The BCGAP Program in British Columbia

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The Fruit Tree Industry in BC

- 11,000 acres of apples and pears, 2000 acres of cherries, 2000 acres of peaches/plums/apricots.
- 1200 growers.
- Local population less than 300,000.
The Fruit Tree Industry in BC

• Cooperative packing and marketing system.
• 2 cooperative packing houses.
• Sold under BCTree Fruits

• BC Fruit Grower’s Association
Unique Growing Area

- Semi-arid – low fungicide use.
- SIT based codling moth control program.
- Strong extension service.
IFP project started in 2001 as an initiative of the BCFGA

1) To produce apples and pears without using synthetic chemical insecticides or fungicides between blossom and harvest.

2) To reduce pesticide application to soft fruits.

3) Be Integrated Fruit Production ready by 2003 and to be using IFP by 2005.
2001 Initiatives

• A market study was conducted to determine market opportunities for reduced pesticide fruit or fruit grown under IFP guidelines.
• Operational research and demonstration plots were set up at six locations throughout the Okanagan Valley to demonstrate IFP requirements and pest control techniques.
• IFP guidelines and a checklist were developed based on EUREPGAP protocols.
• Initial work has begun on the development of a sprayer calibration and operation program.
• Funding of related research projects


Market Study

• Heading in right direction with IFP.
• No premium price over conventional fruit, when there is already the choice between organic and conventional in the marketplace.
• The second part of the marketing research project on how to implement an IFP marketing plan was scraped.
Demonstration Plots

- 6 grower orchards set up to demonstrate IFP requirements and pest control techniques.
- Sites were visited weekly and monitored for insect, diseases and records kept.
- IFP required 10 hours per hectare (2.5 acres) for monitoring and 4 hours per hectare for record keeping.
- Spray residue testing did not find any detectable residues in samples from the demonstration orchards but residues within tolerances were found in samples from one conventional orchard.
IFP Checklist

- Growing With Care checklist developed.
- Work done on a colour code system for pesticides.
- Including grower record keeping forms.
Research Plots

- Biological control of leafrollers
- Disease control alternatives
- Peach tree borer & Peach twig borer
- Control of Cherry fruit fly
- Dual CM/LR mating disruption
- Weed control
- Irrigation scheduling
1. To be Integrated Fruit Production ready by 2003. By that time a grower will be able to register in a certified IFP program. (Short term goal)

2. To make recommendations for the production of apple, pear and soft fruits using reduced-risk control products and alternative strategies. (Long term goal)
2002 Initiatives

- Guidelines modified
- 14 Grower Pilot project
- IFP Record Keeping included in BC Tree Fruit Production Guide
- Sprayer Calibration software developed and training of extension personnel completed
- Weather network established
Sprayer Calibrations

• Sprayer calibration program software developed.
• Extension workers trained in calibration.
• Certification of sprayer calibration system in place.
Weather Network

- Weather network established.
- Air temperature, rainfall, leaf wetness, soil temperature, etc. collected every 10 minutes.
- Use of degree day modeling done by fieldservices.
Grower Pilot Project
BCGAP & EUREP GAP

• BC Cherry growers require EUREP GAP equivalency
• Expense of ISO accreditation
• Difficulty with traceability requirement with BC apple growers
2003

- Program in place.
- Adoption by growers almost non-existent.
2004

- BCGAP guidelines published in the BC Tree Fruit Production Guide.
- Program assisted 30 growers to prepare for EUROPAPGAP audits.
2005 and beyond

• Focus shifts to Environmental Farm Plans
• Food Safety
  – Documentation
  – Procedures
  – Traceability
• BCGAP ready when needed
The End
(for now)