broader selection of food is available. Initial observations and informal counts showed some promise, but more rigorous, replicated sampling showed no significant difference between release sites and controls.

Predatory thrips, and a number of predatory bugs (*Deraeocoris*, *Anthocoris*) such as minute pirate bugs (*Orius*) are other generalist predators, which have been observed to kill leafhopper nymphs on occasion. All these may assist in a small way to suppress the leafhopper population; but *Anagrus* appears to be the only one capable of reducing leafhopper numbers over time.

There are a number of opportunities for future research: Neem oil has been shown to be effective against the rice leafhopper in Asia, but is not registered for use in Canada yet.

There are some indications that compounds with anti-feedant effect may have some promise. There may also be some potential in exploiting the probably chemical message emanating from grape leaves, which attracts these leafhoppers to the grape plant in the first place. This could be used to enhance the effectiveness of the sticky tape or to develop another 'attract and kill' method. ✓

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WESTRO

# BC Commercial Organic Seed Growers

Following is a list of independent seed growers in BC. Contact your local seed growers to discuss varieties you're looking for in commercial quantities. Also, check the COABC website [www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/training/organic-seeds.htm](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/training/organic-seeds.htm) for updates to this list.

**Across the Creek Organics: Seed potatoes.**

contact: Bruce Miller  
 phone: 604.894.6463  
 email: bmiller123@look.ca  
 address: 8356 Meadows Rd. Pemberton BC.VON 2L0

**Boundary Garlic: Seed garlic, heritage varieties**

contact: Sonia Stairs  
 phone: 250.449.2152 email: sonia@garlicfarm.ca  
 address: Box 273, Midway, BC V0H 1M0

**Birley Farm: field crop seeds: clover, sweet clover, alfalfa, oats**

contact: Richard and Brenda Birley  
 phone: 250-787-0635  
 email: birley@telus.net  
 address: Box 61, Baldonnel, BC. V0C 1C0

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**C-Intra Botanicals: organic and wild harvested seed**

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 email: cintrabotanicals@yahoo.com  
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**Forest Spring Farm: seed garlic**

contact: Pat & Dianne Zanichelli  
 phone: 250-655-3276  
 email: gourmetgarlic@shaw.ca  
 address: 2098 East Saanich Rd., Sidney, BC. V8L 1H5

**Full Circle Seeds: Vegetable, heritage, herbs and flowers seeds**

contact: Mary Alice Johnson  
 phone: 250.642.3671  
 email: alm@islandnet.com  
 address: Box 807, 3680 Otter Point Rd Sooke, BC. V0S 1N0  
 www.fullcircleseeds.com

**Organic Milling Co-op: Spelt, buckwheat, soybeans and golden flax seed.**

contact: Andrea Gunner  
 phone: 250.546.2712  
 Fax 250.546.2713  
 email: agunner@junction.net  
 address: 4218 Wyatt Road Armstrong, B.C. V0E 1B4

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**Planting Seeds Project: Open pollinated vegetable, herb and flowers.**

contact: Mojave Kaplan  
 phone: 250.455.2392 ext.11 (early or evening)  
 email: mojave@plantingseedsproject.com  
 address: PO Box 536, Lytton, BC, V0K1Z0

**Rebecca's Garden: transitional vegetables, flowers**

contact: Rebecca Jehn  
 phone: 250-727-3788  
 email: rjehn@islandnet.com  
 5014 Echo Drive Victoria, BC. V9E 2H9

**Salt Spring Seeds: Open-pollinated garlic, vegetables, flowers and herbs.**

contact: Dan Jason  
 phone: 250.537.5269(Inquiries only, no phone orders)  
 address: Box 444, Ganges P.O. Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2W1  
 saltspringseeds.com

**A one-day gathering for seed growers** will be held on February 19th in Victoria. There will be expert presentations on topics such as seed borne diseases, including field identification, and post-harvest treatment, as well as a session for networking and strategizing. Contact Patrick Steiner: [info@stellarseeds.com](mailto:info@stellarseeds.com), ph: 250-804-0122.

**Seeds of Victoria: Open-pollinated vegetables, heirloom tomatoes, herbs, perennials and annuals.**

contact: Carolyn Herriot  
phone: 250. 881.1555  
email: thegardenpath@shaw.ca  
address: 395 Conway Road, Victoria, B.C. V9E 2B9  
www.earthfuture.com/gardenpath/Seeds\_Catalogue.htm

**Stellar Seeds: Vegetables, flowers, herbs, cover crops - most seed is certified organic, bulk available**

contact: Patrick Steiner  
phone: 250.804.0122  
email: info@stellarseeds.com  
address: 2750 - 30th Ave. NE, Salmon Arm, BC, V1E 3L2  
www.stellarseeds.com

**Bulk seed!**

**Sunshine Farm: heirloom and rare vegetables, flowers and herbs**

contact: Jon and Sher Alcock  
phone: 250.764.4810  
email: info@sunshinefarm.net  
address: 2225 Saucier Rd., Kelowna, BC, V1W 4B8

**Two Wings Farm: Certified organic heirloom vegetable, herb and flower seeds.**

Contact: Marti Martin-Wood  
phone: 250.478.3794  
email: twowings@shaw.ca

address: 4768 William Head Road, Victoria, BC, V9C 3Y7  
www.twowingsfarm.com

**West Coast Seeds: Open pollinated and F1, vegetable, herb and flowers, certified organic seeds from BC growers.**

contact: Mary Ballon  
phone: 604.952.8820, toll free fax 877.482.8822  
email: info@westcoastseeds.com  
address: 3925 - 64th St, RR1, Delta, BC, V4K 3N2  
www.westcoastseeds.com

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Throughout tour, we'll visit or meet people and centers of interest. We'll visit the National Agricultural Sciences Institute facility (INCA). See the remarkable work transforming Cuban agriculture by INCA's Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB) program with national coordinator Humberto Rios, who is one of our tour's host/guides. We'll visit the UBPC Organiponico in Alamar, one of the most successful urban organic farms in Cuba selling ornamental plants, medicinal plants, and millions of vegetable transplants to surrounding residents and farmers. This farm provides training and fresh food for the area. This is a must see for anyone interested in Cuba's Urban Agriculture, and Food Security. There are many Canadian partnerships here so expect warm welcomes!

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Countryside and Seashore life  
Organic Certification  
Environmental Organizations  
Human Rights  
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**www.varalaya.ca**

# Seeds for the Future?

by Cathleen Kneen

It is no secret that the transnational corporations who have done such a good job of turning agricultural commodities and inputs into profit centres (for themselves) are now setting their sights on seeds. In fact, the consolidation of the seed sector, and the steady loss of open-pollinated varieties, has been going on for many years. As we learned from Stewart Wells of the National Farmers Union at last year's COABC spring conference, it is Canadian government policy to put seed breeding in private hands - and to encourage the spread of genetically engineered seeds. As we learned from Mary Ballon of West Coast Seeds at the same conference, there is already only one source for several of our most common vegetable seeds. And as we learned from Cuba's Humberto Rios LaBrada, there are dynamic, creative, and effective models in other countries to learn from.

Since that conference, COABC's "Ambassador to Cuba", Ron Pither, has continued to work with Humberto and his colleagues in Cuba and in Chiapas, Mexico, and to seek ways to translate the principles of their farmer-led Participatory Plant Breeding into a program which will address the seed needs of the organic sector in British Columbia. Chiapas is the 'centre of origin' of about 60% of the world's most important food crops (think corn, beans, rice, tomatoes). Using the tools of the Participatory Plant Breeding program, they are working to ensure stable supplies of these seeds in the hands of farmers - and they are very interested in international partnerships such as with British Columbia. This is an chance for BC seed growers who have been working with local traditional and heritage varieties to work with a much broader range of seeds - and to collaborate in the development of commercial-scale quantities of the most relevant or interesting varieties, including field crops as well as vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

There has also been follow-up from the seed workshop at last year's con-

ference, with increasing activity among local seed producers and a conference planned for mid-February which will include both skill development and strategizing for BC's seed sector (see announcement, page 22.)

There are real opportunities for organic farmers in BC to prepare for the day when we are forced to rely on ourselves and our farmer-partners for clean, appropriate, organic seed supplies. But we have to act decisively and make this a clear priority - tell your CB representative on the COABC Board; or, better yet, come to the AGM and spring conference and make your concerns heard. Or contact the organizers of the seed gathering in Victoria. Or, take the plunge and go to Cuba on the spring tour and get inspired by the possibilities (see page 23).

By the next issue of the BC Organic Grower we hope to be able to report on concrete initiatives to ensure that BC's organic growers will be using Certified Organic seeds for all our crops (including feed crops) —not because the international standards require it for trade, but because these seeds have the qualities we want, and they are available to us in the quantities we require. ✓



*A Cuban field with wheat and oats, developed through Cuba's Participatory Plant Breeding program, intercropped between bananas for feed grain rations production. Photo: Ron Pither*



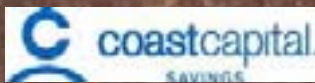
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PN is completely natural, other than the addition of 3% phosphoric acid needed for pH stabilization. For application, it is mixed with water at a ratio of at least 10 parts water to 1 part PN in order to bring the pH level to neutral to initiate bio-activity. PN has been filtered through an 80-mesh screen and can be applied through conventional methods including aerial spraying and underground drip systems.

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Letters to the Editor

**Letters to the editor are welcome. Letters must be under 500 words. We reserve the right to edit for length.**

To the Editor:

I found it very disheartening to read "Cherry Fruit Fly a Threat no Longer" in the Autumn edition of BC Organic Grower. While I am not totally against the use of organic sprays to limit the damage wrought by various pests, I think a quick critical look at the world would suggest that perhaps it is us humans who are the real pests that need to be controlled.

Eliot Coleman has urged farmers for years to 'plant positive', by focusing on strengthening plants and the conditions that support them, not on wiping out pests and disrupting ecosystems. "Without this understanding," writes Coleman in *The New Organic Grower*, "organic agriculture continues to be constrained by an imitative type of thinking that merely substitutes 'organic' for chemical inputs". Judging by the wide range of pests that can be fought using 'ENTRUST', one can only speculate as to the larger effect this could have on 'beneficial' insects and the interrelationships that exist between all living things on a farm. Furthermore, what happens if the cherry fruit fly develops a resistance to ENTRUST?

The issue that I find most disturbing about the promotion of the biological insecticide spinosad, however, is that it is a product of Dow Chemical (or 'Dow Agrisciences'). One of the world's leading biotech firms, one would be hard-pressed to find a more environmentally irresponsible company than Dow. From manufacturing Agent Orange and Napalm during the Vietnam War, to its refusal to account for the 1984 Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal, India, the track record of this corporation is frightening. Sadly, this is

just the tip of the iceberg, and I would urge readers to check out Jack Doyle's recent book *Trespass Against Us: Dow Chemical and the Toxic Century*.

If the Cherry Fruit Fly is such a problem, and the use of ENTRUST is deemed unavoidable, then perhaps farmers would be wise to grow something else to market commercially. And as for teaming up with Dow, supporting such a corporate brute would be an embarrassment to organic agriculture.

Mike Bird, Seton Portage

#### **Response to letter to the editor**

Effect on beneficials is a real concern. Please see my article in an earlier issue of the BC Organic Grower regarding this and ways to mitigate it. Resistance to spinosad is a possibility. In regard to both these issues we have been carrying out research to minimize the amounts used, which is the main preventative action. Monitoring and only applying sprays when needed is one method. Use of GF-120 instead of Entrust where only 1 gram of spinosad is needed for every 7.5 acres is another.

Very early maturing varieties of cherries miss the main Cherry Fruit Fly infestations. However, the two CFF larvae we did find in all of the checking during last summer's research project were from early cherries. Based on the stage of development of the grubs (mature), the eggs they had hatched from had been laid before we started monitoring mid-June. There may be selection going on in the early maturing blocks for early emerging CFF. Early maturing varieties also tend to be much more susceptible to rain splitting and other physiological problems.

The upshot of this is that if resistance develops, most consumers have to choose either to eat conventional cherries where far more toxic and environmentally damaging pesticides are used or not to eat cherries.

Regarding Dow - My father had a saying that I think applies here: "even a blind chick will find a good seed once in awhile". Actually getting Dow to focus on less toxic compounds is a plus. Not using products with negative connotations is a huge challenge. Try to avoid using all those nice cheap products that are "Made in China". There is probably no intervention/product/action that does not have a negative connotation if you look hard enough. Each individual has to decide how hard they want to look and how much they can or cannot compromise. It is a far from perfect world and there are far more greys and pastels than black and whites.

Linda Edwards



## **Growing the Culture in Agri-Culture**

### **Biodynamic Conference & AGM**

hosted by Glenora Farm in Duncan

**March 24th-26th, 2006**

for information contact:

johnkaty@shaw.ca or bcdemeter@yahoo.ca

Biodynamic Agriculture Society of British Columbia  
Mary Forstbauer (Pres) phone/fax 604 794 3999

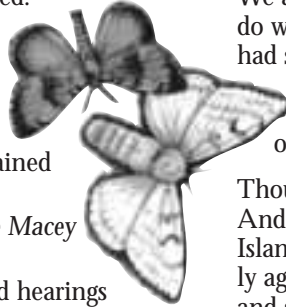
To The Editor:

The Ministry of Forests and Range has applied to aerial spray 390 hectares encompassing both sides of Lees Hill to eradicate an isolated infestation of Gypsy Moth. They will use BTK commercial formulation Foray 48B with 4 applications between April 15 & June 30.

This formulation is not approved for organic certification and any certified land that is sprayed would lose certification status and have to undergo a 3 year transition period. The alternatives are to stop the spraying or to get your acreage covered in plastic at ministry expense every time a spraying is scheduled.

To comment on this application a written submission must be sent to the ministry and the regional manager of the Pesticide Control Program within 30 days of 28 Dec. More details can be obtained from the Islands Trust Office.

Anne Macey



To the Editor:

I was one of several people who attended hearings here the last time this initiative was proposed for the Islands. The struggle against this went on for months; the hearings lasted for 3 days! In the process we discovered that contrary to the purported rationale for the aerial spraying of the entire Island at that time, this wasn't a spraying of bugs that would save local ecosystems from devastation. This was a repeat of a spray program that was first started as an "eradication" of Gypsy Moth beginning in 1911.

Next we discovered that no one knew what was in the spray. It's a secret formula containing a surfactant (sticking agent) which could be any unknown chemical product, including banned substances. It was purported to be safe, except it wasn't to be sprayed anywhere where it would contaminate water bodies! How safe is it then?

There is no record of Gypsy Moth being a viable threat to conifer ecosystems such as ours, although it may very well be a threat to eastern seaboard systems and to other deciduous Canadian zones such as the Carolinian of South Western Ontario. The moth doesn't survive in the conifer forests of northern Michigan or up into Canada, but only inhabits nodes of isolated deciduous poplar and birch tree clusters.

In other words, the Gypsy Moth spray program is a Canadian initiative designed to allay the "non tariff" trade barrier curtailment of shipping such things as raw logs, Christmas trees and nursery products across the U.S. (free trade) border.

One of the most disturbing findings of the hearings was that people with compromised immune systems,

the old, the very young, and others, are threatened with illness and death by such indiscriminate applications of the spray! We discovered that reports of distress in Vancouver Emergency Wards associated with the indiscriminate spraying of citizens of that city (which was the first aerial spraying of an urban population) were simply written off as unknown "epidemiological" effects. One couldn't be certain if it was the spray or it wasn't the spray which affected the victims concerned.

We also found that this spray program had nothing to do with just finding bugs to spray; Agriculture Canada had some kind of contractual agreement with a German supplier of the spray and it was ordered and stock piled for as much as 3 years in advance of a "possible" need!

Though the efforts of a core group led by Chris Anderson, who worked day and night for months, the Island wasn't sprayed in the mid 90s. Ag Canada finally agreed that citizens of Salt Spring would take on—and self-administer – a citizen-based program of setting traps and testing foliage for egg masses (of course the Gypsy Moth never actually showed up). That's the approach that should prevail again, should purported need arise.

We don't need Ag Canada indiscriminately destroying ecosystems here for the sake of exporting raw logs, Christmas trees and Nursery Products to the U.S.A.

John Wilcox ✓

## Regional Seminar Series

Interested in **demonstrating the latest farming techniques or equipment to farmers?** Looking for some **financial support** to get this kind of hands-on event off the ground?

The COABC's Organic Sector Development Fund has approved funding to support a set of regionally oriented seminars around the province. These events must demonstrate something new that can help producers increase their organic productivity.

If you have an idea, and a CB or a regional production group who will help coordinate the event, talk to Rochelle Eisen to see if you qualify for financial assistance. You can reach

**Rochelle at 250.547.6573 (h),  
250.306.7980 (c) or via email rare@telus.net.**

# GROWING THE ORGANIC SECTOR IN B.C. CONFERENCE, TRADESHOW and AGM

## *Pre-Conference Workshops*

### **Marketing and Business Skills Workshop**

In association with the Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative, this workshop will provide beginning and intermediate level marketing information and support to those who are considering or are already involved in agroforestry, who need more information on market opportunities and product outlets, how to mesh or link their agroforestry efforts with other agriculture activities or programs, or obtain other skills for marketing. The workshop will provide information transferable to organic growers and is intended to help promote linkages between agroforestry concepts and products into the organic sector.

### **Environmental Farm Planning Workshops & Clinics**

Please see page 16 for details. Free registration for this workshop is separate from Conference registration.

---

## *Concurrent Conference Session Highlights*

*Please see website or phone Coordinator for updated details*

### **Session A: Growing our Markets**

- Organic retail coops (from base-ment to chainstores)
- What is required in order for a major supermarket chain to carry your organic product (David Kelly, Organics Specialist at Save on Foods)
- The Community Shared Agriculture marketing model.

### **Session B: Growing our Skills**

- Organic Pest Control
- Basket Weeding (Hermann Bruns)
- Marketing for Farmers (Justin Marx)
- How to access government programming for business planning on your farm (Lorne Owen, Ag Renewal Program).
- Permaculture techniques.

### **Session C: Growing our Knowledge**

- National organic regulation changes (Paddy Doherty)
- Meat Industry Enhancement Strategy (Don Davidson): transition to the new meat inspection regulations.
- David Lynch (see page 15 for details) on new products such as chitin-based fertilizer and lactic acid bacteria.

### **Session D: Growing our Value**

- Tools to help farmers with further processing (Candice Appleby, Small Scale Food Processor's Association)
- New ideas for finding income from non-production areas of your property such as riparian areas (Marlene Best, Page Creek Farms).

### **Session E: Growing our Production**

- Specialty crops (Lisa Zabek, MAL)
- Agroforestry systems (David Trotter, MAL)

### **Session F: Growing our Connections and Partnerships**

- Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program and related on farm applications (Jayna Houston, Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association)
- The current status of and efforts to protect ALR lands (Dave Sands, ALR Protection and Enhancement Committee)
- Developing Community, Using Agriculture as the Vehicle (Marion Thompson, Fraser Basin Council)
- How farmers can work with the growing food security movement (Cathleen Kneen, BC Food Systems Network)

## *Auction & Dance*

Enjoy an evening of joyful indulgence, with an all-organic banquet followed by a live and silent auction. Then dance like there's no tomorrow to 11-year old fiddling sensation Aimee Fauteux – a two time provincial gold medal winning fiddler.

***Saturday night!***

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# Registration Form

**"GROWING THE ORGANIC SECTOR in B.C."**  
**2006 COABC CONFERENCE, TRADESHOW and AGM**  
Abbotsford Exhibition Grounds, Ag Rec Building, 32470 Haida Drive, Abbotsford B.C.  
February 24 – 26, 2006

<b>Attendee (Contact) Name</b>		<b>Business / Farm Name</b>
<b>Mailing Address</b>		Products: <b>Business Address (if different)</b>
<b>City, Postal Code</b>		<b>City, Postal Code</b>
<b>Phone</b>	<b>Fax</b>	<b>Email</b>
( )	( )	
<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>Website</b>	<b>Member of which Certifying Body:</b>
( )		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Certifying Body: _____
I would like to: <input type="checkbox"/> volunteer <input type="checkbox"/> donate towards the auction, or the menu <input type="checkbox"/> be a programming sponsor		
I am also a: <input type="checkbox"/> presenter <input type="checkbox"/> tradeshow participant <input type="checkbox"/> entertainer <input type="checkbox"/> Require VEGETARIAN meals		

### Please select from the following Registration Types:

**Full Conference** Includes: Friday Reception & Keynote, Saturday Plenary & Concurrent Sessions, Saturday Dance and Auction, Sunday Concurrent Sessions. Access to tradeshow. Meals: Friday "hor d'oeuvre" Reception, Saturday and Sunday breakfast, coffee breaks and lunch, and Saturday banquet

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$120 (early bird, before Jan 27<sup>th</sup>) = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$135 (regular, before Feb 17<sup>th</sup>) = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$155 (late, after Feb 18<sup>th</sup>) = \_\_\_\_\_ Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mini Conference (Fri/Sat)** Includes: Friday Reception and Keynote, Saturday Plenary and Concurrent Sessions. Access to tradeshow. Meals: Friday "hor d'oeuvre" Reception, Saturday Breakfast, 2 coffee breaks and lunch.

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$80 (early bird, before Jan 27<sup>th</sup>) = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$90 (regular, before Feb 17<sup>th</sup>) = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$110 (late, after Feb 18<sup>th</sup>) = \_\_\_\_\_ Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Pass** Includes: Plenary, & Concurrent sessions for either Saturday or Sunday. Access to tradeshow. Meals: Lunch & 2 coffee breaks.

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$45 (early bird, before Jan 27<sup>th</sup>) = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 (regular, before Feb 17<sup>th</sup>) = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please choose from:  Saturday OR  Sunday Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Evening Social** Includes: Banquet, Dance and Auction

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 (early bird, before Jan 27<sup>th</sup>) = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 (regular, before Feb 17<sup>th</sup>) = \_\_\_\_\_ Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

### Special Workshops and Tours

I am interested in attending pre-conference workshops and/or extracurricular tours, and would like more information about these as they become available  Yes  No if yes, the best way to notify me is to use  Email  Phone  Fax  Regular Mail  
I would like to see workshops or tours on the following topics:

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of attendees not listed in contact section above (to be printed on name tags):

Please make cheques payable to COABC, and mail it with this form to:  
COABC Office, 3402 32nd Ave, Vernon BC Canada V1T 2N1

Questions? Contact the 2006 Conference Coordinator, Michelle Boshard at  
604 755 4329 or 250 485 8169 or michelle@ruralresource.com





# Tradeshow Application

**"GROWING THE ORGANIC SECTOR IN B.C."**  
**2006 COABC CONFERENCE, TRADESHOW and AGM**  
 Abbotsford Exhibition Grounds, Ag Rec Building, 32470 Haida Drive, Abbotsford B.C.  
 February 24 – 26, 2006

PLEASE BE SURE TO ALSO FILL OUT A REGISTRATION FORM

<b>Tradeshow Booth Contact Name</b>		<b>Business Name</b>	
<b>Phone</b>		<b>Products:</b>	
( )	( )	<b>Email</b>	
<b>Cell Phone</b>		<b>Website</b>	
( )		<b># people staffing booth</b>	
Power required (extra fee may apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Do you require tables and/or chairs? # of chairs ___ # of tables ___	
<b>Booth Description</b>			
Please provide a brief description of the business product or service being promoted, this information may be printed in the program document and promotional materials.			

Please select from the following Booths:

**Standard Booth** Includes a 10x10 space, pipe and draped with 8 ft rear and 3 ft side walls, and two full conference registration. TRADESHOW APPLICANTS WILL STILL NEED TO FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION FORM. Additional booth staff are required to pay fees as appropriate. The full conference registrations with the booth includes the Friday "hor d'oeuvre" Reception & Keynote; Saturday Plenary & Concurrent Sessions, Saturday Banquet, Dance & Auction; Sunday Concurrent Sessions, Saturday & Sunday breakfast, coffee breaks & lunch.

Booth fee: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$265 (early bird, before Jan 27<sup>th</sup>) = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$275 (regular, before Feb 17<sup>th</sup>) = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$295 (late, after Feb 18<sup>th</sup>) = \_\_\_\_\_ Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

**Economy Booth** Includes a 10x10 space (no pipe and drape) and one conference registration. TRADESHOW APPLICANTS STILL NEED TO FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION FORM. Additional booth staff need to pay the appropriate fees. The full conference registration includes the Friday "hor d'oeuvre" Reception & Keynote; Saturday Plenary & Concurrent Sessions, Saturday Banquet, Dance & Auction; Sunday Concurrent Sessions, Saturday & Sunday breakfast, coffee breaks & lunch.

Booth fee: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$165 (early bird, before Jan 27<sup>th</sup>) = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$175 (regular, before Feb 17<sup>th</sup>) = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$195 (late, after Feb 18<sup>th</sup>) = \_\_\_\_\_ Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-profit Booth** Includes a 10x10 space (no pipe and drape) and one conference registration. TRADESHOW APPLICANTS STILL NEED TO FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION FORM. Additional booth staff need to pay the appropriate fees. The full conference registration includes the Friday "hor d'oeuvre" Reception & Keynote; Saturday Plenary & Concurrent Sessions, Saturday Banquet, Dance & Auction; Sunday Concurrent Sessions, Saturday & Sunday breakfast, coffee breaks & lunch.

Booth fee: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 (anytime) = \_\_\_\_\_ Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

Electricity: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of attendees not listed in contact section above (to be printed on name tags):

Are any of your party vegetarian?  Yes  No (if yes, number of vegetarians: \_\_\_\_\_)

Please make cheques payable to COABC, and mail it with this and a registration form to:  
 COABC Office, 3402 32nd Ave, Vernon BC Canada V1T 2N1

**Questions?** Contact the 2006 Conference Coordinator, Michelle Boshard at  
 604 755 4329 or michelle@ruralresource.com



# GROWING THE ORGANIC SECTOR IN B.C. CONFERENCE, TRADESHOW and AGM

## General Program Schedule

### **Pre-conference Workshops (Friday, Feb. 24th)**

Noon - 5pm Agroforestry Marketing and Business Skills Workshop  
 Noon - 5pm Environmental Farm Planning Workshop

### **Friday, February 24th**

4:00 pm - 10:00 pm Registration, Trade Show Opens (open until 10 pm)  
 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Networking Reception & Cash Bar: Organic Wine and Beer  
 7:15pm Book Reading by Larry L. Bailey, Author of "Birthright"  
 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm **Plenary Speaker: Deborah Koons Garcia**, Director / Producer of *The Future of Food*, viewing of the film with Q&A period following.

### **Saturday, February 25th**

7:30 am - 9:00 am Registration, Trade Show Opens (open until 5 pm)  
 8:30 am - 10:00 am Opening Remarks & Dignitaries  
**Plenary Speaker: Dr. Derek Lynch**, PAg. Canada Research Chair in Organic Agriculture (see pg. 15 for details)  
 10:00 am - 12 pm PACS AGM  
 10:30 am - 12 pm Concurrent Session 1: Topics A, B, and C (see key below, info pg. 28)  
 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Concurrent Session 2: Topics A, B, and C (see key below, info pg. 28)  
 1:30 pm - 5 pm **Seedy Saturday Seed Exchange**  
 3:30 pm - 5 pm Concurrent Session 3: Topics A, B, and C (see key below, info pg. 28)  
 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm **Banquet, Auction and Dance!!**

### **Sunday, February 26th**

7:30 am - 9:00 am Registration, Trade Show Opens (open until 4:30 pm)  
 8:30 am - 10:00 am **Plenary Speaker: Jammi Kumar**, PAg. Development Agrologist, BC MAL (see pg. 28 for details)  
 10:00 am - 12 pm COABC AGM  
 10:30 am - 12 pm Concurrent Session 4: Topics D, E and F (see key below, info pg. 28)  
 1:30 - 3:00 Concurrent Session 5: Topics D, E and F (see key below, info pg. 28 )  
 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm Closing and Farewells  
 4:30 - 6pm Tour of an organic farm

### **Key to the Concurrent Session Topics: (see pg. 28 for details)**

Topic A: Growing our Markets	Topic D: Growing our Value
Topic B: Growing our Skills	Topic E: Growing our Production
Topic C: Growing our Knowledge	Topic F: Growing our Connections and Partnerships

### **Hotel Accommodation for the Conference:**

#### **Best Western Regency Inn & Conference Centre**

32110 Marshall Road  
 Abbotsford, BC, V2T 1A1  
 Toll Free: 1-800-771-3077  
 Phone: 604-853-3111  
 Fax: 604-852-1750  
<http://www.bwregency.bc.ca>

Be sure to reference conference confirmation #602542 or identify yourself as a COABC conference participant to get the rate of \$79 per night.  
 A hotel shuttle bus will be available all weekend.

#### **Coast Abbotsford Hotel and Suites**

2020 Sumas Way  
 Abbotsford BC, V2S 2C7  
 Toll Free: 1-800-716-6199  
 Phone: 604-853-1880  
 Fax: 604-853-1951

#### **Ramada Inn and Conference Centre Abbotsford**

36035 North Parallel Rd.  
 Abbotsford, BC V3G 2C6  
 Toll Free: 1-888-411-1070  
 Phone: 604-870-1050  
 Fax: 604 870-1060  
[info@ramadaabbotsford.ca](mailto:info@ramadaabbotsford.ca)

#### **Best Western Bakerview Inn**

1821 Sumas Way  
 Abbotsford, BC, V2S 4L5  
 Phone: 604-859-1341  
 Fax: 604-854-1385

#### **Comfort Inn Abbotsford**

2073 Clearbrook Road  
 Abbotsford, BC V2T 2X1  
 Phone: 604-859-6211

#### **Super 8 Abbotsford**

1881 Sumas Way  
 Abbotsford, BC V2S 4L5  
 Phone: 604-853-1141

### **Volunteers**

We need assistance with pre- and post-conference setup and tear down, food serving and registration desk assistance. We also need pre-conference assistance with window poster placements around BC—will you put a poster up in your town? If you're interested in helping, please contact:

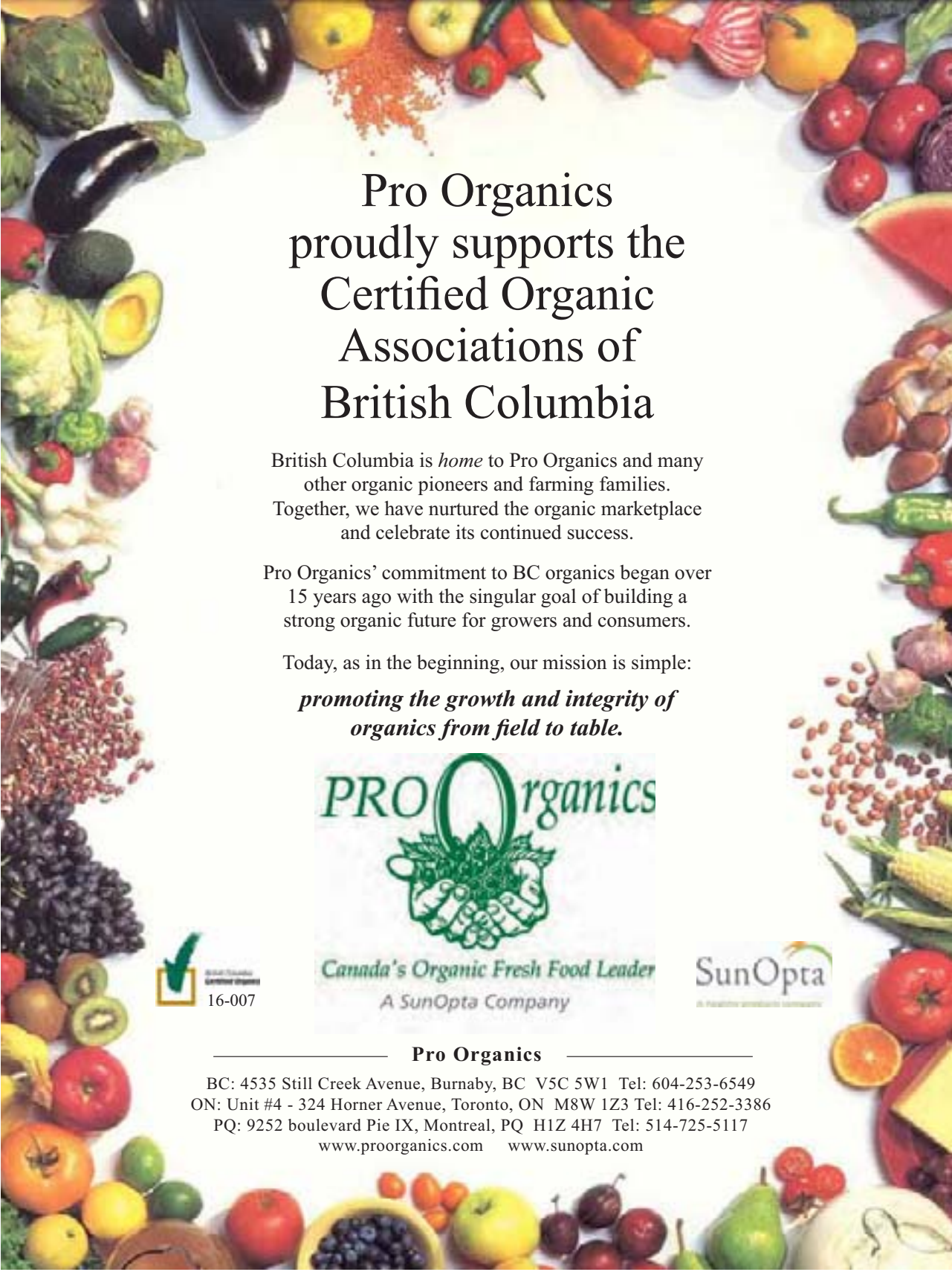
#### **Conference Coordinator Michelle Boshard**

tel: 604-755-4329, or email [michelle@ruralresource.com](mailto:michelle@ruralresource.com)

### **Schedule & Speakers Subject to change**

Check the COABC website for updates and detailed information:

[www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/agm2006](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/agm2006)



# Pro Organics proudly supports the Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia

British Columbia is *home* to Pro Organics and many other organic pioneers and farming families. Together, we have nurtured the organic marketplace and celebrate its continued success.

Pro Organics' commitment to BC organics began over 15 years ago with the singular goal of building a strong organic future for growers and consumers.

Today, as in the beginning, our mission is simple:

***promoting the growth and integrity of  
organics from field to table.***



## Pro Organics

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