



**Event Release**

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## **Hood River/Mosier Biological Control Workshop and Orchard Walk**

**EVENT DATE:** Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004

**PLACE:** Mosier Grange, 5 miles east of Hood River

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

**PRICE:** \$12.00 at the door, lunch made local, mostly organic produce, provided.

**CONTACT:** Gwendolyn Ellen 541-737-2036, [gwendolyn@science.oregonstate.edu](mailto:gwendolyn@science.oregonstate.edu)

The Integrated Plant Protection Center at Oregon State University (OSU), Oregon Tilth, and Pest Management Systems of the Columbia Gorge would like to invite all interested growers to attend a biological control workshop and Orchard Walk , **Thursday, March 18th from 9:00 – 4:00 P.M.** The workshop will be at the **Mosier Grange** (5 miles east of Hood River) from 9:00-1:00, with presentations from representatives of IPPC's Bug-Scaping Project. The project seeks to support grower-led activities that build the knowledge and implementation of conservation biological control (CBC) on local farms and orchards. Conservation biological control can be defined as methods used on and around farms to restore and enhance natural enemy populations that can increase to numbers that may limit pest populations. Such methods may include insectary plantings, managed grassy field margins, beetle banks and hedgerows.

Other invited speakers include Larry Lacey from USDA and Dave Bergin of Pest Management Systems. They will be speaking on practical microbial products you can use in your orchard insect pest management program.

After lunch there will be an orchard walk from 2:00 – 4:00 at Jim Reed's, Columbia Blossom Orchard, in Mosier, Oregon. Jim has grown certified organic stone fruits such as, cherries, peaches, plums, apricots, nectarines and grapes for over 9 years. A locally prepared, mostly organic lunch is included in the \$12 fee.

The farm walk is meant to heighten appreciation of the natural biodiversity that already exists in the orchard and how we can use what we know about these systems to increase habitats for beneficial organisms. Practices that Jim and other participating farmers use to restore, enhance and maximize natural enemy populations in their orchards will be highlighted and discussed. There will be opportunities to sweep, catch and identify insects, weather permitting. This is the Bug-Scaping Project's first BYOB (bring your

own bug) event of the new year so if something has been bugging you in 2003 and you don't know what it is pop it in a jar and bring it along. Be sure to limit your samples to one or two, insects and watch out, some of them sting and bite! For more information on IPPC's Bug-Scaping Project go to <http://oregonipm.ippc.orst.edu> and look under the IPPC/Oregon Tilth CBC Project.

If you are interested in attending the workshop and orchard walk please contact Gwendolyn Ellen at 541-737-6272, or e-mail at [gwendolyn@science.oregonstate.edu](mailto:gwendolyn@science.oregonstate.edu).