

Establishment of a Small Fruits Work Group for Oregon and Washington

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Objectives:

1. Create a PNW Small Fruits Work Group.

To date, seven members have been recruited for the group. These include an Oregon extension agent, three industry professionals, and two commodity commission grower/commissioners. More will be added when the website and listserv become operational in September 2004. The harvest season is just ending, allowing participants to focus on non-season/harvest issues over the next few months.

2. Identify and make recommendations concerning IPM needs and resources.

We have elicited the pest management priorities of the six relevant Oregon and Washington small fruit commissions (caneberries, strawberries, and blueberries in each state) as well as the closely associated British Columbia small fruit commissions. These are in addition to the priorities set by the Northwest Center for Small Fruit Research (NWCSFR) and the appropriate Pest Management Strategic Plans (PMSPs). These are currently being reviewed to identify similarities and differences in preparation for making appropriate region-wide IPM recommendations.

In addition, a list of active and potential small fruit researchers in the region has been completed and posted on the website for review by group members.

3. Identify and prioritize IPM research projects.

This step will follow the completion of the above review of needs and resources.

4. Develop, coordinate and disseminate a funding database.

This database is in the final steps of completion. It will be disseminated shortly (with the website activation) and be made available for additions and use by group members. It presently includes funding source information from region commissions, state agencies, and federal agencies.

5. Elicit and coordinate research proposals.

We will work with the group to coordinate proposals for the near-future (next 60 days) deadlines for commission and SARE grants. During this time, the group will review industry needs and resources, and we will oversee the coordination and matching of proposals and researchers.

6. Manage and communicate research progress.

This step will be implemented following the establishment of the above-mentioned processes.

7. Develop a PNW Small Fruits Work Group section within a new Small Fruits IPM website.

The development of the nwipm.org web site has occupied the majority of our efforts this first year. It will serve as the central tool for coordinating and collecting the SFWG's shared data. It is near working stage, with completed areas for the research priorities, a listing of active and potential small fruit researchers and a grant database. A listserv for the group's members has been established to allow access to the databases and provide quick, effective communication.