Dave’s Ramble

A wise man once wrote that it is better to dwell in the outermost room of your house then to dwell with a contentious wife. Now I don’t mean to imply that any of us have a contentious mate; however, let us focus on the true meaning of this statement: Be sure your farm shop has been built far enough from the main house to offer peace and solitude. A man’s bond for his shop is beyond understanding, often accused of being a second wife.

On the farm it’s a commons where farmers dwell. At our homes it’s the place we gravitate to when we rise in the morning with coffee in hand; a place of meditation to dream and hammer the hours away.

Is a shop missing in your life? Be mindful that shop and garage are not synonymous. A garage is for the maintenance and protection of automobiles, lawn tractors and sundry home appliances. A shop on the other hand spans the age of invention. It delights and awes the Neanderthal as well as the Gen X’rs. Upon entering a true shop, office boys are transformed, melded into a new age mechanic, craftsman, engineer, smithy and artisan. Shop masters need to mentor such apprentices to remove timidity and reluctance, compelling them to tackle any mechanical project.

Are you in a shop? Have you apprenticed with a shop master? Look around carefully, the contents of a shop removes all boundaries and obstacles to successful repair. A farm shop has the necessary tools to hammer, weld, heat, cut, drill and bend. Witness to a place of work, you will find yourself present with heavy benches, vices, anvils and tools. There is an organization, yet, mayhem to the shop supply, an accumulation of repair items from project to project from generation to generation. Uniquely specified tools hang about, some are even homemade. The shop master has an uncanny remembrance for every project part, and grabs for tools without an apparent glance. The smell of oil, metal and primer overwhelsms.

“Ring! Ring! Ring! -- Honey, when are you coming in? -- Dinners ready! -- Did you forget that we.....?”

Calendar of Events

Mark Your Calendars --- Plan To Participate

- July 14 – Cut Flower Conference, Howard County
- July 21 – Pasture Walk, Calvert County
- July 28 – Pond Mgmt. Nursery/ Greenhouse, Clarksville
- August 18 – Crop Twilight, CMREC Upper Marlboro
- August 29 – Governor’s AG Forum, Calvert Fairgrounds
- September 24 – Pasture Walk, Prince George’s County

Inside This Issue

- Is Soybean Rust Spreading North?
- Soybean Production Practices for Soybean Rust
- Farm Bureau On-Line Discussion Group
- Crop IPM Updates
- New Guide for Weed Control in Turf
- NY/PA Grape Guide On-Line
- Wine Grape Research Update
- Beach Plum Study at CMREC, Upper Marlboro
- Nutrient Management Update
- 2005 MDA Pesticide Container Recycling
- USDA National Animal Identification System
- Probiotics in Feed Rations
- 2005 Cover Crop Sign-Up
- Crop Insurance Update for Fall Seeded Forages
- GAO Report on Agricultural Biosecurity
- Sustainable Agriculture Grants for Farmers
Pond Management for Nurseries & Greenhouses
July 28, 2005
By: Stanton Gill, Specialist in IPM for Greenhouse and Nursery, University of Maryland

Looking for something cool to do on a hot summer day? Then come to the pond management seminar at Country View Nursery in Clarksville, MD on July 28, 2005. The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association, Maryland Greenhouse Growers Association and MDA are organizing a session on pond management for nursery and greenhouse operations. The program will run from 1:00 pm in the afternoon until 7:30 p.m. in the evening.

♦ John Rich, partner and general manager of Country Spring Nursery will open the program with an introduction to how they use their pond to irrigate a nursery.

♦ J.G. Warfield of Soil Conversation will cover how to start a new irrigation pond for a nursery or greenhouse operation.

♦ Chuck Schuster of the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension will go over high rate filters and picking a pump for your irrigation system.

♦ Burt Arnoff of Philadelphia, PA will walk you through what is involved in operating and maintaining an effective trickle irrigation system.

♦ Several growers are investigating using carbon dioxide to kill disease organisms and algae in irrigation water. We asked Mary Ann Hartman of Whitmire Company to present on how to use chlorine dioxide to clean up irrigation water.

♦ When you maintain a pond you always have the potential for mosquito problems. Cy Lesser of the Maryland Department of Agriculture will provide methods to keep your irrigation pond from becoming a major mosquito breeding site.

♦ Dan Terlizzi of the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension will talk about new methods to control algae and floating plants in irrigation ponds. Dan will also cover control of emergent plants in ponds. Dan will also have one of his graduate students cover the use of barley straw in the control of algae in ponds.

We will end the evening with a float your boat where you will have a chance to build a boat with duct tape, cardboard and your imagination, with a concluding boat race in the pond.

A dinner will be served and is covered by the registration fee which is $25 if received by July 22, 2005. Checks can be made out to the University of Maryland and mailed to CMREC, 11975 Homewood Road, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042. If you want to pay by credit card call 301-596-9413.

We look forward to see you at the summer tour and conference.

Field Crops Research Twilight Barbecue & Ice Cream Social
CMREC, Upper Marlboro Farm
August 18, 2005

You are invited to attend a twilight wagon tour of the University of Maryland Upper Marlboro Research Farm, on Thursday, August 18, 2005 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Maryland Cooperative Extension will host this Field Crops Research Twilight Barbecue & Ice-Cream Social.

Served after the barbecue, “Old-fashioned” homemade peach ice cream! It’s “old fashioned” ice cream because we will be using a 1929 Fair-Banks Morse antique gas engine to do the cranking.

This event will highlight all field crops, agronomic and horticultural research projects currently conducted at the CMREC Upper Marlboro Farm, including the following:
♦ Alternative Tobacco Research
♦ Organic Squash Bug Control Study
♦ Bt Sweet Corn
♦ Entrust Study on Potatoes
♦ Vineyard Projects - Table and Wine Grapes
♦ Corn Stalk Nitrate Test Study
♦ P Phyto-Remediation Grain vs. Forage Systems
♦ Peach & Plum Research
♦ Ethnic and Specialty Vegetables
♦ Strip-Till/No-Till Vegetable Production Techniques
♦ Blueberry Project

This event is free. Please call any of the Southern Maryland Extension offices to reserve a meal ticket. For more information contact Dave Myers at 410 222-6759.

Triadelphia Farm to Host Summer Evening Cut Flower Conference and Tour
July 14, 2005

Triadelphia Farm, in the beautiful rolling hills of western Howard County, Maryland will be the host site for a mid-summer cut flower tour and conference on July 14, 2005. The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, the National Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers, the Maryland Greenhouse and Cut Flower Association and MDA are working as a team to conduct this special session to help commercial cut flower growers expand their knowledge on field cut flower production.

Triadelphia Farm, a fourth generation family run operation, has transitioned over the years from a dairy production farm to field crop production, which presently includes production of Christmas trees, vegetables and cut flowers. It is a truly diversified farm that has learned how to exist and continue to make money in a rapidly suburbanizing county. Just the tour of their farm should be an inspiration to other farms. 
The late afternoon through evening tour and lectures were planned out so growers could attend after work and a time of the day when temperatures are cooler. Registration will start at 3:00 p.m. and the walking tour will start at 3:30 p.m.

The session starts with a walking tour of the Brown’s Cut Flower production part of the farm where you will see how the Brown’s prepare and harvest cut flowers for sales at farmer markets.

Caragh Fitzgerald and Chuck Schuster of the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension will demonstrate equipment used in commercial cut flower operations. Ethel Dutky and I will operate an on-site identification of cut flower insect and diseases, so bring your samples from your cut flower operation.

Jane Storrs from Maryland Department of Agriculture will speak on finding a farm market in your area for selling cut flowers. Next we have David Seitz from Gloeckner’s Seed Company of New York State speaking on hot new varieties of cut flowers. Part of selling cut flowers as part of a pick your own operation or selling at farm markets is making sure your liability is covered.

We have asked Kevin Robinson of the Piedmont Group to speak on what type of insurance cut flower growers should have to cover their liability.

Ann Lines of Lines Cut Flower operation in Charles County has been asked to present how to effectively promote and sell more cut flowers at farm markets. David and Ann Lines have been selling at the Arlington Farm market for several years and will share their promotional techniques.

David Dowling of White House Flower Farm and Mel Heath of Brown Bridge Farm have organized a session called “Grower Exchange.” Each attendee is encouraged to bring material from their farm on how they promote their business.

The tour and conference sessions run form 3:30 – 8:30 p.m. A dinner will be served and is covered by the registration fee which is $20 if received by July 5, 2005. Checks can be made out to the University of Maryland and mailed to CMREC, 11975 Homewood Road, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042. If you want to pay by credit card call 301-596-9413. We look forward to see you at the summer tour.

2005 PASTURE WALKS

For Farmers and those desiring to learn about pasture management plan to attend the following pasture walks in Southern Maryland

♦ Thursday July 21, 2005 - Calvert County from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Tim Gott’s Farm - Stockpiling fescue for beef

♦ Saturday September 24, 2005 - Prince George’s County from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Aist’s Beef Farm - Establishing Gamagrass & Stockpiling fescue to extend the grazing season for beef.

PLEASE REGISTER if you plan to attend. To get directions and get updates on any changes contact Lydia Donovan at lydia.donovan@md.usda.gov or 443-482-2907. Maps and information are also online at: http://www.md.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/glc/glc.html

Governor Ehrlich Calls for Agriculture Forum Public Listening Sessions, Summit to Develop Farm Policy Recommendations

ANNAPOLIS, MD - (May 4, 2005) - Maryland farmers face a number of challenges and opportunities to remain profitable in today's land development and economic climate. Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. has asked the Maryland Department of Agriculture to convene an agriculture forum to bring forward policy recommendations that will help chart a course for the future of farming in Maryland.

"The goal of this forum is to consider all sectors of Maryland's production agriculture, identify over arching issues, and to construct recommendations that will continue to grow and promote agriculture in Maryland," said Governor Ehrlich. "Agriculture is essential to our State's economy, environment and quality of life and I am committed to promoting its long-term viability."

The Maryland Agriculture Commission, a 24-member group representing a cross section of commodities and appointed by the Governor as an advisory body to the Secretary of Agriculture, is spearheading the forum. The Commission is partnering with farm, commodity and land preservation organizations.

Over the winter, a steering committee identified four primary areas that are important to the future of agriculture and developed a process for public input into these issues prior to the forum. The Commission will seek input on the subjects of profitability, land use, alternative enterprises and agricultural biosecurity through a survey that is being mailed to farm leaders and stakeholders. The results of the survey will be refined through a series of six listening sessions. The resulting information will be compiled and presented at the forum on February 13, 2006. Participants in the forum will develop policy recommendations. A strategic plan for the future of agriculture will be developed to guide the implementation of those proposals.

"The Agriculture Commission thanks the Governor for his initiative and welcomes the opportunity to build on the work that farm-related task forces have completed over the past three years to craft a plan that helps ensure the viability of agriculture," said Douglas Green, chair of the Maryland Agriculture Commission and forum steering committee member. "We invite all interested parties to participate in the listening sessions. The strength of this process is in the ideas and solutions put forward by all parties and the resulting ownership of the policy recommendations."
Is Asian Soybean Rust Heading North?

Last Updated: 06/13/05 09:49 AM

USDA/APHIS Tracking Site:  http://www.sbrusa.net/
The remnants of tropical depression Arlene have moved north and northeastward over the southern Great Lakes region. Rainfall totals associated with the now greatly weakened system are predicted to be about 1 inch in the northeastern U.S. over the next few days.

The soybean rust model, in its recent forecast, maintains significant soybean rust spore deposition from Florida through all of Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, most of Tennessee and Kentucky, and the southern half of Louisiana. Marginal spore deposition is still possible in the border areas, including extreme eastern Arkansas, southeastern Missouri, lower Ohio Valley, and the central Appalachians.

While tropical storm Arlene has the potential for widespread spore deposition, new soybean rust infestations from this weather event will not be visible until about a week. However, previous depositions are predicted by the model to reach observable infection stages on susceptible hosts in Florida, Georgia, southern South Carolina, south central Alabama, southeastern Mississippi during this week. While model simulations indicate infection is likely in southeastern U.S., the lack of knowledge of inoculum levels makes it difficult to assess the true threat of the disease. Active scouting of potential soybean rust infection areas is currently underway to confirm that the disease is on soybean and other hosts.

Visitors to this web site are strongly encouraged to pay close attention to the Observation screen to monitor these scouting activities and to follow the status of soybean rust in their local area.

Important soybean rust websites:

Identifying Soybean Rust
USDA Soybean Rust Identification

Learn how to diagnose soybean rust by downloading the above diagnostic card. Regional sentinel plots have been visited this week and are at V2 to V3 stage of growth. Septoria leafspot or brown spot is present in most early soybeans including the sentinel plots. This is the first rust look-a-like disease of the season and is very prevalent on the unifoliate leaves. Become familiar with these symptoms now because if the season is wet, this disease often will be seen in the upper canopy about the time soybean rust may show up and it will be helpful to be able to distinguish between these two diseases.

Soybean Rust Sprayer Set-Up
TeeJet Sprayer Technology

Soybean Production Practices for Asian Soybean Rust

By Bob Kratochvil, Extension Specialist, Agronomy
University of Maryland

Asian soybean rust arrived in the U.S. late last year. Everyone is following it closely wondering what impact it will have on this year’s crop. Numerous websites are available to track where rust is currently located and what the potential is for it to move on any particular day. There currently is no genetic resistance to the disease so the only mechanism available for combating the disease if it arrives in our area is via the use of fungicides. Tracking rust spore movement is not the only thing many farmers are considering regarding the management of their crop for this year. I want to address some of the different production practice ideas that have been suggested.

Earlier Maturing Varieties

The maturity groups best adapted for our region range from late MG III to early MG V with those in the early-mid
MG IV generally performing best. The hypothesis behind using earlier maturing varieties is that they may avoid the disease either entirely or at least partially depending upon when and if it arrives. Using a late MG II to early MG III variety that is planted during the first 2-3 weeks of May just might do that if rust does not arrive until mid-late August. If the disease arrives that late, it may be possible that either no fungicide or at a minimum one fungicide application will be all that is necessary to get the crop to maturity with no or minimal effect from rust. However, if rust does not arrive, the potential exists for harvesting a crop that yields considerably less than would have been experienced if a variety with more normal maturity for the region would have been used. Since we know little about how this disease will progress in the U.S. at this time, I think the best place for earlier maturing varieties at this time is in research plots where we can assess what kind of yield reductions can be expected with their use. This is something that I will be doing this summer. My recommendation for this year is to plant varieties of maturity (late MG III to early MG V) that are best adapted to this region.

Early Planting Date
It is best to plant soybeans when the soil temperature has warmed to 60-65° F. Most generally this occurs in our area during the first 2-3 weeks of May. We have been experiencing a colder than normal spring this year so the optimum time for planting full season soybean is likely to be during the last 3 weeks of May. Soybeans that are planted early will germinate at a soil temperature of 50 ° F but they will grow slowly making the seedlings much more susceptible to soil borne pathogens and increasing the risk of poor stand establishment. In order to achieve maximum yield potential, my recommendation is to plant full season soybean between now and the end of May.

Double Crop Planting Date
For double crop production, the goal is always to plant them as soon as possible after the small grain is removed from the field. Since development of small grains is slower than usual this year, we may see a lot of DC soybean planted after July 1. This may change if we have an onset of above normal temperatures that shortens the length of grain fill period for the wheat and barley crops. Many believe that DC soybeans will be the most susceptible to rust if it does arrive in this area and I think they are correct. I believe that it will be wise to evaluate small grains harvest time this year as well as closely follow the progression of soybean rust. If rust has arrived in the area or is close by (neighboring states) and planting of DC soybean has not yet occurred by 10 July, it may be more cost-effective to not plant the soybeans. Or, at least be prepared to follow an adequate fungicide application program if you do plant at that late date but if that is the decision at least consider the potential for lower yield plus the costs of protecting the crop with fungicides. And, at that late date if conditions are dry and likely to inhibit quick germination and establishment of the DC soybean crop, save your seed and your money.

Double crop soybean plans should be made with close attention given to 1) U.S. rust development, 2) when the DC soybeans will be planted, 3) how dry the summer has been prior to planting, and 4) what the precipitation outlook is for the remainder of the summer.

Row Spacing
Narrow row planting (either drilled at 7-7.5 inches or split row planted in 15-inch rows) of soybean has become common. This is because planting soybeans in narrower than 30-inch rows has provided significant yield benefit. Many farmers are considering going back to 30-inch rows in order to more easily accommodate sprayers. Using 30-inch row spacing will most likely result in yield reductions of 5-10% compared to 15-inch rows and possibly as great as 15-20% less yield compared to planting in 7-7.5 inch rows. A better option is to plant in narrower rows but leave tramlines or wheel rows (rows where seed are not planted and will accommodate the tractor and/or sprayer wheels). By doing this, the opportunity for achieving maximum yield benefit with the narrower rows will exist. And, you will not be driving over soybeans (thus wasting the seed and its cost) if you must spray. Additionally, the soybeans in the skipped rows will likely give some compensatory response because of the row that is missing next to them allowing yield attainment with skip rows to be comparable to the yield achieved with solid seeded soybeans. My recommendation is to continue to use narrower row planting for soybeans in order to attain maximum yield potential.

Plant Population
This is an area where farmers can influence cost of production regardless of the threat from soybean rust. Soybeans are known to respond to a wide range of plant populations. Research in Maryland has determined that an optimum population goal for full season soybean is 140,000 seeds/acre. The optimum double crop population can be achieved by planting 175,000 seeds/acre. There is no reason to increase population above these levels to counter soybean rust. If you have been planting above these rates, the risk of rust and its accompanying costs should be incentive enough to reduce other input costs wherever possible.

Anne Arundel Farm Bureau
On-Line Discussion Group
Milly Welsh the Anne Arundel Farm Bureau On-Line Discussion Group Chairman would like to invite your participation. On May 31, 2005 the following post was made to the membership:

Milly B Welsh <graden1@juno.com> wrote:
To: aacofarmbureauinc@yahoo.com
Date: Tue, 31 May 2005 14:12:31 -0400
Subject: Discussion Group
From: Milly B Welsh <graden1@juno.com>
To: Members of Discussion Group
The Maryland Farm Bureau has suggested the following topics for our discussion group:

ASIAN SOYBEAN RUST - Are you worried? Have you made any changes in crop rotation? Do you think the USDA and MDA will be able to respond in a timely manner? What do you think this disease will have on soybean prices?
MUNICIPAL ANNEXATIONS - Why do you think it is happening? What does the effect of annexation have on our farming community? Road congestion? Land use conflicts?

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT - How can the act be less burdensome to farmers? Are there incentives that would be helpful? Has there been any impact on your farming?

If you have any thoughts on these or other subjects, you may contact Milly Welsh at her email address and sign-on to the Discussion Group.

Vegetable Crop IPM Update

**Vegetable Crop Insects** - Joanne Whalen, Extension IPM Specialist; jwhalen@udel.edu

**Cucumbers**

All fields should be scouted for cucumber beetles and aphids. Fresh market cucumbers are susceptible to bacterial wilt, so treatments should be applied before beetles feed extensively on cotyledons and first true leaves. Pickling cucumbers have more tolerance to wilt and the treatment threshold for machine-harvested pickling cucumbers is when 5% of plants are infested with beetles and/or showing fresh feeding injury. A treatment should be applied for aphids if 10 to 20 percent of the plants are infested with aphids with 5 or more aphids per leaf. Fulfill, Thionex or Lannate are labeled for aphid control. Be sure to watch for bees foraging in the area. A pyrethroid (Asana, Capture, permethrin), Lannate, Sevin or Thionex are labeled for cucumber beetle control in cucumbers.

**Melons**

Continue to scout all melons for cucumbers, cucumber beetles, and spider mites. The treatment threshold for aphids is 20% infested plants with at least 5 aphids per leaf. Be sure to also watch for beneficials. The threshold for mites is 20-30% infested crowns with 1-2 mites per leaf. Cucumber beetle populations have exploded in many fields. Since beetles continue to re-infest fields, multiple applications are often needed. Be sure to watch for bees foraging in the area.

**Peppers**

Continue to sample for corn borers. We continue to find corn borer egg masses on pepper leaves and in some cases we have observed hatching from egg masses. Before fruit is present, these young corn borer larvae can infest stems and petioles. Be sure to also check local moth catches in your area at http://www.udel.edu/IPM/traps/latestblt.html. We are also starting to see an increase in aphid populations. A treatment may be needed prior to fruit set, if you find 1-2 aphids per leaf for at least 2 consecutive weeks and beneficial activity is low.

**Potatoes**

Continue to scout fields for Colorado potato beetle (CPB), corn borers (ECB) and leafhoppers. Small CPB larvae can now be found in fields. We continue to see an increase in corn borer moth activity as well as egg laying. Be sure to check our website at: http://www.udel.edu/IPM/traps/latestblt.html for the most recent moth catches in your area. Just a reminder, heavy rains after egg hatch can cause significant mortality to small corn borer larvae. If you are scouting for infested terminals, the first treatment should be applied when 10% (fresh market) or 20-25% (processing) of the terminals are infested with small ECB larvae. We continue to find low levels of potato leafhopper adults.

**Snap Beans**

Continue to sample seedling stage fields for cutworms and flea beetles. You should also sample all whorl stage corn for corn borers. A treatment should be applied if 15% of the plants are infested. The first silk sprays will be needed for corn earworm as soon as ear shanks are visible. Be sure to check trap catches since the spray schedules can quickly change. Trap catches are generally updated on Monday and Thursday nights. http://www.udel.edu/IPM/traps/latestblt.html

**Melons**

We continue to find bean leaf beetle feeding in the earliest planted fields. A treatment for bean leaf beetle may be needed from plant emergence to the second trifoliate when you find 2 beetles per ft. row and a 25% stand reduction. You should also watch for grasshoppers, especially in full season no-till fields. We are seeing an increase in activity of small nymphs. The treatment threshold for grasshoppers is 1 per sweep and 30% defoliation. Multiple applications may be needed for grasshopper control.

**Snap Beans**

All seedling stage fields should be scouted for leafhopper and thrips activity. The thrips threshold is 5-6 per leaflet and the leafhopper threshold is 5 per sweep. If both insects are present, the threshold for each should be reduced by 1/3.

**Sweet Corn**

Continue to sample seedling stage fields for cutworms and flea beetles. You should also sample all whorl stage corn for corn borers. A treatment should be applied if 15% of the plants are infested. The first silk sprays will be needed for corn earworm as soon as ear shanks are visible. Be sure to check trap catches since the spray schedules can quickly change. Trap catches are generally updated on Monday and Thursday nights. http://www.udel.edu/IPM/traps/latestblt.html

**Soybeans**

We continue to find bean leaf beetle feeding in the earliest planted fields. A treatment for bean leaf beetle may be needed from plant emergence to the second trifoliate when you find 2 beetles per ft. row and a 25% stand reduction. You should also watch for grasshoppers, especially in full season no-till fields. We are seeing an increase in activity of small nymphs. The treatment threshold for grasshoppers is 1 per sweep and 30% defoliation. Multiple applications may be needed for grasshopper control.
Weed Control Update - Mark VanGessel, Extension Weed Specialist; mjv@udel.edu

Hot Weather and Volatility with Dicamba and 2,4-D

With the warm weather we have been having, spraying postemergence herbicides in early planted corn may require additional consideration because of the temperature. It is not recommended to spray dicamba or 2,4-D when the temperature is expected to be 85 degrees or hotter; or spray late in the day when temperatures drop below 85. A number of pre-mixes have dicamba (active ingredient in Banvel and Clarity) including, Distinct, Celebrity Plus, Marksmen, and NorthStar; so the temperature consideration applies to them as well. Shotgun is a pre-package mixture of 2,4-D and atrazine.

Harvest Aid for Small Grain

Roundup WeatherMax (up to 0.7 qt/A) or Touchdown (up to 1 qt/A) are labeled as harvest aids in winter wheat and barley. Applications must be made after the hard-dough stage and at least 7 days prior to harvest.

Time to Scout Corn For Weeds

It is important to start to get over the corn ground to check if there are weed breaks, particularly since we have had so much rain, and we have not had much shading due to the slow growing corn. Crabgrass is one that worries me since it is very difficult to control with a postemergence spray. Most of the postemergence grass herbicides (Basis Gold, Steadfast, or Option) will not control crabgrass over 1 to 2 inches tall. Herbicide-resistant corn (Liberty Link or Roundup Ready) gives you a wider window for crabgrass control. However, other weeds are likely to start emerging as well so be sure to check your fields soon.


The updated 2005 New England Guide to Weed Control in Turfgrass contains extensive information about currently registered turf herbicide products, including specifics on application, timing, and environmentally responsible use. The guide is available as a free, downloadable PDF file at the following location:

http://www.umass turf.org/publications/online_pubs.html

Wine Grape Early Growth Evaluation

CMREC Upper Marlboro Vineyard

By Ben Beale, Extension Educator
University of Maryland

The following early growth observations were made in the Vinifera Wine Grape Variety Trial at the CMREC Upper Marlboro Facility on April 27, 2005:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Observed Early Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traminette 1C</td>
<td>Bud Swell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinot Noir 13C</td>
<td>Bud Break to 0.5&quot; Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinot Noir 15C</td>
<td>0.5&quot; to 1.0&quot; Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinot Noir 19C</td>
<td>Bud Break to 0.5&quot; Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merlot 1C</td>
<td>0.5&quot; to 1.0&quot; Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merlot 3C</td>
<td>Bud Break to 1.0&quot; Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merlot 6C</td>
<td>Bud Break to 1.0&quot; Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vidal 1C</td>
<td>Bud Break to 1.0&quot; Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinot Gris 146C</td>
<td>0.5&quot; to 1.0&quot; Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebbiola 1C</td>
<td>1.0&quot; Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabernet Sauvignon 1C</td>
<td>1.0&quot; Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sangiovese 1C</td>
<td>1.0&quot; to 1.5&quot; Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrah/Shiraz 7C</td>
<td>1.0&quot; to 1.5&quot; Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chardonnay 76</td>
<td>2.0&quot; to 3.0&quot; Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabernet Franc 3C</td>
<td>3.0&quot; Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chardonnay 96C</td>
<td>3.0&quot; to 4.0&quot; Shoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chardonnay Colmar</td>
<td>3.0&quot; to 4.0&quot; Shoot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CMREC Upper Marlboro Vineyard
Replant Update – Spring 2005

By Ben Beale, Extension Educator
University of Maryland

On April 22, 2005 the following nine new varieties were introduced and planted in the Vinifera Variety Trial, CMREC Upper Marlboro Research Vineyard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Rootstock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carmenere 1C</td>
<td>Riparia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touriga 1C</td>
<td>3309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauvignon Blanc 1C</td>
<td>101-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chardonel 1C</td>
<td>3309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vignoles 1C</td>
<td>101-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petite Syrah 3C</td>
<td>101-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthiana 1C</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petite Manseng 1C</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negro Amaro 1C</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Rootstock not indicated by nursery

New varieties are blocked parallel to the row. Each plot contains 6 vines planted on 4' centers in the high density Smart-Dyson row and 4 vines on 6' centers is the standard VSP row.

Replacement vines were planted on May 5, 2005. The following varieties had dead plants replaced:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing</th>
<th>Replaced With</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chardonnay 76C</td>
<td>Chardonnay 76C on 101-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chardonnay 95C</td>
<td>Chardonnay 95C on 3309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabernet Franc 3C</td>
<td>Cabernet Franc 4C/332 on 101-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinot Noir 15C</td>
<td>Pinot Noir 667C on 3309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merlot 1C</td>
<td>Merlot 181C on 101-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinot Noir 19C</td>
<td>Pinot Noir 667C on 3309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chardonnay 96C</td>
<td>Chardonnay 96C on 101-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinot Gris 146C</td>
<td>Pinot Gris 146C on 101-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shiraz/Syrah 7C</td>
<td>Shiraz/Syrah 877C on 101-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinot Noir 13C</td>
<td>Pinot Noir 667C on 3309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traminette</td>
<td>Traminette</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 2005 New York & Pennsylvania Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes is On-Line

At long last the on-line version of the 2005 New York and Pennsylvania Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes is available at the following link:

Beach Plum Study  
CMREC Upper Marlboro  
By Ben Beale, Extension Educator  
University of Maryland  

In the spring of 2002, 51 Beach plum plants of various sources were planted in a screening experiment at the University of Maryland Research farm in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Beach plum is a native plant distributed throughout the eastern seaboard most notably in New England states and sandy coastline areas. While the Beach plum has been cultivated for 80 years and fruit harvested from native plants, very little research has taken place to select cultivars and develop varieties which have appreciable value in commercial cultivation. The objective of the Maryland Research Study was to select plants that exhibit phenotypic traits favorable for profitable production. Such traits include: Growth rates, flowering and fruiting frequency, growth type, yield potential, and bloom period.

While the research plot is only two years old, appreciable differences are already apparent. As data in Table 2 indicates, grow rate and bloom time vary significantly between plants. We are anxious to report 2005 yield in the 3rd years of growth and the frequency of fruiting in upcoming years. It is our goal that specific plants may be selected that fruit every year, which are moderately vigorous, and have a growth rate and type suitable for field production.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Number</th>
<th>Plant Size Height</th>
<th>Flowering Stage</th>
<th>Portion with Flowers</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Row A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6'</td>
<td>Full Bloom</td>
<td>Half Plant</td>
<td>Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2'</td>
<td>Full Bloom</td>
<td>Whole Plant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3'</td>
<td>Partial Bloom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4'</td>
<td>Full Bloom</td>
<td>½ Plant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4'</td>
<td>Full Bloom</td>
<td>1/3 Plant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2'</td>
<td>Bud Break</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>5'</td>
<td>Full Bloom</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Nice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3'</td>
<td>Full Bloom</td>
<td>Plant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.5'</td>
<td>Full Bloom</td>
<td>1/3 Plant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2'</td>
<td>Full Bloom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>3'</td>
<td>Early Bloom</td>
<td>½ Plant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>2'</td>
<td>Early Bloom</td>
<td>½ Plant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>3'</td>
<td>Full Bloom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>3'</td>
<td>Partial Bloom</td>
<td>¾ Plant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>2'</td>
<td>Partial Bloom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>2'</td>
<td>Partial Bloom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Number</th>
<th>Plant Size Height</th>
<th>Flowering Stage</th>
<th>Portion with Flowers</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Row B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>2'</td>
<td>Full Bloom</td>
<td>2/3 plant</td>
<td>Early</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>4'</td>
<td>P. Bloom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>4'</td>
<td>Full Bloom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>5'</td>
<td>Full Bloom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>3'</td>
<td>P. Bloom</td>
<td>1/8 Plant</td>
<td>Very Late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6B</td>
<td>5'</td>
<td>Bud Break</td>
<td>No Blooms</td>
<td>Late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7B</td>
<td>4'</td>
<td>Bloom</td>
<td>1/3 Plant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8B</td>
<td>3'</td>
<td>Bloom</td>
<td>½ Plant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nutrient Management Update  
By, Krista Wilson, Nutrient Management Advisor  

Just a reminder for all of you who have fruit trees or other small fruit and fall under the nutrient management regulations (if you make >$2500 gross annual income or have 8 or more animal units), tissue and soil samples need to be taken in concordance with each other and submitted to your Nutrient Management Advisor so that a Plan can be developed for that portion of your operation. Contact me or Diana Canter for information on when and how samples should be taken (between now and Sept. 1st depending on fruit type). Also, I will be on maternity leave from mid-August through the end of October, so if any producers require my services, they should contact me as soon as possible!

New MDA Reporting Requirements  

The Maryland Department of Agriculture issued revised nutrient management regulations on March 1, 2005. These new regulations stem from recommendations made at Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. August 2003 Nutrient Management Summit. Here is a brief overview of the changes and what to expect in the future.
At the end of December, MDA sent agricultural producers one of two letters. Producers who had never filed a Nutrient Management Plan received a letter stating they needed to have a Plan developed and submitted to MDA by March 1, 2005. Producers who had filed a Plan with MDA in the past received an Annual Implementation Reporting Form to fill out and return to MDA by March 1, 2005. Producers will now receive this form every year to fill out and return to MDA.

Those producers who did not comply with the March 1st deadline received a second letter in the beginning of May stating once again, either a new Nutrient Management Plan or an Annual Implementation Reporting Form must be filed with MDA by May 30th. If producers failed to do this, they were warned in the letter that enforcement actions may occur.

As for the future, and for those that have already filed the correct paperwork with MDA, look for the same Annual Implementation Reporting Form in your mailbox this December. The form should be filled out and returned to MDA by March 1, 2006. In the past, all producers were required to send their Nutrient Management Plan to MDA each year. Producers still need to update their Plans once a year (or more if something changes) but the Plans are to stay on the farm with the implementation records, to be made available when MDA inspect the Plan and records.

For those that have never had a Plan developed and submitted to MDA, a Plan should be done as soon as possible in order to avoid fines and to get in compliance with Maryland’s nutrient management regulations. Nutrient Management Plans need to be completed before the application of fertilizer in the spring because one of the main purposes of the nutrient management regulations is to follow the University of MD’s fertilizer recommendations. Nutrient Management Plans need to be completed before the application of fertilizer in the spring because one of the main purposes of the nutrient management regulations is to follow the University of MD’s fertilizer recommendations based on soil tests. This means that any Plans compiled right now will either be for fall crops or will be a prospective 2006 Plan. For regulatory issues and questions, the MD Department of Agriculture’s Nutrient Management Program can be reached at: (410) 841-5959. As always, MD Cooperative Extension’s Nutrient Management Program is here to assist you with your nutrient management planning needs: (410) 222-6759 (Anne Arundel County) / (301) 868-8783 (Prince George’s County).

2005 MDA Pesticide Container Recycling Collection

There are two relatively close sites for Anne Arundel and Prince George’s County farmers to dispose of their empty and rinsed pesticide jugs. Central and Southern Maryland farmers may drop-off their rinsed pesticide containers for recycling at the Beltsville, USDA Research Center, Building 302, Visitor Center on Powder Mill Road, on June 23, 2005; July 21, 2005; August 25, 2005; and September 29, 2005. There will also be a collection site at the Perdue Farms located at 6272 Southern Maryland Boulevard on June 16, 2005; July 12, 2005; August 16, 2005; and September 20, 2005. The containers will be received from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for all dates listed.

Additional information on the required rinsing of the pesticide containers and the recycling program can be obtained by calling the MDA Pesticide Regulation Section Office at 410 841-5710.

TPM/IPM Weekly Greenhouse
IPM Report
University of Maryland Cooperative Extension
Central Maryland Research and Education Center
By Stanton Gill and Ethel Dutky, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension; Ginny Rosenkranz, Extension Educator, Chuck Schuster, Extension Educator, and Suzanne Klick, Technician, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Amanda Laudwein, Joanne Lutz, John Speaker, Beth Stang and Marie Rojas (Independent IPM Scouts)

Report on June 10, 2005

Year of the aphids
While visiting growers this spring we asked what was the big pest of the spring of 2005. The universal answer is aphids including pea, melon, green peach, foxglove and potato aphids. Aphids cropped up time after time in crops such as salvia, verbena, portulaca, petunia and sweet potato vine. Herbaceous perennial growers were also seeing larger than normal populations of aphids this spring.

The other pest that has been most commonly reported is spider mite and broad mite. The mites have not been as widespread as the aphid infestations.

Winterizing Perennial Grasses with Potassium
By Cliff S. Snyder, PPI Agri-Briefs, Fall 2004, No. 5, Adapted by Les Vough, Forage Crops Extension Specialist, University of Maryland.
Potassium performs many important functions in forage crops. Potassium...
♦ Encourages more efficient nitrogen use by plants,
♦ Enables plants to use soil moisture more efficiently,
♦ Regulates the opening and closing of leaf pores (stomates) to allow proper air exchange for photosynthesis and for plant cooling,
♦ Improves root growth and enhances drought tolerance,
♦ Decreases susceptibility to several plant diseases, and it increases forage yields, grazing capacity, and potential farm profits.

If your summer forage grass production seems to drop off too rapidly as temperatures increase, or if your forage does not respond to nitrogen rates as expected, check your soil test potassium levels. You may be surprised to learn that your soil test potassium is below optimum levels. Remember, hay and silage harvests remove more potassium from the soil than other field crops. Annual hay harvests of 4 to 8 tons per acre may remove more than 200 to 400 pounds of K2O per acre. To sustain and improve production, soil potassium must be maintained at optimum levels.

Fertilizing in late summer to early fall with potassium...4 to 6 weeks before frost or before the forage goes dormant... is often referred to as winterization. In addition to the benefits named above, applying progressive rates of potassium fertilizer at this time will help winterize perennial forage grasses by:
♦ increasing the photosynthetic production of carbohydrates which are necessary for energy production,
♦ stimulating storage of starch reserves in the roots and rhizomes (rhizomes are large underground stems that function as food storage organs and as vegetative buds for the next season’s growth).

Plan to improve your perennial forage and livestock production and raise your profit potential for next year by including potassium in your late-summer soil fertility and plant nutrition program.

USDA Unveils Multi-Year Draft Strategic Plan for the National Animal Identification System

Request for Input from Industry
WASHINGTON, May 5, 2005-Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today unveiled a thinking paper and timeline on the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) and called on agriculture producers, leaders, and industry partners to provide feedback. Both documents are available on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's NAIS Web site at http://www.usda.gov/nais and will be published in the Federal Register.

"The documents we're releasing today offer a draft plan to move the public discussion forward on this important initiative," said Johanns. "We created these documents with guidance from the NAIS advisory committee and with a great deal of input from producers. We're proposing answers to some of the key questions about how we envision this system moving forward. Now, I'm eager to hear from farmers and ranchers so we can develop a final plan."

A comprehensive description of system standards will be determined over time through field trials, user experience and the federal rulemaking process. These documents lay out in more detail projected timelines and potential avenues to achieve system milestones. For example, these documents propose requiring stakeholders to identify premises and animals according to NAIS standards by January 2008. Requiring full recording of defined animal movements is proposed by January 2009.

The Federal Register notice acknowledges the outstanding concerns of some stakeholders and frames questions for which USDA will be seeking answers as it moves forward with the NAIS. These questions pertain to funding for the system, confidentiality of data in the system and flexibility of the system, among other things.

Consideration will be given to comments received on or before June 6, 2005. Send an original and three copies of postal or commercial delivery comments to Docket No. 050-15-1, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. If you wish to submit a comment using the Internet, an easy link to the NAIS docket and comment form will be available on the NAIS home page at: http://www.usda.gov/nais

Once USDA receives feedback on the documents, it will follow the normal rulemaking process before any aspects of the NAIS become mandatory. The public will have the opportunity to submit additional comments on any proposed regulations.

Comments are posted on the EDOCKET Web site and may also be viewed at USDA, Room 1141 South Building, 14th St. and Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. To facilitate entry into the comment reading room, please call (202) 690-2817.

Administered by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the NAIS is a cooperative state-federal-industry program being created to track animal movements from birth to death for the purpose of disease tracking. It will be established over time through the integration of three key components: premises identification, animal identification and animal tracking.

State and federal animal health officials will be able to manage disease surveillance and control programs more effectively and efficiently as animal identification and location records are collected through NAIS. They will also be able to implement electronic intra- and interstate animal movement permitting rapid respond to potential disease outbreaks.

Eventually, the NAIS will allow animal health officials to identify all animals and premises that have had contact with a foreign or domestic animal disease of concern within 48 hours of an initial presumptive-positive diagnosis. As an information system that provides for rapid tracing of infected and exposed animals during an outbreak situation, the NAIS will help limit the scope of such outbreaks and ensure that they are contained as quickly as possible. The NAIS is designed to encompass the tracking of all animal species that could directly or indirectly impact the animal health status of our nation's food animal system. Currently, species working groups have been established for beef and dairy cattle, bison, cameldids, cervids, equine, goats, poultry, sheep and swine.

APHIS received approximately $33 million for NAIS implementation in fiscal year 2005 through the Consolidated Appropriations Act. USDA also transferred $18.8 million from its Commodity Credit Corporation to APHIS in FY 2004 to support the program.

Use of Probiotics in Feedlot Diets

By Niki Whitley, Extension Specialist, UMES
Excerpted from the Maryland Sheep & Goat Producer

Probiotics are the opposite of antibiotics. They are living organisms of beneficial bacteria. Probiotics may improve animal performance by keeping livestock healthy and improving their digestion. Many commercial feeds contain probiotics. Milk replacers usually contain probiotics. Yeast is a probiotic and has been incorporated into livestock rations. Probiotics are also found naturally in fermented foods like yogurt with live cultures.
Under the leadership of Niki Whitley, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore conducted several studies to determine the effect probiotics have on lambs and kids fed lot diets.

I. Meat Goats

Twenty-four (24) Boer-crossbred male goats were used in the goat study. The goats averaged 41.8 lbs. and 105 days of age. They were divided into two groups. Both groups had ad libitum access to a 15% CP medicated meat ration (Southern States). After an 18-day adjustment period, half of the goats received a supplement of probiotics (1.3 oz per head for 56 days).

The goats supplemented with the probiotics had a higher average daily gain on day 42 and day 56 of the study. Overall the entire time period ADG was 0.31 lb/day for control and 0.38 lb/day for probiotic treated goats. Supplemented goats also had a better feed efficiency during the last two weeks of the study.

II. Sheep

Twelve (12) ewe and whether Katahdin crossbred lambs were used in the sheep study. The lambs averaged 53.9 lbs. and 84.3 days of age. They were divided into two equal groups. Both groups had ad libitum access to a 16% CP medicated lamb starter ration (Southern States). After an 18-day adjustment period, half of the lambs received a supplement of probiotics (1.3 oz per head) for 56 days.

The lambs fed the probiotics had a higher average daily gain during the last two weeks of the study than lambs which were not supplemented: 0.792 vs. 0.594 lbs. per day. However, total gain per sheep was not different between the treatments (34 lbs for probiotics, 31 lbs for control).

Feed intake could not be compared statistically since there was only one pen per treatment, but numerically, sheep fed probiotics consumed 5.7 lb of feed per lb of gain while control sheep consumed 6 lb of feed per lb of gain. Overall ADG was 0.55 lb/day for control and 0.61 lb/day for probiotics treated sheep.

The Maryland Sheep & Goat Producer is available online at: http://www.sheepandgoat.com/news/index.html

2005 Cover Crop Program Sign-Up

Farmers who plant cover crops this fall to help reduce soil erosion and protect water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries may apply for cost-share assistance of up to $50 an acre through the Maryland Department of Agriculture's 2005 Winter Cover Crop Program. Signup for the statewide program will take place at local soil conservation district offices from June 13 through July 15, 2005.

"Because of increased funding provided by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.'s Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and program improvements recommended by farmers, we are offering farmers a very enticing cover crop program," said Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Lewis R. Riley. "Through the program improvements and attractive cost-share rates we hope to make the program as easy to use and as appealing to farmers as possible so that enrollment increases and we get the best water quality benefits that we can."

Program improvements recommended by farmers and implemented by MDA in this year's program include split reimbursement payments dispersed in the fall and spring, a higher enrollment cap of 500 acres, uniform statewide planting dates, and an online application form that can be faxed to local soil conservation district offices.

The highest per acre reimbursement rate of $50 per acre is being made available through an extra $10 per acre incentive from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS) to those who plant cover crops by October 1. Research indicates that cover crops planted in early fall provide the greatest water quality benefits. Planted after the fall harvest of corn, soybeans, sorghum, tobacco or vegetables, cover crops provide farmers with dual protection against farm runoff and erosion by absorbing unused plant nutrients remaining in the soil and acting as a ground cover to keep the soil from washing away in winter when erosion is most severe.

Maryland has approximately $3 million available for the 2005 Winter Cover Crop Program through the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. The earlier farmers get their cover crops planted, the higher their reimbursement rate will be. Farmers who plant their cover crops by October 1 are eligible to receive $50 an acre in cost-share funding. Cost-share funding of $40 an acre is available to farmers who plant by October 15. Farmers who plant within the approved planting period which is extended to November 5 for rye and wheat would be eligible to receive $25 an acre in cost-share funding.

Wheat, rye, spring oats, barley, triticale, ryegrass, rape and canola planted in the fall of 2005 are eligible for funding. Farmers may enroll between five and 500 acres in the program. Producers may enroll cropland above the 500 acre initial cap as standby. It will be approved if available funding is not fully committed after July 15. All seed used must meet Maryland Seed Law and Regulatory Standards and have a minimum germination rate of 80 percent. Farmers may graze their livestock on enrolled fields or harvest the crop for winter feed after the crop is well established. Use of manure is permitted under certain, very limited conditions.

The 2005 Maryland Cover Crop Program is administered by the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program. Applicants must be in good standing with MACS in order to participate and must be in compliance with the Maryland Nutrient Management Program. To qualify for the $50/acre rate, farmers also must sign an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract with USDA/NRCS. Additional requirements and restrictions apply.

Requests for cover crop funds will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis. Any funds uncommitted after July 15 will be prorated to standby acres not funded in the initial round. For more information, producers should contact their local soil conservation district office before the July 15 enrollment deadline. Applications may also be downloaded from MDA's website at www.mda.state.md.us and faxed to the soil conservation district.
Crop Insurance News – Summer 2005

CLOSING DATE NEARS FOR MARYLAND FALL-SEEDED FORAGE

The deadline for farmers to obtain crop insurance on fall-seeded forage acreage is July 31, 2005. Current policyholders also have until July 31 to make any changes to existing contracts. The forage seeding policy covers newly seeded acreage of alfalfa and forage mixtures containing at least 50 percent alfalfa, clover, birdsfoot trefoil, or any other locally recognized and approved forage legume species (by weight) planted by August 31, 2005, for ( Allegany & Garrett Counties) and September 10, 2005, for (Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery & Washington Counties). A grower may secure up to $168 worth of coverage per acre under the plan. Coverage under this particular policy ends upon commencement of grazing or the initial harvest. The acreage may then be insured for second and subsequent years under a separate forage production policy. Growers are strongly urged to contact a local crop insurance agent as soon as possible for premium quotes and other details. For a list of crop insurance agents, farmers may contact their local USDA Farm Service Agency office or log on to the following Risk Management Agency web site: http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/

GAO Report on Agricultural Biosecurity

The U.S. GAO report to Congress entitled, Homeland Security, Much Is Being Done to Protect Agriculture from a Terrorist Attack, but Important Challenges Remain, March 2005 has been released. The complete report and abstracts are available at: http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/repandtest.html

Since it is about 90-pages in length, some key plusses and challenges are listed below for quick reference.

What has been done:

First, the Homeland Security Act of 2002 established DHS and, among other things, charged it with coordinating U.S. efforts to protect against agroterrorism. The act also transferred a number of agency personnel and functions into DHS to conduct planning, response, and recovery efforts.

Second, the President signed a number of presidential directives that further define agencies’ specific roles in protecting agriculture.

Finally, Congress passed legislation that expanded the responsibilities of USDA and Human and Health Services (HHS) in relation to agriculture security.

The agencies are coordinating development of plans and protocols to better manage the national response to terrorism, including agroterrorism, and, along with several states, have conducted exercises to test these new protocols and their response capabilities.

Federal agencies also have been conducting vulnerability assessments of the agriculture infrastructure; have created networks of laboratories capable of diagnosing animal, plant, and human diseases; have begun efforts to develop a national veterinary stockpile that intends to include vaccines against foreign animal diseases; and have created new federal emergency coordinator positions to help states develop emergency response plans for the agriculture sector.

Challenges:

The United States still faces complex challenges that limit the nation’s ability to respond effectively to an attack against livestock. For example, USDA would not be able to deploy animal vaccines within 24 hours of an outbreak as called for in a presidential directive, in part because the only vaccines currently stored in the United States are for strains of foot and mouth disease, and these vaccines need to be sent to the United Kingdom (U.K.) to be activated for use. There are also management problems that inhibit the effectiveness of agencies’ efforts to protect against agroterrorism. For instance, since the transfer of agricultural inspectors from USDA to DHS in 2003, there have been fewer inspections of agricultural products at the nation’s ports of entry.

EDEN PLANT BIOSECURITY MANAGEMENT COURSE

This might be a good time to remind folks about the EDEN Plant Biosecurity Management Course. This course is designed for Extension advisors, agents, and specialists who understand the urgency of plant biosecurity management to those involved in the U.S. agricultural sector. This course will prepare you with the knowledge and skills necessary to teach others in your community how to:

♦ Prepare for a plant biosecurity event
♦ Appropriately respond to and recover from a plant biosecurity event
♦ Reduce the effects of future plant biosecurity events.

The entire course can be completed on-line. However, if you would prefer to have a CD-ROM of the course, contact the EDEN representative in your state. A list of representatives can be found at the EDEN Web site given above.

The GAO report re: Homeland security and ag – the page that is currently listed is updated daily – so the ag report can either be found by searching under topics (homeland security dated March 8, 2005) or can be found at: http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05214.pdf

One Billionth Biotech Acre Planted

Farmer leaders from the American Soybean Association (ASA), the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and the National Cotton Council (NCC) met in Chicago to recognize the planting of the one-billionth acre of biotech-enhanced agricultural commodities. Representatives from Truth About Trade and Technology (TATT) were also on hand to talk about an acreage counter that is being used to track the planting of biotech acres around the world.

"U.S. farmers are adopting biotechnology because they recognize the safety, benefits and potential of biotechnology," said Darrin Ihnen, a South Dakota farmer who serves as chairman of NCGA's Biotechnology Working Group. "As a farmer, it's important that I find ways to
become more efficient in my operation. Biotechnology helps reduce the amount of insecticides and herbicides I use."

Given the world's growing population, the United Nations Population Fund reports that farmers will have to produce about 75 percent more food per acre by 2020 to meet anticipated demand.

Globally, 6 percent of canola, 11 percent of cotton, 23 percent of corn and 60 percent of soybeans are grown from biotech-enhanced seedstock.

Sustainable Agriculture Grants for Farmers

The Northeast Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (SARE) has recently released updated application materials for its Farmer/Grower grant program. These grants support Northeast farmers who want to explore innovative sustainable practices on their farms.

The Farmer/Grower Grant program, which began in 1993, allows farmers to conduct experiments, try new approaches, and test emerging ideas about agricultural sustainability. The emphasis is on new ideas that advance good stewardship, improve farm profitability, and strengthen rural communities.

In the recent 2005 grant round, awards ranged from $2,186 to test whether certain cover crops improve soil health and yield in sweet corn to $10,000 to evaluate the characteristics of different organic grains. In all, Northeast SARE awarded $138,803 to 24 farmers. The average grant was about $5,800, and awards are capped at $10,000.

To apply, you must be a full- or part-time commercial farmer in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, West Virginia, Vermont, or Washington, D.C. Community farms and farms associated with a nonprofit institution may apply, but only if they are growing and selling agricultural products under the same economic constraints that affect commercial growers.

Farmer/Grower Grant applications can be downloaded from the Northeast SARE web site at: www.uvm.edu/~nesare, or a printed application can be requested by calling 802/656-0471 or by sending e-mail to nesare@uvm.edu. The deadline for applications is December 6, 2005.

Check Out Our Updated County Website

Visit us in Cyberspace!!!

Christie Kneipp is our website designer. Christie has recently updated our website, and we hope that you find the additions helpful. The current and past newsletter additions are available for viewing or copy at: http://www.agnr.umd.edu/AnneArundel/newsletter.htm

An agricultural bulletin page is also available for viewing or copy under our “hot topics” section at: http://www.agnr.umd.edu/AnneArundel/agbulletin.htm

Thanks for Partnering

Thanks for partnering with the Maryland Cooperative Extension, and supporting our programs. I also hope you enjoy this newsletter. If you are no longer interested in receiving this newsletter, please call or write the office for the removal of your name from the mailer.

“Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee.”

Benjamin Franklin

Enjoy the Summer Sun!

R. David Myers

Extension Educator
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Anne Arundel & Prince George’s Counties
Fruits and Vegetables

NACAA Communication Award
Individual Newsletter
2002 National Winner

Prince George’s Cooperative Extension
6707 Groveton Drive
Clinton, MD 20735
301 868-8783

Anne Arundel Cooperative Extension
7320 Ritchie Highway, Suite 210
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
410 222-6759 or 301 970-8250

Note: Registered Trade Mark® Products, Manufacturers, or Companies mentioned within this newsletter are not to be considered as sole endorsements. The information has been provided for educational purposes only.