

Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers

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NEWSLETTER

Nº 6 - 2004

April 30, 2004

LICENCE FEE SCHEDULE

The following are 2004 licence fees to be deducted on a **per net ton** basis.

COMMODITY	ADMIN	ACREAGE MEASURE /MONITOR	GRADING	OTHER	SUB-TOTAL	GST	TOTAL PER NET TON
TOMATOES	\$0.90	\$0.06	\$0.36	TOMCAST \$0.07	\$1.39	\$0.10	\$1.49
SWEET CORN	\$0.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.80	\$0.06	\$0.86
GREEN PEAS	\$3.09	\$0.00	\$0.15	\$0.00	\$3.24	\$0.23	\$3.47
CUCUMBERS	\$2.49	\$0.00	\$0.07	\$0.00	\$2.56	\$0.18	\$2.74
GREEN & WAX BEANS	\$1.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.98	\$0.14	\$2.12
CARROTS	\$0.73	\$0.00	\$0.11	\$0.00	\$0.84	\$0.06	\$0.90
PEPPERS	\$2.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.53	\$0.18	\$2.71
BEETS	\$0.84	\$0.00	\$0.96	\$0.00	\$1.80	\$0.13	\$1.93
LIMA BEANS	\$5.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.32	\$0.37	\$5.69
SQUASH	\$0.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.76	\$0.05	\$0.81
CABBAGE	\$0.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.63	\$0.04	\$0.67
CAULIFLOWER	\$2.85	\$0.00	\$0.58	\$0.00	\$3.43	\$0.24	\$3.67
PUMPKIN	\$0.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.73	\$0.05	\$0.78

ONTARIO PROCESSING VEGETABLE INDUSTRY - SCHOLARSHIP

The Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers (OPVG) and the Ontario Food Processors Association (OFPA) are continuing with a bursary fund to support and encourage individuals pursuing a career in any aspect of the processing vegetable industry. These organizations are working together to ensure that there are new individuals who will have the interest, skills and abilities to further develop and grow this sector of Ontario's agri-food economy.

Ontario's processing vegetable industry is competitive and vibrant. There are a variety of options for those seeking career opportunities; everything from on-farm production to sales and marketing to managing a processing facility.

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ONTARIO PROCESSING VEGETABLE INDUSTRY - SCHOLARSHIP (Continued)

Through generous sponsor donations we were successful in raising just over \$13,000 at this year's auction. This allows the OPVG and the OFPA to offer up to six-\$2,000 bursaries to students this fall. Applicants must be registered as a full-time student at an Ontario college or university entering the second, third or fourth year of study.

For further information regarding the bursaries, please contact:

John Mumford, Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers, 519-681-1875
Trish Wales, Ontario Food Processors Association, 519-826-3590

The Bursary Application Form is available on the OPVG Website (www.opvg.org) or on request from either the OPVG or OFPA offices. Applications are to be submitted no later than September 30th, 2004.

COMMAND

The bad joke that is the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) continues. For example, recently we reported in Newsletter No. 5, dated April 8, 2004, that Command had received an Emergency Use Registration for use of cucumbers for the 2004 season. What we failed to mention was that PMRA had attached a number of conditions to the use. The existence of these conditions resulted in processors taking the position that they would not allow growers to use Command. After a flurry of activity, PMRA has revised its position with respect to the conditions, with the result that processors will not be restricting growers use of Command. The point to remember in all of this is that Command has been used legally in Michigan since 1988!

PMRA, in continuing to refuse growers access to new pest control technology is causing damage not only to primary producers but is also paying lipservice to environmental stewardship. The products used by our competition, having been duly registered in other jurisdictions (i.e. the United States, Mexico) are safer, more effective and have a smaller environmental footprint than those legal for use here. PMRA's refusal to register these products is not rooted in public safety. Canadians consume food products imported from other countries that have been grown using this technology, every day.

From a grower perspective, an additional worry is that as the U.S. delists older technology in pursuit of new registrations, PMRA will follow the U.S. lead in delisting but ignore the fact that new tools are available to our competitors.

Harmonization is the only answer. If a product is registered in the U.S., the onus should be on PMRA to, within 30 days, provide compelling evidence as to why it should not be registered here also, failing which, it is registered and legal for use in Canada by Canadian growers.

To achieve these objectives, the place to start lies close to home. Grower organizations in Ontario and across Canada have to quit playing ball with PMRA. This means we should think long and hard before heading off to Ottawa every March where we go through a process that, in effect, consists of PMRA closing the door and turning out the lights on grower groups, leaving us to fight over prioritizing the products PMRA may get around to looking at. It means resisting the urge to fall all over ourselves in self congratulation when the federal government throws more millions at PMRA. Only when grower groups will no longer tolerate PMRA will we get what we were promised when free trade was implemented; harmonization.

2004 GREENSHIPPERS**Montrose International Group, a division of MIG Holdings Inc.**

On April 14th, the Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers issued a licence to Montrose International Group, a division of MIG Holdings Inc. as a greenshipper of cucumbers for the 2004 crop season. The address and contact information is outlined as follows:

Mr. Manik Veerakumar, President
Montrose International Group, a division of MIG Holdings Inc.
156 Reynolds Street
Oakville, ON L6J 3K9
Phone: (905) 339-0229 Fax: (905) 339-0576

PHYTOPHTHORA CAPSICI

Phytophthora capsici causes the disease known as root and crown rot of pepper. However *P. capsici* also causes disease on tomato and cucurbit crops as well. Under dry conditions where drip or furrow irrigation is used the root and crown rot phase is most common. This organism also causes a foliar blight on these crops under high rainfall conditions or excessive sprinkler irrigation. The foliar [blight] phase can affect seedlings and mature plants and can also cause a fruit rotting phase called 'buckeye rot'.

P. capsici was first reported in Ontario [Harrow area] in the mid 90's. Both the root rot and blight phases were observed. However the disease disappeared after several dry years and has not been reported in that area again although it has been reported in other areas in Ontario as recently as last summer.

Phytophthora root rot is most common in heavy or compacted wet soils which favour the development and spread of the disease. The pattern of disease in a field is generally related to saturated soil conditions associated with poor drainage, high rainfall or excessive irrigation. The disease can spread from field to field through water runoff and/or movement of soil in water, erosion or on equipment. The blight phase of the disease can be spread by wind driven rain, similar to bacterial spot and speck.

It is important to keep in mind that *P. capsici* is not widespread in Ontario and the major focus should be on preventing the disease from contaminating your fields. Some practices to achieve this objective are:

- Select soils that are well drained, not compacted and free of plough pans.
- Use a three-year crop rotation with non-host crops [i.e. none of pepper, tomato or cucumber crops.]
- Avoid saturated soil conditions that favour development and spread of the disease.
- Manage irrigation to avoid saturated soil conditions.
- Avoid excessive sprinkler irrigation which can increase the likelihood of the occurrence of the blight phase.

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PHYTOPHTHORA CAPSICI (Continued)

- Avoid taking irrigation water from drainage ditches during the growing season since runoff from any infested fields upstream could contain the disease organism, especially after heavy rainfalls. AAFC (Harrow) has done work on filtration to remove spores from recirculating water in greenhouse applications. However, at present, the general thinking is that water in ponds filled from snowmelt runoff are unlikely to result in spread of the disease.

Note that sand filters used in drip irrigation systems with 200mesh capacity will only filter down to between 80 –100 microns. Zoospores are approximately 30 microns in size. Should growers wish to discuss the possibility of filtration for phytophthora, contact Mike Tu at AAFC Harrow at (519) 738-2251.

Lastly, clean equipment being moved from field to field, particularly custom operated equipment, to prevent the movement of soil and the pathogen into uncontaminated fields.

CROP INSURANCE**Cucumbers, Peppers and Carrots.**

Growers may have recently received a request for information from AGRICORP regarding out of province marketing. This information is being collected to protect the interests of the plan and we ask that growers cooperate fully in order that AGRICORP can underwrite this production accurately.

RIDGETOWN TOUR**Pea, Bean and Corn Growers.**

Plans are being finalized for an afternoon tour and BBQ at Ridgetown College on July 5th. Also included will be a presentation by AGRICORP reviewing procedures associated with unharvested acreage. A registration form will be sent to growers as soon as final arrangements have been confirmed.

Mark Your Calendars!

Ontario Processing Vegetable Industry Conference

January 25th - 27th, 2005

Hilton Hotel, London, ON