

To

Date

Friday November 16, 2007

2 pages from Mario Lanthier



“Green Industry Show & Conference”, the annual event of Landscape Alberta Nursery and Alberta Greenhouse Growers. It was held November 15 and 16 in Edmonton. See www.greenindustryshow.com.

This is a large gathering, mostly industry persons such as landscapers, arborists and growers. Byland's Nurseries has a booth in the trade show.

Keynote speakers were Pete Lockett (LimeLight Communications Group) and Tony Bass (Charles VanderKooi consulting group), on cultivating and managing customers.

Bioenergy for Small Greenhouses

By Fernando Preto, Natural Resources Canada

(http://www.canren.gc.ca/renew_ene/index.asp?CaID=47&PgID=731)

The federal government is researching “renewable energy” for greenhouses.

- The goal is to develop energy-efficient and cost-effective biomass conversion.
- “Combustion” (heat is used directly), “gasification” (converts input material into gas for power generation) and “pyrolysis” (temperature of 350°C to produce liquid fuel).

There are many potential “fuels” for greenhouse heating.

- Current products: wood pellets / wood chips / wood shavings / sawdust.
- Potential products: corn cob / beans / railway ties / old telephone poles.

A commercial boiler is manufactured in Manitoba.

- From the the trade show: Decker Manufacturing, www.deckerbrand.com.

Bedding plant production

By Allen Hammer, Dummen USA, www.dummenusa.com.

- Overall theme: "Focus on the plant, not on your convenience."
- "Create small growing spaces to meet specific growing requirements."

About vegetative production.

- Sanitation: "When you go to a hospital and they drop the needle on the floor, do they pick it up and use it? Why do you plant a cutting that was dropped on the floor?"
- Rooting environment is critical for unrooted cuttings. "Use bottom heat".
- Rooting hormone: "Always use it. It helps uniformity of rooting."

About of plug production.

- "Plug production is one of the hardest job in the greenhouse. It is a full-time job."
- "The quality of the starting plug determines the quality of the finished plant."
- "One of the most difficult production issue is timing – it is different for each location."
- Production record: "Add digital pictures, easy to take and make a good reference."

Use "liner dip" to control plants with aggressive growth habit.

- Dip root system in solution of Sumagic or Bonzi to prevent excessive growth after planting in a container mixed into slow-growing plants.
- Good for plants such as Calibrachoa, Lantana, Hibiscus, Petunia.

Diagnosing and Managing Bedding Plant and Vegetable Diseases

By Ron Howard, Alberta Agriculture, Brooks

There are many good resources for diagnostic of plant diseases.

- Book "Diseases of pests of vegetable crops in Canada" by the Canadian Phytopathological Society (<http://www.cps-scp.ca/publications.htm>).
- Book "Diagnostics System for Crop Disorders in Greenhouses and Nurseries" by the University of Georgia (<http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/B1273.htm>).

The presentation reviewed specific programs for common greenhouse diseases.

- Gray mold (Botrytis): favored by cold temperatures and high humidity (spring and fall). Manage with air circulation / remove dead plants / Daconil, Rovral, Decree, Senator.
- Powdery mildew: favored by high humidity and warm temperatures (but not water). Manage with cleaning affected plants / air circulation / Easout, Senator, Nova.
- Bacterial diseases: usually host specific, highly infectious (spread by hands, tools). Manage with disease-free material / disinfect tools / careful watering / Phytan 27.

Greenhouse Systems Conference (2009)

Greenhouse equipment and management. See <http://www.greensys2009.com>.

Exotic Forest Pest Survey in Alberta

Presentation at the “Stop Dutch Elm Disease” meeting

by Jim Jones, Western Pest Management Company Ltd, Alberta (jtrjones@sprint.ca)

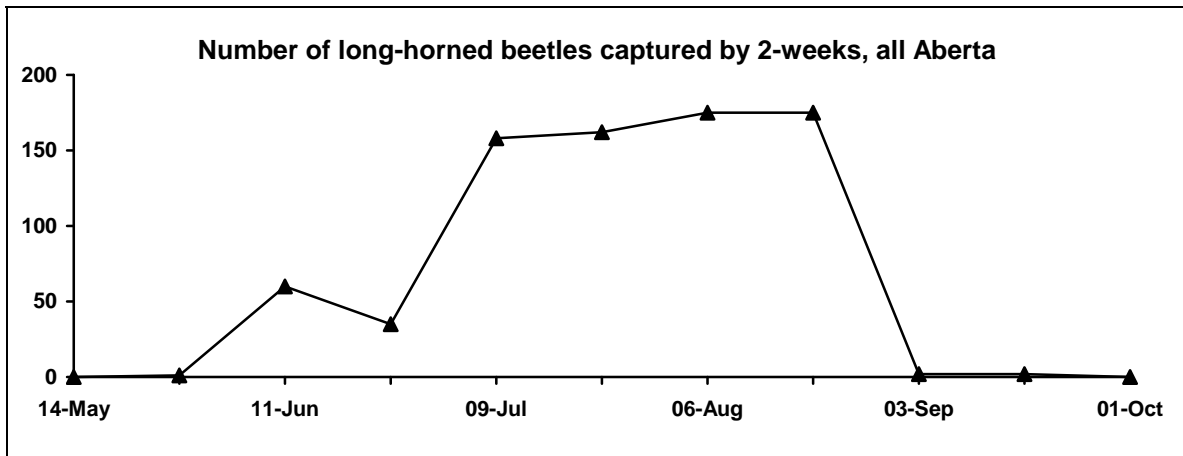
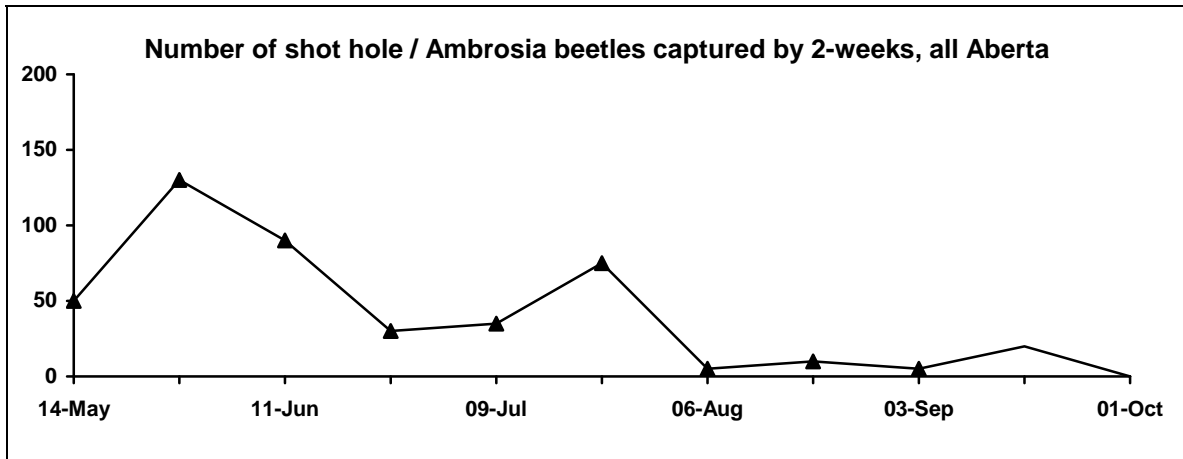
An area-wide survey was conducted in 2007 for different borers and beetles.

- Three set of traps, each with a different lure, were installed across Alberta.
- Insects captured were separated as “bark and ambrosia beetles”, or “long-horned beetles”, or “metallic wood boring beetles” or “wood wasps”.

The following conclusions were made.

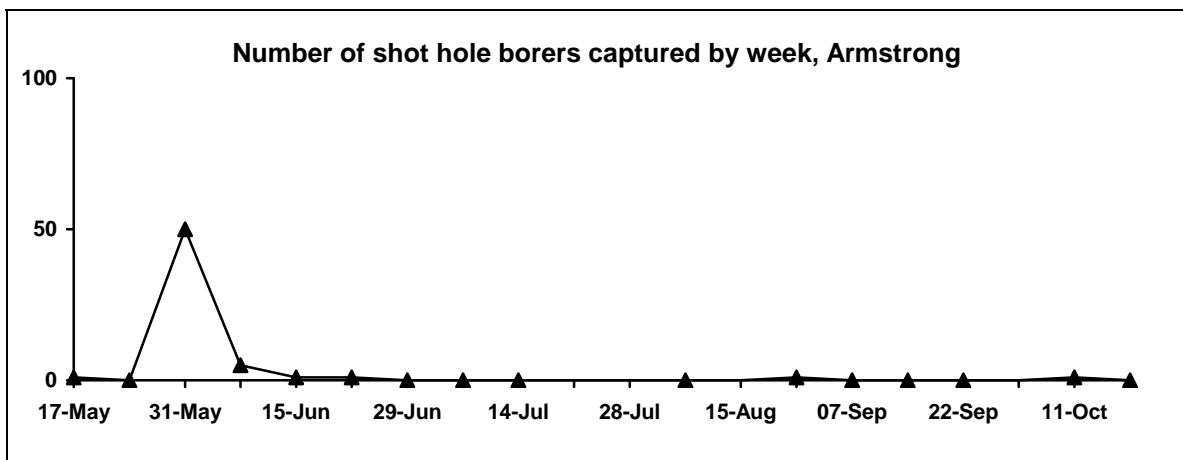
- “Ips” lure was most effective for bark and Ambrosia beetles (captured 90% of them).
- “Alpha pinene” lure was most effective for long-horned beetles (captured 76%).
- Traps should be installed before May 14 as bark beetles are active in early spring.

Trap results in 2007 in Alberta



Results at a nursery in Armstrong located in the forest

- In May 2005, six Lindgren funnel traps baited with Vapona strips were installed.
- Contents were examined under a microscope and id. confirmed by a specialist.



TRAPPING SHOT HOLE BORERS



Above: Overview of shot-hole borer (note the small size) and its damage on a young Malus tree. This insect is attracted to stressed trees or dead branches commonly found in native areas. For more information, see the website <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/tfipm/shothole.htm>.

Below: Overview of Lindgren trap at the nursery. The trap is equipped with a commercial lure and designed for non-destructive capture of insects. Contents are emptied on a regular basis and insects are examined for typical body features.

