

Lower Mainland Horticultural Conference

January 25-27, 2024
TRADEX, Abbotsford

PHOTOS: Picnic Creative



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Pesticide Re-certification Credits

Pesticide re-certification credits are offered at this conference.

Lower Mainland Horticultural Improvement Association (LMHIA) members holding a valid Pesticide Applicators Certificate may earn credits towards re-certification by attending eligible sessions identified by a ladybug in the conference program.

To participate in the program a grower must:

- Maintain annual membership in the LMHIA's Pesticide Re-certification Program
- Possess a current and valid 5-year Pesticide Applicators Certificate in the agriculture (general) category
- Be able to read and comprehend English pesticide labels

For more details, the application form/FAQ sheet can be requested by email:

growers@agricultureshow.net



Session: Opening**Opening Remarks****9:20 AM – 9:30 AM**

B.C. Agriculture and Food Minister Pam Alexis

A Partnership of Personalities**9:30 AM – 10:10 AM**Kelly Dobson, *Founder, Performance Coach, LeaderShift*

Agriculture has evolved into a complex industry whose success depends on a network of relationships both on and off the farm. Yet, ineffective engagement is often cited by farmers and advisors as a major barrier to effective management and a source of tension. Advisors report that farmers are reluctant to engage their services, even if it means lost opportunity, higher risk, and lower profits. Family members often confide that a culture of suboptimal relationships are impacting operations and putting the farm's future at risk. Meanwhile, our physical and mental health is eroding as everyone struggles to adapt.

What's getting in the way of people thinking and acting strategically together? The ability to work with a wide variety of people is a hallmark of high performance and successful businesses. It's also learnable. Kelly Dobson of LeaderShift will share some practical applied psychology that unpacks why people irritate and avoid each other, and how growing our capacity to be ourselves, wherever we are, and whoever we're with, is the only sustainable and scalable path to bringing our best to situations with actions that get results.

Session: Water and Weather**Opening Remarks****10:30 AM - 10:35 AM**

CHAIR:

Tara Despault, *Water Resource Specialist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food***Finding Accurate Weather Information for Your Farm****10:35 AM - 11:15 AM**Andy Nadler, *Agricultural Meteorologist, Peak HydroMet Solutions*

Explore various methods to access site-specific weather information, tools, and forecasts to help with farm management decisions and review the latest long-range predictions.

Demonstration of Water Management and Planning Tools**11:15 AM - 11:50 AM**Ted Van Der Gulik, *President, Partnership for Water Sustainability in B.C.*

A series of online tools have been developed to help producers plan, manage and monitor our water resources more efficiently.

Water, Soil, Climate: Research and Resources to Support B.C. Farmers**11:50 AM - 11:55 AM**Asha Wareham, *B.C. Agricultural Climate Action Research Network*

Learn about upcoming virtual workshops on the latest research and resources to support BC farmers in the face of climate challenges.

Lunch Break: 11:55 AM – 1:10 PM**Session: Strawberry/Raspberry**

Total Pesticide Re-certification Credits = 1.0

Opening Remarks**1:10 PM – 1:15 PM**

CHAIR:

Lisa Craig, *Manager, B.C. Raspberry Council and B.C. Strawberry Growers' Association***Strawberry Innovation - From Soil to Substrate to Greenhouse****1:15 PM – 1:35 PM**Darragh Redfern, *Producer, Star Produce*

How are strawberries being grown in other regions, and what are the considerations when transitioning to substrate production?

Long Cane Raspberry Production**1:35 PM – 2:15 PM**David Klyn-Hesselink, *Owner, Fenwick Berry Farm and Ready-Set-Grow*

Hear about long cane raspberry production methods, opportunities and challenges from an Ontario producer.

B.C. Strawberry and Raspberry Breeding Program Update**2:15 PM – 2:30 PM**Michael Dossett, *Berry Breeder, B.C. Blueberry Council, Raspberry Industry Development Council, B.C. Strawberry Growers' Association*

Hear about the fruit quality traits, harvest timing and yield potential of advanced selections developed through the B.C. berry breeding program.

Break: 2:30 PM – 2:45 PM**Strawberry Blossom Weevil****2:45 PM – 3:15 PM**Tracy Hueppelsheuser, *Entomologist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food*Michelle Franklin, *Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*

What we've learned about the biology, behaviour, and effectiveness of monitoring and management tools for the strawberry blossom weevil.

**Plant Parasitic Nematodes****3:15 PM – 3:30 PM**Tom Forge, *Research Nematologist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*

Which nematode species are of concern for berry crops and what damage do they cause?

**Detecting Plant-Parasitic Nematodes in Soil Samples****3:30 PM – 3:45 PM**Michael Ke, *Junior Bioinformatician, Kwantlen Polytechnic University*

Real-time qPCR assays are a new tool to identify plant-parasitic nematodes in soil samples. How can they help producers make pre-plant decisions?

Market Outlook for Red Raspberries**3:45 PM – 4:00 PM**Ben Klootwyk, *Account Manager, Pacific Coast Fruit Products*

What are the market prospects for B.C. raspberries in 2024?



Session: Field Vegetables

Total Pesticide Re-certification Credits = 2.0

Opening Remarks

10:05 AM - 10:10 AM

CHAIR:

Susan Smith, *B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food*



Clubroot Management in the Fraser Valley

10:10 AM - 10:40 AM

Renee Prasad, *Associate Professor and Department Head, University of the Fraser Valley*

Leah Erickson, *Sales Representative, Stokes Seeds*

Pest biology, field observations and management tips including clubroot-tolerant vegetable varieties.



Weed Management Challenges in B.C. Horticulture

10:40 AM - 11:15 AM

Jichul Bae, *Weed Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*

Greg Stewart, *CEO, GECO Engineering*

Tools and mitigation strategies in B.C. cropping systems including what's being learned about herbicide resistance in the Fraser Valley.



Cabbage Root Maggot Management - National and Local Efforts

11:15 AM - 12:10 PM

Suzanne Blatt, *Research Entomologist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*

Renee Prasad, *Associate Professor and Department Head, University of the Fraser Valley*

Development of options to manage Cabbage Root Maggot goes beyond finding effective pesticides and includes many other integrated pest management tools. In the quest to combat the cabbage root fly, this national work complements local work which includes screening of new chemistry.

Lunch Break: 12:10 PM - 1:25 PM

Session: Potatoes

Total Pesticide Re-certification Credits = 1.25

Opening Remarks

1:25 PM - 1:30 PM

CHAIR:

Leisa Yee, *B.C. Potato and Vegetable Growers' Association*



Wireworm Control - New and Upcoming Tools - What Could Go Wrong?

1:30 PM - 1:50 PM

Wim Van Herk, *Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*

Bob Vernon, *IPM Consultant, Sentinel IPM Services*

There are some great new tools in the toolbox for wireworm control, but sometimes they don't work well. Hear some tips to avoid failures with new and existing tools.

Soil Moisture and Weather Monitoring to Support Management Decisions

1:50 PM - 2:20 PM

Andy Nadler, *Agricultural Meteorologist, Peak HydroMet Solutions*

When used effectively, soil moisture sensors can improve crop performance while conserving water and reducing nutrient losses to the environment. Hear how this project demonstrates and promotes tools to help manage irrigation in potatoes.

Making Connections Between Petiole Sampling, Crop Performance and Management

2:20 PM - 2:50 PM

Marjolaine Dessureault, *Research Director, E.S. Cropconsult Ltd.*

Preliminary results in a project that is looking at using petiole sampling to inform nutrient and water management in potatoes.



Potato Pest Management Roundup

2:50 PM - 3:20 PM

Megan Gray, *IPM Consultant, E.S. Cropconsult Ltd.*

Observations from 2023 field monitoring, management tips and resources for producers.



Key Pest Management Tools - Implications for Potatoes

3:20 PM - 3:50 PM

Ken Sapsford, *Pesticide Specialist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food*

Hear an update on review decisions for pest management tools and implications for management.

Session: Agritech/Innovation

Total Pesticide Re-certification Credits = 0.5

Opening Remarks and Announcements**9:15 AM – 9:35 AM**

B.C. Agriculture and Food Minister Pam Alexis and B.C. Agritech and B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation (BCCAI)

Announcement of new projects funded through the B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation.

Panel: Smart Solutions for B.C. Growers**9:35 AM – 10:15 AM**

MODERATOR:

Dr. Laila Benkrima, *Agronomy Consultant, Simon Fraser University*

PANELISTS:

Dean Maerz, *Operations Manager, Klaassen Farms*

Newton Sahota, *Grower and CEO, Twinberry Farms*

Bryan Van Hoepen, *Grower, Stoney Creek Farms Ltd.*

Explore the journey of innovative producers developing and adopting smart solutions for their operations.

Break: 10:15 AM – 10:30 AM**Innovate to Automate: Agritech Reshaping Farm Labour****10:30 AM – 10:35 AM**

CHAIR:

Woo Soo Kim, *Scientific Director, B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation*

Hear from industry leaders and innovators in the field of agriculture and technology about how commercialized technologies can transform farm labour.

Neupeak Robotics on Innovative Harvesting**10:35 AM – 11:05 AM**

PRESENTER:

Anshul Porwal, *CEO Co-Founder, Neupeak Robotics*

Learn about the potential for robotics to reduce labour in berry harvesting.

**Haggerty AgRobotics on Innovative Weed Management****11:10 AM – 11:40 AM**

PRESENTER:

Chuck Baresich, *President and Founder, Haggerty AgRobotics*

Learn about autonomous weeding equipment being trialed on farms in Eastern Canada.

Closing Remarks**11:40 AM – 11:45 AM**

CHAIR:

Woo Soo Kim, *Scientific Director, B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation*

Lunch Break: 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM**Session: All Berry**

Total Pesticide Re-certification Credits = 1.75

Opening Remarks**1:15 PM – 1:20 PM**

CHAIR:

Carolyn Teasdale, *B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food*

**Reducing Reliance on Ignite Herbicide****1:20 PM – 1:40 PM**

Ken Sapsford, *Pesticide Specialist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food*

There is a risk of herbicide resistance developing due to over reliance on Ignite. What other herbicides can be used in its place?

**Exploring Electrical Weed Control in Highbush Blueberry****1:40 PM – 2:05 PM**

Marcelo Moretti, *Associate Professor, Oregon State University*

Electric weed control show promise as a non-chemical technique for managing weeds. Learn about the evaluation of this technology in Oregon.

**Thrips Management in Berry Crops****2:05 PM – 2:50 PM**

David Mutz, *Producer, Berry Haven Farm Ltd.*

Allyson Mittelstaedt, *Soft Fruits IPM Consultant, E.S. Cropconsult Ltd.*

Ashley Summerfield, *Senior Research Technician, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre*

Thrips pressure was high in berry fields in 2023. Learn more about the damage observed, and options for managing this pest.

Break: 2:50 PM – 3:00 PM**Japanese Beetle, Spotted Lanternfly, and Stink Bugs – How Big of a Threat?****3:00 PM – 3:20 PM**

Tracy Hueppelsheuser, *Entomologist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food*

Invasive pests are on the horizon. Where have these pests been found, how big of a threat are they, what can growers watch for?

Global Fresh Market Trends for Blueberries, Raspberries and Strawberries**3:20 PM – 4:00 PM**

David Magaña, *Horticulture Senior Analyst, Rabobank Research*

Trends in global production, seasonality of supply and consumption of caneberries and blueberries.

Lower Mainland Horticulture Improvement Association Annual General Meeting**4:30 PM – 5:30 PM**



Session: Floriculture

Total Pesticide Re-certification Credits = 1.0

Opening Remarks

9:05 AM - 9:10 AM

CHAIR:

Michel Benoit, *United Flower Growers Cooperative B.C.*

Panel: Marketplace Trends in the Floriculture World

9:10 AM - 9:50 AM

MODERATOR/PANELIST:

Michel Benoit, *United Flower Growers Cooperative B.C.*

PRESENTER/PANELIST:

Brian Minter, *Horticulturist, Minter Gardens*

PANELISTS:

Kate Onos-Gilbert, *Producer, Onos Greenhouses and Tulips of the Valley*

Stan Vander Waal, *President, Rainbow Greenhouses*

Bob Pringle, *CEO, United Floral Inc.*

Towards Autonomous Growing

9:50 AM - 10:30 AM

Monique Van Wordragen, *Director, Business Unit, Greenhouse Horticulture and Flower Bulbs, Wageningen University and Research*

Major steps have been taken in the development of fully sustainable greenhouses, using gerbera as a model crop. Climate, lighting conditions and the cultivation system were adapted to achieve optimal yields in the fully electric, emission-free and fossil-free Greenhouse 2030. Also, the development of AI for a harvesting robot is promising in this crop.

Break: 10:30 AM - 10:40 AM



Protected Agriculture Stewardship Initiative - Update

10:40 AM - 11:10 AM

Justine Taylor, *Executive Director, Stewardship and Sustainability, CropLife Canada*

CropLife Canada is working to deliver a national stewardship program to assist protected agriculture operators in managing risks associated with the use of crop protection tools. Hear an update on progress.



Managing Thrips in the Greenhouse

11:10 AM - 11:45 AM

Ashley Summerfield, *Senior Research Technician, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre*

Knowing your species composition greatly informs control options.

Lunch Break: 11:45 AM - 12:55 PM

Session: Greenhouse Vegetables

Total Pesticide Re-certification Credits = 1.75

Opening Remarks

12:55 PM - 1:00 PM

CHAIR:

Gary Jones, *Program Manager, Industry Development, B.C. Greenhouse Growers' Association*

Panel: Working Together, Working Better: B.C. and the Netherlands Developing and Using Technology

1:00 PM - 1:40 PM

MODERATOR:

Seychelle Cushing, *Executive Director, B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation*

PANELISTS:

Woo Soo Kim, *Scientific Director, B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation*

Micah Butler, *Outside Sales Representative, Southern Irrigation*

Cees de Haan, *Co-owner, Agrozone International*

Monique Van Wordragen, *Director, Business Unit, Greenhouse Horticulture and Flower Bulbs, Wageningen University and Research*

Steven Newell, *Chairman, President and CEO, Windset Farms*

Explore how partnership building between industry and academic institutions is generating new technologies and enabling adoption as part of the B.C.-Netherlands Agritech Action Plan.

The Philosophy of Plant Empowerment

1:40 PM - 2:15 PM

Pieter Kwakernaak, *General Manager, Hoogendoorn Growth Management*

Sustainable, user-friendly automation that strives to optimize GH climate, increase crop yields and manage costs and risks in the greenhouse.



Biocontrol Developments in the Greenhouse

2:15 PM - 2:45 PM

Roselyne Labbé, *Research Scientist, Greenhouse Entomology, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*

Working to establish new native biocontrol agents and understanding how existing ones interact with the greenhouse environment are critical to improving pest management. Innovations in establishing a standing army of biocontrol agents even before pest pressure is high will also be covered.



Fusarium Disease in Greenhouse Peppers

2:45 PM - 3:15 PM

Cara McCreary, *Greenhouse Vegetable IPM Specialist, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs*

Management of Fusarium in the greenhouse requires knowledge of pest biology, strict sanitation practices, clean seed and seedlings, preventative use of microbials and manipulation of the environment.



Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus

3:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Geneviève Marchand, *Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*

Hear an update on what we currently know about this relatively unique virus, preventing its introduction and work underway to develop management tools.



Stinkbugs in the Greenhouse

3:45 PM - 4:10 PM

Tracy Hueppelsheuser, *Entomologist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food*
Paul Abram, *Research Scientist, Biological Control of Insects, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*

Hear about pest biology, species identification, potential management tools and industry experience with stinkbugs in greenhouses.

Session: Hazelnut

Total Morning Pesticide Re-certification Credits = 0.25
Total Afternoon Pesticide Re-certification Credits = 1.0

Opening Remarks**10:00 AM – 10:05 AM**

CHAIR:

Zach Fleming, *Consultant, Pacific Coast Agriculture***Orchard Diseases****10:05 AM – 10:30 AM**Siva Sabaratnam, *Plant Pathologist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food*

Update on the diseases of EFB-resistant hazelnut cultivars and management strategies.

Hazelnuts Around the World (Chile and Argentina)**10:30 AM – 11:00 AM**Giuseppe Rosati, *Development Manager, Ferrero Hazelnut Company*

Today, the Ferrero Group is one of the largest users of hazelnuts in the world, standing out for the use of the highest quality fruits. Find out more about Ferrero Agrifarms in Chile and Argentina, which provides platforms for farmers growing hazelnuts to exchange sustainable farming practices and promote sustainability.

Growing Hazelnuts: Lessons from Oregon**11:00 AM – 11:45 AM**Nik Wiman, *Professor, Oregon State University*

Recent updates on hazelnut production research in Oregon.

Research Update**11:45 AM – 11:55 AM**Ben Thomas, *Research Scientist, Agassiz Research and Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*Markus Clodius, *Biologist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*

Update on the experimental hazelnut plots at the Agassiz Research and Development Centre.

Market Outlook**11:55 AM – 12:00 PM**Kevin Hooge, *Grower/Packer Processor, Fraser Valley Hazelnuts*

Perspectives from a B.C. hazelnut grower-packer. Hear about trends in the local and international hazelnut markets.

Lunch Break: 12:00 PM – 1:25 PM**Opening Remarks****1:25 PM – 1:30 PM**

CHAIR:

Zach Fleming, *Consultant, Pacific Coast Agriculture***Wildlife Damage in Hazelnuts Orchards: An Overview****1:30 PM – 2:00 PM**Dr. Doug Ransome, *Program Head of Ecological Restoration, British Columbia Institute of Technology*

This presentation will review the primary wildlife species that affect hazelnut plantations, some of their ecology that leads to damage, and potential mitigation measures that have been used by others in the past.

Growing Hazelnuts: Lessons from Washington**2:00 PM – 2:35 PM**Jim Canaday, *President, Eastern Washington Hazelnut Association*

Discover effective hazelnut management in Eastern Washington: insights on tree density, netting, pruning, harvesting and organic management.

Break: 2:35 PM – 2:50 PM**Chemical and Nonchemical Weed Control Strategies in Hazelnuts****2:50 PM – 3:25 PM**Marcelo Moretti, *Associate Professor, Oregon State University*

Current developments in weed management include the use of electric weed control, sucker management, avoiding damage to trunks, herbicide resistance, and many other things.

Impact of Water Stress by Drought on Hazelnut Varieties Yamhill and Jefferson**3:25 PM – 4:05 PM**Thorsten Knipfer, *Assistant Professor, University of British Columbia*Steven Bristow, *Student, University of British Columbia*

Frequency and severity of drought events in B.C. are increasing due to climate change challenging agricultural production. Data on drought responses of hazelnut varieties Yamhill and Jefferson (stem water potential, stomatal behavior, leaf wilting) will be presented and discussed in the context of tree physiological performance, nut quality, soil water availability and irrigation management.



Session: Blueberry

Total Morning Pesticide Re-certification Credits = 0.5

Opening Remarks

9:05 AM – 9:10 AM

CHAIR:

Carolyn Teasdale, *Berry Industry Specialist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food*



Scorch Virus - Rate of Scorch Virus Spread Research

9:10 AM – 9:20 AM

Carolyn Teasdale, *Berry Industry Specialist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food*

How fast is Scorch Virus spreading in fields with good aphid management?



Blueberry Scorch Virus - Testing Results From 2023

9:20 AM – 9:30 AM

Peter Ellis, *Laboratory Director, Phyto Diagnostics Company Ltd.*

Phyto Diagnostics Company tests thousands of blueberry samples from growers. What trends are they seeing in virus testing results?



Identification of New Blueberry Scorch Virus Variants

9:30 AM – 9:40 AM

Jim Mattsson, *Professor, Simon Fraser University*

A large number of Scorch Virus variants have emerged in the Fraser Valley since the last study in 2004, explaining why Scorch Virus testing sometimes generates negative results despite typical disease symptoms. Learn about a universal method developed for their detection.



Blueberry Aphicide Spray Trial Results

9:40 AM – 9:50 AM

Jen McFarlane, *IPM Consultant and Research Coordinator, E.S. Cropconsult Ltd.*

Aphid management is critical to reduce the spread of Blueberry Scorch Virus. Which aphicides show promise when applied pre-bloom?

Extreme Heat and Blueberry Pollination

9:50 AM – 10:20 AM

Rufus Isaacs, *Professor and Extension Specialist, Michigan State University*

What can we learn from research in Michigan about the impact of extreme heat during bloom on blueberry pollination and blueberry yields?

Break: 10:20 AM – 10:40 AM

The Impact of Evaporative Cooling on Blueberry Fruit Set and Quality During Recent Heatwave

10:40 AM – 11:00 AM

Wei Yang, *Professor and Berry Extension Agent, Oregon State University*

Were there differences in green berry counts and fruit quality between fields that did and did not use evaporative cooling during bloom and fruit development?

Buzzworthy Insights: Maximizing Blueberry Pollination

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Lisa Wasko DeVetter, *Associate Professor, Washington State University*

Learn how to optimize blueberry pollination using honey bees and hear about new decision-aid tools designed to help growers and beekeepers make informed pollination decisions based upon multi-state collaborative trials.

Strengthening Blueberry-Beekeeper Relations

11:30 AM – 11:50 AM

Peter Awram, *Beekeeper, Worker Bee Honey Company*

Opportunities to maintain a good relationship with your beekeeper and improve pollination outcomes.

Lunch Break: 11:50 AM – 1:10 PM

Deficit Irrigation Options and Other Strategies to Reduce Water Use in Blueberries

1:10 PM – 1:40 PM

Dave Bryla, *Research Horticulturalist, United States Department of Agriculture*

What is the impact on yield and fruit quality when water use is reduced or cut off at different times in the growing season?

Replanting Practices for Successful Establishment

1:40 PM – 2:30 PM

PANELISTS:

Mark Sweeney, *Consulting Horticulturalist*

Arvin Neger, *Consulting Horticulturalist, Mukhtiar Growers Ltd.*

Mike Hanna, *Technical Sales, Terralink*

What are the key considerations for replanting blueberries in terms of land preparation, cultivar selection, nutrient management and pest management?

Break: 2:30 PM – 2:50 PM

Opportunities for the B.C. Blueberry Industry

2:50 PM – 3:20 PM

Scott Beaton, *Partner, Beaton Rettich Waters*

An overview of blueberry market demand, current B.C. acreage and supply and break-even analysis to support industry decisions around replanting.

B.C. Blueberry Breeding Program Update

3:20 PM – 3:40 PM

Michael Dossett, *Berry Breeder, B.C. Blueberry Council, Raspberry Industry Development Council, B.C. Strawberry Growers' Association*

Hear about the fruit quality traits, harvest timing and yield potential of advanced selections developed through the B.C. berry breeding program.

Session: Organics

Total Morning Pesticide Re-certification Credits = 1.0
Total Afternoon Pesticide Re-certification Credits = 2.0

Opening Remarks

9:00 AM – 9:05 AM

CHAIR:

Heather Meberg, *President and Director of Grower Services, E.S. Cropconsult Ltd.*



Panel: On-Farm Demonstration Research

9:05 AM – 10:20 AM

MODERATOR:

Marjolaine Dessureault, *Research Director and IPM Consultant, E.S. Cropconsult Ltd.*

PANELISTS:

Harvie Snow, *Producer, Snow Farms*

Kerry McCann, *Co-owner/Operator, Laughing Crow Organics*

Andrew Budgell, *Co-Owner/Operator, Laughing Crow Organics*

Guprit Brar, *Producer, Virsat Agri*

Hear an overview of several farmer-led demonstration research projects on perennial headlands to attract beneficials, interseeding cover crops in brassicas, no-till cabbage trials, and evaluating cover crop mixes best suited to provide habitat for predatory ground beetles.

Performance of N-Fixing Products

10:25 AM – 10:55 AM

David Franzen, *Researcher, North Dakota State University*

Overview of a recent independent research trial looking at the performance of common biological soil fertility products in corn.

Mental Health and Resiliency

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Matt Treble, *Manager of Suicide Prevention and Life Promotion, CMHA B.C., AgSafe*

An AgSafe counsellor discusses mental health and resiliency strategies.

Soil Health Protocol

11:35 AM – 11:45 AM

Emma Holmes, *Soil Health and Organics Agrologist, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food*

Update on approach to measuring soil health.

Lunch Break: 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM

Opening Remarks

1:15 PM – 1:20 PM

CHAIR:

Harvie Snow, *Grower, Snow Farms*



Go-to Pest Control Products for Organics Producers

1:25 PM – 1:55 PM

MODERATOR:

Rachel Hagel, *Technical Sales Representative, Terralink*

PRESENTERS:

Colin Smith, *Sales and Marketing Manager, Andermatt Canada Inc.*

Jon Treloar, *Technical Sales Agronomist, Novozymes BioAg*

An update on products available for organic producers.

Organic Potato Production

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Anna Helmer, *Producer, Helmer's Organic Farm*

Low-input approach to organic potato farming.



Agrotech Weeders and Other Advances in Weed Control

2:35 PM – 3:50 PM

MODERATOR:

Sarah Stewart, *Project Coordinator, Organic B.C.*

PANELISTS:

Chuck Baresich, *President and Founder, Haggerty AgRobotics*

Jichul Bae, *Researcher, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*

Brett Goodwin, *Vice President of Marketing, Carbon Robotics*

Alex Drapeau, *Research Assistant Intern*

An overview of weeding trials happening across Canada, including weed zappers, autonomous weeders, weed seed head crushers, laser weeding, and more.



Session: Hops

Opening Remarks

CHAIR:
Ken Malynstein, *President, B.C. Hops Growers Association*

Overview of Vista: Development and Promotion

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Eric Sannerud, *President, Sannerud Hop Consulting*

"Vista", a new public hops variety, was released in 2021 from the USDA hops breeding program. Learn about the variety trials leading up to its release, how the new variety is currently performing, and what its future might look like.

B.C. Craft Brewing Sector Update

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Ken Beattie, *Executive Director, B.C. Craft Brewers Guild*

Join Ken to hear an update about how craft-beer businesses and breweries are doing in B.C. today, post Covid-19, and where the sector may be headed.

In-Field Harvest Timing Protocol for Hops and Breeding Program Update

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Mathias Schuetz, *Professor, Kwantlen Polytechnic University*

Sharmin Malik, *Master's Student, Kwantlen Polytechnic University*

Mathias and Sharmin will provide an overview of a project that assessed harvest timing protocols for hops grown in Western B.C. conducted in 2023. This study was supported by the Lower Mainland Horticultural Improvement Association and funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Mathias will also provide a review of the 2023 findings from the hops breeding program.

2023/2024 LMHIA Directors

Blueberry

Nancy Chong
Gage Neger
Kerry Seale

Organic

Lydia Ryall
Harvie Snow
Vacancy

Raspberry

James Bergen
David Mutz
Jordan Alamwala

Strawberry

Mike Boot
Jeff Husband
Alf Krause

Vegetable

Marinus van Eekelen
Tristin Bouwman
Bruce Wisbey

Hops

Sam Glasgow

Agribusiness

Grant McMillan
Heather Meberg
Leah Erickson

Ex Officio Directors

Michael Dossett (*Berry Breeder/ Geneticist*)
Gary Jones (*Consultant*)
Charitha Jayasinghe (*AAFC Agassiz*)
Todd Kabaluk (*AAFC Agassiz*)
Rishi Burlakoti (*AAFC Agassiz*)
Wim Van Herk (*AAFC Agassiz*)
Rajiv Dasanjh (*BCAF*)
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Carolyn Teasdale (*BCAF*)

Administrator

Leisa Yee

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Funding for the conference is provided in part by the governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.