

## **BOGS Online Grower System, a Record Keeping and Pest Management Decision Tool**

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The BOGS Online Grower System is an Internet-based application tool developed for Massachusetts cranberry growers. It is primarily a pesticide and nutrient management application but also is able to record other horticultural/cultural practices, as well as an insect pest identification and decision making control guide. Although designed for Massachusetts cranberry producers, it has received interest from New Jersey cranberry growers and recently, other commodities.

The purpose of this presentation is to give attendees a better understanding of what the program does, how it works and an opportunity to better understand if it, or something similar, may prove useful for other crops. The presentation will feature an overview of how the system was created, how it works and how growers are using it as part of their on-farm management. The presentation will also have a real-time walkthrough of inputting data and generating reports. As time permits, current enhancements in progress and future plans can also be discussed.

BOGS has all of the labeled pesticides for use on Massachusetts cranberry bogs, with the accompanying active ingredient, EPA registration number, PHI, REI, etc. Through a series of easy to use menus and free-text entries, growers are able to input their pesticide applications, with warnings on maximum/minimum label rates, total applications allowed per season, groundwater restricted use chemicals and more. Reports are available for summarizing treatments by bog or contract, along with the required handler and state pesticide use reports.

Fertilizer applications can be similarly input. There is a calculation area to assist in identifying how much fertilizer is required based on input criteria. In addition, users can record their IPM insect scout data, tissue and soil test results, water use and sanding applications (sanding is a common cranberry cultural practice where every few years, a layer of sand is added to the surface of the cranberry bog).

Besides inputting data, BOGS can be used to identify insect pests. There are many insects pests on cranberry bogs and many of them are similar or otherwise difficult to identify. Through a series of "If/Then" questions, growers can identify or narrow down what pest they may have encountered. After identification is complete, answering an additional series of questions delivers control options to consider. Further questions are asked, including environmental factors and efficacy, to help the grower understand what control options make the most sense for their operation.

One of the powerful features of BOGS is that it records data in real-time, from potentially anywhere. As long as there is an Internet-connection, BOGS can be accessed. Since it's an Internet-based tool, there is nothing to download or install. Many growers utilize their Smartphones or tablets to record data while still in the field. All of the historical data is available at any time, with no fear of losing records or hard drive crashes. The BOGS Online Grower System is helping to increase on-farm efficiencies, improve decision making, enhance required regulatory compliance, while simultaneously helping to develop and sustain market opportunities.