



Canadian  
Horticultural  
Council



# HORT SHORTS

June 2015

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL

[HortCouncil.ca](http://HortCouncil.ca)

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

### Headlines

Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2

Potato Sustainability Initiative

CHC Mid-Summer Apple Meetings

Keith Kuhl presented honour by

U. of Manitoba

Crop and Plant Protection

Labour

Biosecurity

Pollinators

Mark Your Calendar



## HEADLINES

### Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2 – Year 2 Reports to Industry on CHC Website

The second year of research for the Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2 (Cluster 2) wrapped up on March 31, 2015, with many activities seeing positive progress and some early results. Work is ongoing, with many researchers currently in the field, starting their work for the 2015 crop year.

Researchers have prepared updates on their activities' progress and CHC has now [posted them online](#).

Highlights from the reports include:

- Activity 3 Apple 2: Improving Tree Fruit Storage Management Using Weather Based Predictions of Fruit Quality at Harvest (Gaétan Bourgeois, PhD, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)  
A bioclimatic model to predict apple firmness at harvest is already implemented in CIPRA. The ones for soft scald and soggy breakdown will be implemented before the next growing season (2015). A scientific publication for the soggy breakdown model was submitted recently.
- Activity 12 Apple 11: New Biological Control Agents for Postharvest Diseases of Pome Fruit (Louise Nelson, PhD, University of British Columbia)

Studies in British Columbia and Ontario show similar outcomes for efficacy of the three *Pseudomonas fluorescens* against three postharvest fungal pathogens with control similar to that of a commercial biocontrol product already on the market, but less effective than that of the synthetic fungicide, Scholar.

- Activity 17 Potato 16: Nitrogen for Improved Yield, Quality and Profitability of Potato (Mario Tenuta, PhD, University of Manitoba)

The use of Environmentally Smart Nitrogen (ESN) at planting tentatively is a practice for preventing early season N losses and to improve potato yield.

The Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2 is generously funded by nearly 50 industry partners and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriInnovation Program, a Growing Forward 2 initiative.



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada

## Consumer demand leads to Potato Sustainability Initiative

The Potato Sustainability Initiative brings together potato growers, processors, distributors, and retailers under a single, comprehensive program to improve sustainability in the potato supply chain the U.S. and Canada. The initiative was born from McDonald's customers demanding greater sustainability efforts in producing and processing potatoes. CHC participated in the development of an action plan and timetable.

[Read more.](#)

## 2015 CHC Mid-Summer Apple Meeting

August 4 & 5, 2015 – Wolfville, NS

Old Orchard Inn - [www.oldorchardinn.com](http://www.oldorchardinn.com)

**Reservations: 1-800-561-8090**

- August 4 – Apple Industry Meeting followed by a group dinner
- August 5 – Orchard Tour and BBQ

**More details to follow very shortly! Hope you can make it!**

**While it is preferable to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible, they can be made at any time before **July 20, 2015.****



## CHC President, Keith Kuhl, presented with Certificate of Merit by University of Manitoba

On Friday, May 1, 2015 at the University of Manitoba Agriculture Diploma Graduation, Keith Kuhl was presented with a “Certificate of Merit” in recognition of his contribution to agriculture. Keith was honoured to have dinner with the Honourable Ron Kostyshyn, Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development for Manitoba. [Read more](#)



## CROP AND PLANT PROTECTION

### New information from AAFC's Pest Management Centre

The Pest Management Centre (PMC) at Agriculture and Agri-Food (AAFC) Canada has new information available on its website.

- [Canadian Horticultural Council – Pest Management Centre Invasive Alien Species Coordination Group](#) has been posted on the PMC main page along with information on the [Spotted-wing Drosophila Technical Working Group \(SWD-TWG\)](#).
- Two new [Pesticide Risk Reduction Strategies](#) from the Risk Reduction Program have been added: [Root insect pests of carrot, parsnip and onion](#) and [Downy mildew in cucumber](#). In addition two strategies have been updated: [Fusarium head blight in wheat](#) and [Wireworm in potato](#).
- The Minor Use Pesticides Program's [2015 Crop/Pest problems](#) has been posted.
- Two status reports have been updated earlier this year: the [Minor Use Pesticides Submissions](#) and the [Status Report for Biopesticide Projects and Submissions](#).
- The [Sustainable Crop Protection Factsheet Series](#) has a new addition: [A web-based cover crop decision tool for growers in Eastern Canada](#).

The following 3 projects have been completed and summaries of the results are now available on the PMC website, Pesticide Risk Reduction [Approved Projects](#) section.

Project Code	Project Title	Crop
BPR13-030	<a href="#">Evaluation of the tolerance of lowbush blueberry to pine oil used in weed management</a>	Blueberry

BPR12-040	<a href="#">Screening of biopesticides and risk-reduced products for the management of downy mildew on hop</a>	Hops
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## Fracture™ Fungicide Now Available in Canada

FMC Agricultural Solutions recently launched Fracture™ fungicide, a new broad spectrum biological fungicide labeled for the prevention and control of powdery mildew and botrytis on grapes, strawberries and tomatoes and blossom blight in stone fruits. [Read more](#)

## Pest Management Centre Crop Profiles

Crop Profile for [Apple in Canada, 2013](#) and the Crop Profile for [Cherry in Canada, 2013](#) are the latest, updated Crop Profiles now available. They can be downloaded for free from the [Government of Canada Publications](#) web site or you may request a copy through the [PMC crop profile webpage](#).

There are over thirty [Crop Profiles](#) created and maintained by the [Pesticide Risk Reduction Program](#) that are accessible for download on the Government of Canada Publications web site.

Links to the most up-to-date versions of all available Crop Profiles are provided in the attached reference document, for your convenience.

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## LABOUR

### Update: further changes to the LMIA application process

Several changes to the LMIA regime of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) were made on April 30, 2015. Among them were a new form or Labour Market Impact Assessment applications and a new way of calculating the cap on the number of low-wage positions that an employer may fill with TFWS. [Read more](#)

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## BIOSECURITY

### CFIA confirm presence of *Verticillium longisporum* in Manitoba

CFIA sampling and testing of canola crop residues at a location in Manitoba has confirmed the presence of [Verticillium longisporum](#), a plant pathogen that has not previously been reported to be present in Canada.

The single *Verticillium longisporum* detection is limited to one location which is not being used for commercial production.

*Verticillium longisporum* is a plant pathogen that can cause early plant death and decreased yield. It infects a broad range of crops, but the most severe impact is on canola. Apart from an isolated detection in Manitoba in 2014, *V. longisporum* has not been previously reported from Canada.

## **Genome found in sweet potatoes could have implications in GMO debate**

A remarkable genetic discovery in sweet potatoes has been made, which could have implication in the GMO debate. Among 291 tested accessions of cultivated sweet potato, all contain one or more transfer DNA (T-DNA) sequences. These sequences, which are shown to be expressed in a cultivated sweet potato clone (“Huachano”) that was analyzed in detail, suggest that an *Agrobacterium* infection occurred in evolutionary times. One of the T-DNAs is apparently present in all cultivated sweet potato clones, but not in the crop’s closely related wild relatives, suggesting the T-DNA provided a trait or traits that were selected for during domestication. This finding draws attention to the importance of plant–microbe interactions, and given that this crop has been eaten for millennia, it may change the paradigm governing the “unnatural” status of transgenic crops. [Read more](#)

## **Plant Breeders’ Rights Updates Bring New Varieties to Canadian Farmers**

Canadian farmers now have access to [new varieties of crops thanks](#) to amendments to Canada’s Plant Breeders’ Rights legislation. Since coming into effect, three new PBR 91 wheat varieties, two Canadian public sector developed oats varieties, six new potato varieties and a Canadian private sector developed flax variety have been made available to Canadian growers. This is good news for many reasons including that shows the outcome of cooperative industry work put into the Plant Breeders’ Rights Act amendments. [Read more](#)

## **POLLINATORS**

### **CHC partners in Bees Matter Campaign**

CHC has partnered on a new campaign launched on June 3 entitled Bees Matter. The campaign is a partnership of Canadian agricultural organizations that focuses on public education on bee health. We’ve come together for a chance to put forward a positive, science-focused message about the importance of honey bees to our industry and our continuing efforts to keep them healthy.

As part of the campaign there is a website, [www.beesmatter.ca](http://www.beesmatter.ca), as well as the Buzzing Gardens program, which offers Canadians a free seed kit to plant a pollinator garden along with a leaflet that will give them accurate information about the factors that affect honey bee health.

We're all proud of the effort the group put into it, and we're especially proud to have been a part of it. Please share with anyone you believe would be interested in learning more about honey bee health.

[Read more](#)

## Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry releases report on bee health

On May 27, the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry released its study on the current status of bee health and strategies for its improvement. In the report's creation, the committee heard from 85 witnesses over 8 months. The report consists of two parts. The first part provides information on the structure of the Canadian beekeeping sector, current state of honey bees, the importance of pollinators, and consequences of bee mortality. The second part of the report addresses strategies to ensure pollinator health, including recommending that PMRA conclude, without delay, its re-evaluation of neonicotinoid insecticides and accelerate its conditional registration process in order to reduce the current number of conditional registrations granted to neonicotinoid active ingredients. [Read the report](#)

## Update from Bee Health Roundtable

CHC is a member of the [Bee Health Roundtable](#), a group established to create a national cross-sectoral dialogue to identify specific actions to be taken to address risks and opportunities related to bee health. The group is involved in numerous actions to improve bee health, such as Increasing the range of management options to control bee pests and pathogens including Varroa mites and other parasites (HopGuard and Lincomycin); actively identifying and promoting ways to reduce exposure of bees to pesticides - both inside the hive and out, and improving accuracy of bee health data and information.

[Read their latest update](#)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2015		
JUNE	8 – 10	<a href="#">United Fresh 2015</a> Chicago, Ill
JUNE	11	<a href="#">Blueberry Pest Management Workshop (OMAFRA)</a> Woodstock, ON
JULY	8 – 9	CHC Summer Tour Niagara Region, Ontario
JULY	9 – 10	Canadian Potato Council Meeting Richmond, BC
JULY	12 – 14	<a href="#">Canadian Seed Trade Association AGM</a> Windsor, Ontario
JULY	26 – 27	International Potato Group Meeting

		Beijing, China
<b>JULY</b>	<b>28 – 30</b>	<a href="#">World Potato Congress</a>
		Beijing, China
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>4 – 5</b>	<a href="#">CHC Mid-Summer Apple Meetings</a>
		Wolfville, Nova Scotia
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>20 – 22</b>	<a href="#">First Global Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop</a>
		Chicago, Ill
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>26 - 29</b>	<a href="#">North American Plant Protection Organization Annual Meeting</a>
		Memphis, TN
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>17 - 19</b>	<a href="#">Alberta Potato Conference and Trade Show</a>
		Red Deer, AB
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>1 – 3</b>	<a href="#">GrowCanada Conference</a>
		Calgary, AB
<b><i>To list your event in HortShorts, please submit details to <a href="mailto:question@hortcouncil.ca">question@hortcouncil.ca</a></i></b>		