



What's New

New Dairy Code from National Farm Animal Care Council There is an electronic version available from NFACC's website at: <http://nfacc.ca/code.aspx>

Organic Crop Improvement Association OCIA "micro-grants" program seek projects OCIA is actively encouraging farmers from Canada and elsewhere to apply for "micro-grants" to support organic research and/or education. Eligible projects "must support organic research, organic education or other ideas supporting/promoting organic agriculture and benefit multiple producers, processors and/or consumers," Complete details at <http://www.ocia.org/RE/MicroGrant.aspx>

Plant Prod Canada has Contans WG an OMRI Listed "Biological Fungicide for the suppression/control of Sclerotia of Sclerotinia sclerotiorum and Sclerotinia minor in Agricultural Soils" available. The product label can be found at http://pr-rp.pmra-arla.gc.ca/PR_SOL/pr_web.ve1?p_ukid=16546

If you are interested in purchasing this product directly contact Martin Kiefer

Pre-Inoculated Seeds

The Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) has recently discovered that various seed companies providing pre-inoculated seeds (particularly those coated with Nitragin Gold – an OMRI approved inoculant) are also pre-coating some seeds with prohibited synthetic coatings prior to inoculation with the Nitragin Gold. Therefore growers need to confirm with their seed suppliers that all seed coating materials have been disclosed, so that CBs can affirm compliance. VOs noticing anything unusual on seed tags are asked to submit copies of the questionable seed tag along with their report.



Ongoing

VO Livestock Training

If you are interested in taking an IOIA Basic Training in Livestock course please contact Sarah Clark, the COABC Administrator by June 15th, 2009. Send your expression of interest including a \$50 deposit chq to the COABC Office 202-3002 32 Ave, Vernon, BC V1T 2L7. For more information please call 250-260-4429 or email admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca COABC requires 15 candidates for this event to take place.

Sponsorship Program

The COABC sponsorship program is aimed at cultivating the growth of certified organic food and agriculture throughout British Columbia. The diverse sponsorship program includes value-added sponsor benefits and comprehensive exposure.

If you know of an organisation or individual interested in participating in the sponsorship program please contact the COABC administrator Sarah Clark at admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) updates can be found at the COABC <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/news.htm>

OMRI's NOSB Meeting Report OMRI Certifiers Subscribers are now welcome to download their subscription copy of report at <http://ent.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=277152473&u=3018851>

Update on PARASOL® WG

Regarding the status of NuFarm's copper hydroxide product PARASOL® WG Fungicide (PCP Reg. No. 29063); Parasol® WG is a foliar applied copper hydroxide fungicide/bactericide registered for use in the control of various fungal and bacterial diseases in potatoes, tomatoes, beans, peppers, cucumbers and sugar beets. PARASOL WG Fungicide is a wettable granule formulation containing 50% elemental copper, present as copper hydroxide. In the United States the identical product is known under the trade name CHAMP®WG Agricultural Fungicide, EPA Reg. No. 55146-01. Both products are manufactured at the same facility, from the same ingredients, and are identical except for trade name and registered label uses in the respective countries.

On April 1, 2009, the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) (www.omri.org) announced CHAMP WG Agricultural Fungicide as an acceptable product for use in disease control in certified organic crop production (OMRI code agt-1382). Nufarm Americas, Inc. and Nufarm Agriculture Inc. will pursue having the Canadian tradename, PARASOL WG Fungicide, listed by OMRI in parallel to CHAMP WG Agricultural Fungicide. Canadian organic crop producers who may be interested in using PARASOL WG Fungicide should consult with their organic certifier to confirm the acceptability of using this product in their production system. For further information, contact Nufarm Agriculture Inc. at 1-800-868-5444.

OMRI DROP List OMRI reports to certifiers any product names removed from the OMRI Products List within ten days of their removal. OMRI 'drops' products when the companies voluntarily request their products be removed from our program or they fail to comply with the organization's policies. OMRI prohibits products only when conclusive evidence is on file to demonstrate a non-compliance with the NOP Rule. The following products have been removed from the OMRI Products List recently:

- Liquid Amber Horizon Ag-Products Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fulvic Acids Prohibited 5/7/2009
- BioLink® Insecticide Westbridge Crop Pest, Weed, and Disease Control Plant Pesticides Dropped 5/7/2009
- CheckMate® OFM-SL Suterra, LLC Crop Pest, Weed, and Disease Control Pheromones Dropped 5/7/2009
- BioFlora™ Dry Crumbles™ 7-8-4 +8% Ca BioFlora Systems Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fertilizers, Blended Dropped 5/6/2009
- BioFlora™ Chicken Nuggets™ 4-6-3 + 8% Ca BioFlora Systems Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fertilizers, Blended Dropped 5/6/2009
- essential soil™ 6 Bricks Packaged in Cardboard Box Foenix Forest Technology, Inc. Crop Management Tools and Production Aids Transplant/Container Media Dropped 5/6/2009
- SP-1 AgriEnergy Resources Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Microbial Products Dropped 5/4/2009
- Organic TRIGGRR® Westbridge Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Aquatic Plant Products – synthetically extracted Dropped 4/27/2009
- Pura Vida Organics-Grow Technaflora Plant Products, LTD Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fertilizers, Blended with micronutrients Dropped 4/24/2009
- Bradfield Organics™ Pasture & Farm 4-1-4 Feed Solutions, Inc. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fertilizers, Blended Dropped 4/23/2009
- Bradfield Organics™ Veggie 2-3-6 Feed Solutions, Inc. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fertilizers, Blended Dropped 4/23/2009
- Bradfield Organics™ Tasty Tomato 3-3-3 Feed Solutions, Inc. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fertilizers, Blended Dropped 4/23/2009
- Aqua Power™ 5-1-1 JH Biotech, Inc. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fish Products, Multi-ingredient Dropped 5/27/2009
- Safer® Brand Roach & Ant Killing Powder Woodstream Corporation Crop Pest, Weed, and Disease Control Boric Acid Dropped 5/21/2009
- Kelprosoil Productos del Pacifico, S.A. de C.V. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Aquatic Plant Products – synthetically extracted Dropped 5/20/2009
- Kelpropac Productos del Pacifico, S.A. de C.V. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Kelp Meal Dropped 5/20/2009



Interesting!

A new BC hotline to report invasive plant sightings

The list of BC invasive plant concerns can be found at

<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/invasiveplant.html>

May 12, 2009 – Reporting Invasive Plants in BC communities has never been easier—just dial 1-888-WEEDSBC.

It's never been easier to report invasive plants! The Invasive Plant Council of BC is pleased to announce the establishment of a provincial toll free hotline, 1-888-WEEDSBC, to which callers can report invasive plants and make a difference in their community.

A member of the Invasive Plant Council team will receive calls and answer questions about invasive plants, how to identify specific species, and offer contacts for regional invasive plant committees and local resources.

Use of the provincial hotline is open to all members of the public, and is part of "Eyes Across BC," an outreach and awareness initiative partnered by the Invasive Plant Council of BC and the Agriculture Environment and Wildlife Fund. Eyes across BC programs involve reporting invasive plants through the hotline, and training workshops where participants can become informed "spotters" of invasive plants. These programs are FREE! Please call 1-888-WEEDSBC to find out how to get involved in local efforts to stop the spread of invasive plants.

Invasive plants are the second greatest threat to biodiversity after habitat loss, and can cause damage to the environment, economy and human health. Having been introduced without their natural pests and predators, these unwanted plants can form dense infestations, displacing native species and disrupting natural ecological processes.

According to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, there are an estimated 485 invasive plant species in Canada, and weeds in crops and pastures alone cost approximately \$2.2 billion annually. In BC, farmers and ranchers lose an estimated \$50 million in crop revenue each year and then pay millions more in control measures.

Impacts associated with the introduction and spread of invasive plants are not unique to one industry, organization, or community – all citizens, regions, and industries in BC are affected.

Help your community protect local resources by managing invasive plants. To find out more about invasive plants in your area or to seek alternative plants, visit www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca or phone 1-888-WEEDSBC.



Conference / Events

All things organic conference and trade show, June 17-18, 2009, Chicago Illinois
<http://www.organicexpo.com/09/public/enter.aspx>

Season Extension for Organic Growers in the Okanagan/Shuswap

One day hands-on seminar in Mara, BC exploring the different kinds of season extension methods available as well as cost estimates and potential problems that can arise in organic operations

Date: June 7, 2009

Time: 9 – 3

Schedule:

8:30 – 9:00 am: Registration and coffee at Mara Hall

9:00 – 10:15 am: Video Presentation of Hoop house construction and production featuring Adam Montri- Michigan State University.

10:15 -10:30 am: Break for coffee

10:30 – 11:45 am: Question and Answer forum featuring: John Lipski of Professional Gardener, Hermann Bruns of Wildflight Farm, and Karen Brown of Crofton Grower Service addressing the earlier video and High Tunnel handout as well as a discussion on the production issues in our area.

11:45 – 12:30

Lunch Break

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Farm Tour of Wildflight Farm looking at operational greenhouses and hoop uses with Q & A from Hermann, John and Karen.

All participants will be provided with a copy of the University of Vermont: “High Tunnel: Using Low Cost Technology to Increase Yields, Improve Quality and Extend the Season” handout, lunch and access to other pertinent reference materials.

Cost per participant: \$25

RSVP to NOOA office: 250-540-2557 Or to northorganics@gmail.com

Organic Islands Festival and Sustainability Expo

July 4 and 5, 2009 - 10 am to 5 pm

Glendale Gardens and Woodland, 505 Quayle Road, Victoria, BC

Just north of Camosun College Interurban Campus

Final Call for Festival Exhibitors:

Final call for organic producers, farmers and green businesses to exhibit. Canada's largest outdoor festival attracts thousands of people looking for sustainable products, services and practices to integrate into their daily lives. Solar Powered. Near Zero Waste. 150 Exhibitors. For more info:

<http://www.organicislands.ca> or contact us for an Information Kit: 250-658-8148. Platinum sponsor: Level Ground Trading.

Advanced Tickets On Sale Now:

Buy advanced tickets online at www.organicislands.ca.

Save up to 25% and win the \$1500+ La Vida Eco Prize, which includes: eco-furniture, smart car rental, energy retrofits and much more!

Adults: Advanced: \$10 Door: \$12

Youth (13-18)/Seniors (65+): Advanced: \$7.50 Door: \$10

Family Passes: Only available at the Door: \$35 (includes 2 adult & 2 youth/senior)

Purchase tickets from:

Lifestyles Markets, Good Planet, Silk Road, Hemp & Company, Glendale Gardens, Island Natural Markets, Community Farm Store

Michael Ableman and Foxglove Farm are pleased to announce the launch of the Centre for Arts, Ecology & Agriculture. Please see www.foxglovefarmbc.ca

The Centre was established to demonstrate and interpret the vital connections between farming, land stewardship, food, the arts, and community well being, to model the economic possibilities for small and medium scale sustainable agricultural and forestry projects, and to nurture the human spirit through public programs, classes, and events.

This year, from July through September, the Centre will be offering workshops on topics ranging from organic seed production, home food growing and preserving, to ecoforestry, landscape painting, illustrated journaling and Brazilian samba. The Centre is also offering a children's farm camp. The programs will take place at the historic 120 acre Foxglove Farm on beautiful Salt Spring Island.

Come stay in one of our heritage cottages, or camp in a quiet farm meadow, eat fresh farm food (meals are included in workshop fees), and learn from some of North America's most accomplished farmers, artists, and foresters. Please see www.foxglovefarmbc.ca for more information and workshop registration. We look forward to seeing you on the farm this summer!

Keep in Mind



If you change your address or contact information send it to your CB office as soon as possible so that you don't miss out on receiving a BCOG and other materials.

Feel free to send questions regarding the New National Standards to the Organic Extension Agent, Rochelle Eisen at extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

Cyber-help <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.html>