

Information Update – December 2005

Investment Agriculture approves \$1.6 Million New Funding for Sterile Insect Release

The Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC approved new funding of \$1.6 million in addition to the \$1 million approved earlier by the Province, bringing the total funding support to \$2.6 million for the completion of the transitional “Clean-Up” phase and further expansion of the Sterile Insect Release (SIR) Program into urban sites.

“Foundation funding covers the transitional “Clean-Up” phase costs to a maximum of \$2.6 million, underscoring the commitment of the Foundation and our funding partners to SIR” said Walter Goerzen, Chair, Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC. “The Okanagan-Kootenay SIR Program is a highly successful community initiative that applies world leading and nature-friendly technology developed right here in British Columbia assisting in the reduction of pesticide use for the control of codling moth.”

To date, the SIR Program concentrated urban activities in a 200 metre urban buffer zone around commercial orchards. The Program expansion will allow incorporation of all urban areas. To meet targets of 90 percent of the fruit crop with less than 0.2 percent codling moth damage by 2008, 16,500 urban sites with over 50,000 host trees will be included in the Clean-Up phase of the approved program.

“The SIR Program is delighted with the continued support of the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC” said SIR Vice Chair, Colin Day. “To be successful, SIR must have the support and cooperation of commercial and non-commercial apple and pear growers. This funding will allow SIR to reach its targeted objective of area-wide codling moth control by the end of 2008” said Day.

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