

HIGHLIGHTS: November 15th grape order deadline approaching fast; special FPMS grape customer meeting December 12th; 8 new grape selections released as registered stock; New varieties to be added to the Foundation Orchard

REMEMBER: GRAPE ORDERS MUST REACH FPMS BY NOV. 15, 1988 TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS SEASON'S ALLOCATION

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Number 8

FOUNDATION PLANT MATERIALS SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

NEWSLETTER

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FPMS ANNUAL INDUSTRY ADVISORY MEETING

The 1988 Annual Industry Meeting will be held on Monday, December 5, 1988 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Many new developments in the Grape and Tree clean stock programs will be discussed. Anyone interested in attending should call the FPMS office at 916-752-3590 for details by November 23rd so a place can be reserved. An annual report prepared for the meeting is available upon request.

FPMS FINANCIAL REPORT

In 1987-88, FPMS sold 82,963 grape cuttings, graftsticks and budsticks and 17,544 mist propagated grape plants. FPMS also sold 107,512 buds and 5,918 cuttings of fruit and nut tree material, 48,359 certified peach seeds, 27.25 lbs. certified plum seed, 641.75 lbs. certified cherry seed, 895 lbs. P. betulaefolia pear fruit, 31,515 cuttings and 235 buds of rose material. Total income in 1987-88 was \$251,395.05. Total expenditures were \$301,663.09, leaving a net deficit for the year of \$50,268.04. This reduces the program's accumulated reserve to a balance of \$125,718.60.

After review and approval by the FPMS Grapevine Industry Advisory Committee, prices for all FPMS grape material were increased on October 21, 1988 to help balance the budget for existing programs and to provide a portion of the funding needed for additions to the grape program described in the Grape Program Report below. The Committee further recommended reinstating grape user fees until nursery tax revenues are sufficient to fund necessary programs. Further discussion of the Nursery Tax Legislation is also included below. Charges for tree and rose material have not changed.

NOTES ON ORDER PROCESSING

Computerized Order Processing

In July of this year FPMS began processing orders for plant material by computer. You may have noticed a change in the look of the packing slip you receive with your material. The information given is essentially the same, with new abbreviations as defined below:

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|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| CT1 = #1 cuttings | GST = graftsticks |
| CT2 = #2 cuttings | CNE = canes |
| CT3 = #3 cuttings | PLT = plantlets |
| MPP = mist propagated plants | SDS = seeds by the seed |
| BUD = buds | SDL = seeds by the lb. |
| BST = budsticks | |

The new FPMS computer system has been designed to improve the appearance and readability of information distributed to customers and make it faster and easier to supply information about materials and orders. It is also designed with a special checking system to assure that all materials are correctly labeled by variety, selection number, source and registration status.

The new system is still being refined and adjusted. Two more changes will take place soon. The first will be to replace references to source location by block, row and plant number with reference to a single unique plant number, which is the number that will appear on your packing slip. This will improve security and provide for pinpoint source accuracy as vines at a single location change. If you have comments or concerns about this change, now is the time to bring them up. We also expect to begin processing all billings with the computer before the end of the year, so watch for it and let us know if you notice any problems. Your comments and patience are greatly appreciated during this time of transition to the computer age!

Minimum Order Charge Reminder

In October of 1987 the minimum order charge for material purchased from FPMS increased to \$25.00 per order to help offset the high cost of processing, collecting and billing small orders. This means that it is beneficial to order over \$25 worth of material at once instead of placing many smaller orders to avoid being assessed the minimum charge. Please call the office if you have any questions about this policy.

Requesting Certification Tags

This is a reminder that in order to receive certification tags for material purchased from FPMS, the box on the order form requesting tags must be checked. FPMS will issue certification tags for any qualified material at the customer's request.

NEW STAFF AT FPMS

Robert Ball was appointed the new administrative director for FSPMS in July 1988 upon the retirement of Burt Ray. He is an agronomist by training and has served on staff at the University of California Davis since 1956. Most recently, he held the position of Manager of California Crop Improvement Association and Assistant Director of Foundation Seed and Plant Materials Service. He has worked extensively with seed industry people, agricultural commissioners, and county farm advisors. He also lectures on seed certification, conditioning and testing to UCD visitors and students. Most importantly, Mr. Ball is widely experienced and well respected within the University administration. His leadership will be a large asset as FPMS expands to provide new services in coming years.

Dr. Adib Rowhani was hired in spring of 1988 for the FPMS Plant Pathology Specialist position. He received a Bachelors degree in Plant Protection from the University of Shiraz. His Masters degree from McGill University in Montreal and his Ph.D from the University of British Columbia were both in Plant Pathology with an emphasis on virus disease. From 1980 to 1988, Dr. Rowhani worked with Dr. John Mircetich in the UCD Plant Pathology Department on walnut blackline disease. He has extensive experience with the latest virus disease testing techniques including ELISA, CDNA hybridization, dsRNA extraction, virus purification and antiserum production. He is currently cooperating with scientists nationwide to develop and implement new grape, tree fruit and strawberry disease testing techniques.

NURSERY TAX LEGISLATION UPDATE

Last fall a new law assessing a 1/4 of 1% tax on all pome and stone fruit trees, nut trees and grapevines sold in California was enacted. The tax was designed to provide support for the State grape and tree certification programs and FPMS. We hoped to be able to use this income in place of the FPMS user fee system because the initial revenue projections were close to \$400,000. After collecting this tax for 3 quarters, the State is estimating the total annual revenue generated will

be about \$75,000. Of this amount, approximately \$50,000.00 has been used to establish a new California State Department of Food and Agriculture Prunus ELISA testing lab. No tax money was distributed to FPMS in 1987-88. In 1988-89, FPMS may receive \$25,000 from this source.

To correct the shortfall, an amendment to the original law increasing the tax to a maximum of 1% was signed into law in the fall of 1988. Increased income is expected to reach FPMS sometime in 1991 or 1992. FPMS will need to collect user fees until the nursery tax can generate and distribute income at the originally projected levels (see Grape Program Changes below).

FPMS GRAPE PROGRAM REPORT

Grape Material Allocation

In order to serve the greatest number of grapevine customers, FPMS follows a deadline and priority system when allocating limited materials. This allocation system is used for all grape orders received before November 15 each year. After that date materials are sold on a first come, first served basis.

Our first priority is to make FPMS grape stock available to the widest range of users possible. To accomplish this FPMS supplies a minimum of 5 to 10 cuttings to each customer requesting a particular variety/selection before November 15th. Equal consideration is given to all customers. Second priority for quantities over 10 cuttings/selection is given to California customers using foundation stock to establish California registered increase blocks. In this way, large amounts of stock are used to further increase the supply of California Certified grape stock ultimately produced. Third priority for quantities over 10 cuttings is given to other California customers. This is in recognition of the financial support FPMS receives from the California grape industry. Fourth priority for quantities over 10 cuttings is given to customers outside of California but within the United States. Fifth priority for quantities over 10 cuttings is given to international customers.

Please be sure to order before November 15th in order to benefit from the allocation system-- especially this year, because demand for grape stock is very high. Depending on the variety/selection and season, there is often enough material to supply stock in quantities over 10 cuttings/variety to customers at any priority levels, so order quantity as needed.

Mist Propagated Grape Plants for Sale

FPMS continues to offer for sale, on a contract basis, mist propagated grape plants. These plants are produced in the FPMS greenhouse and qualify for foundation stock status. In this way FPMS accomodates requests for CA foundation stock when hardwood cutting supplies are insufficient.

Grape Program Changes

Thanks to the lobbying efforts of industry and University, FPMS now has several critical components/staff members necessary to assemble a total grape clean stock and grape importation program. Dr. Deborah Golino, USDA ARS scientist, is actively conducting research on grape diseases including virus elimination techniques. She has agreed to apply for a foreign importation permit for grapevines when the current permit expires in July 1989 if proper facilities are available. Dr. Adib Rowhani is working to implement new faster methods for virus detection in grapevines. In keeping with its original charge, FPMS continues to maintain and distribute foundation grape stock to the public. In addition, FPMS has been maintaining foreign and domestic diseased and quarantined materials and conducting virus tests in the field for the last 2 years.

Although this represents considerable progress, there are several aspects of the grape program that still need immediate attention. Since Dr. Austin Goheen's retirement, there has been no disease elimination work to clean up foreign and domestic grape selections. The number of selections now known to be diseased and backlogged for treatment is well over 300. Since FPMS does not have

facilities to maintain any additional grape selections on an indefinite basis, it has been necessary to stop accepting any new items from foreign or domestic sources into the program. We are also in danger of losing valuable quarantined grape selections already collected because of the makeshift nature of the facilities in which this material has been held since Dr. Goheen's retirement. Facilities are needed to isolate quarantined grape material before Dr. Golino will be able to import material under her permit.

Work is now in progress to determine the facilities, equipment and staff necessary to implement grape disease elimination and quarantine programs and estimate costs. Proposals soliciting funding will be submitted to USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Grapevine and Fruit Tree Improvement Committee (requesting nursery tax money). Unfortunately the most optimistic estimate for receipt of funds from these sources is two or more years from now.

After reviewing FPMS grape program needs and financial outlook, industry advisors indicated that the delays and risks outlined above would be unacceptable. They recommended increasing prices for grape materials and reinstating user fees in order to balance the budget for existing programs and generate additional income this season. New prices were approved and put into effect on 10/21/88. A copy of the new price list is included with this newsletter. In addition, user fees will be collected in May 1989 for all grower agreements currently in force.

FPMS Grape Customer Meeting

A meeting for all FPMS customers, growers and nurserymen has been scheduled for December 12, 1988 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in the Mee Room at the Memorial Union Complex, UCD to discuss grape program changes. Short presentations about new directions will be given by Michael Mullins, Zelma Long, Pete Christensen, Don Luvisi, Deborah Golino, Jim Lider, Phil Freese and Susan Nelson-Kluk, followed by discussions with those in attendance. This is an opportunity to learn about the future being planned for FPMS and provide feedback to industry and University people making the plan. Please contact the FPMS office to reserve a place at this important meeting before December 5.

New Grape Selections Available from FPMS

New grape varieties added to the registration program this year include Dolcetto, Vernaccia, and Forestera from Italy. From France we have 3 new Pinot noir selections #31, 32, and 33 which correspond to the CTPS clone numbers 236, 386 and 388 respectively. A new Chardonnay selection #18 which originated from the Italian Rauscedo 8 clone and Barbera selection #2 from Rauscedo 6 are also being released. Limited quantities from these selections may be purchased from FPMS in the coming dormant season.

Introduction of Selected Winegrape Clones

A final report to Winegrowers of California for the "Introduction of Selected Winegrape Clones" FPMS project was submitted to the American Vineyard Foundation this summer. The report includes an update on the status of 53 new clones recently imported by FPMS (including material via OSU) and an explanation of the French grape clonal evaluation system. Also included are English translations of French descriptions for 7 Chardonnay, 9 Pinot noir, 8 Merlot, 9 Cabernet Sauvignon, 8 Chenin blanc, 16 Cabernet Franc and 14 Sauvignon blanc clones. Copies of the report are available from the FPMS office for \$10.00.

FPMS FRUIT AND NUT TREE PROGRAM REPORT

Foundation Stock Tags for Peach and Nectarine Material

For the last 5 years issuance of foundation stock tags for all registered peach and nectarine material has been delayed until the end of the growing season of the year following sale of material so that source budwood trees could be inspected for peach yellow leaf roll in the interim period.

This policy has recently been revised upon the advice of FPMS technical advisors and CDFA Nursery Service approval to allow issuance of tags at the same time budwood is sold. This change was made to make different aspects of the certification program more consistent. Since the threat of invading peach yellow leaf roll (and prunus necrotic ring spot) diseases still exists, it is important to maintain records of the exact foundation block budwood source tree for all propagations. If the annual summer shirofugan assay or foundation orchard inspection indicate disease, registration on stock distributed can be revoked retroactively by CDFA on a source tree by tree basis. Customers who wish to receive foundation tags for peach and nectarine material purchased in the last year should contact the FPMS office.

Updating the Foundation Orchard

As California nurseries strive to produce the highest possible quality of products, interest in the Deciduous Fruit and Nut Tree Clean stock program has grown considerably. FPMS distributed more budwood in 1987-88 than in any recent years and had requests for much more material. In order to accomodate the demand for more foundation stock, FPMS has been working with advisors to revise and expand the fruit and nut tree collections. The goal is to make most commercially important varieties/selections available as foundation stock from FPMS.

Nine major California nurseries completed surveys with suggestions for selections/varieties to add, delete or retain in the Foundation Orchard. Information was compiled and reviewed by several different University and industry groups and used to develop an overall plan. FPMS is already implementing the first stage of the plan. Propagations (and indexes as necessary) of 33 new varieties/selections for inclusion in the New Foundation Orchard were started this summer and fall. Additional varieties/selections recommended will be added as the resources to treat, test and plant them become available.

Fruit and Nut Tree Seed Supplies

FPMS has available seed of several fruit and nut tree varieties for sale on a first come, first served basis. 1988 registered seed remaining includes 40,000 Nemared seeds, 75,000 seeds Nemaguard, and 70 lbs Myrobalan. Also available are 2000 seeds of Kaki persimmon collected in 1988. FPMS has the following leftover registered seed from 1987 at 1/2 price: 125 lbs of Mahaleb cherry, 50 lbs of Myrobalan plum and 55,000 seeds of Nemared. Still available for \$1.00/seed is a new hybrid pistachio rootstock developed by Dr. Lee Ashworth at the Kearney Agricultural Center. Please use the attached order form to place seed orders.

STRAWBERRY CLEAN STOCK PROGRAM

In spring 1989 FPMS will have for sale California Foundation stock plants of UC patented Strawberry varieties. These plants are produced from virus indexed mother plants using thermotherapy and meristem tip culture. FPMS will supply plants in vitro or in small pots for \$100.00/plant to licensed propagators. Contact the FPMS office for more information.