



Insight

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Mint Bud Mite Erupts in Indiana Mint

For Indiana mint grower Gerrett Dobson, dealing with mint bud mite, *Tarsonemus sp.*, is a constant, to the point where he routinely treats for the pest between June 10 and June 15, depending on weather conditions.

Although Dobson hasn't been able to obtain 100 percent control of the pest since the loss of Kelthane a decade or so ago, until this year he's been able to avoid large-scale losses. This past summer, however, Dobson said he lost between 50 and 60 percent of his yields in some fields to the pest.

Conditions this past summer included dry, hot weather that were ideal for mite development. Combine that with questionable chemical performance, and the bud mite issue got out of hand.

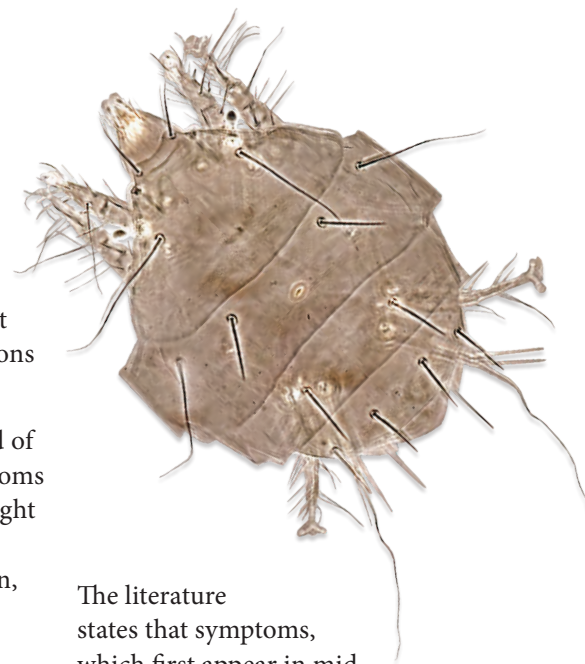
"We've always had bud mite," Dobson said. "In the past, though, we have been able to keep them under control

with Comite. We've never really got 100 percent control with it, even doing two applications, but you could knock back the population enough that you could get the mint through harvest."

This past summer, the bud mite issue became apparent when rains hit in late June after hot and dry conditions had persisted for most of the month.

"With the dry weather, the mint kind of sat idle and never showed any symptoms (of mite damage) until we finally caught some rains," Dobson said. "And then when the mint took off growing again, it got squirrely on us, even in some second-year fields."

According to University of Wisconsin literature, mint bud mite infestations are typically associated with older stands of peppermint and can result in dramatic reductions in the yield of essential oils.



The literature states that symptoms, which first appear in mid-season, consist of "shortened terminal internodes, curling of new leaves and a twisting or puckering of apical buds. This collection is commonly referred to as squirrely mint."

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“After we sprayed Magister, I scouted every day for seven days and I only found one live bud mite in the treated area, and it was lethargic.”

Gerrett Dobson

Dobson isn't sure if the Comite is losing effectiveness because of a buildup of

resistance, or if the pest population has just gradually built up in his mint over time because the product has never provided 100 percent control.

Dobson said he's tried other products over the years, but hasn't found one to replace Kelthane. He has hopes for

Magister, a product he tried this year from Gowan Company that is labeled on

mint for several mite species, although not previously on bud mite. It provided excellent bud mite control on a 20-acre patch he applied it to.

“After we sprayed Magister, I scouted every day for seven days and I only found one live bud mite in the treated area, and it was lethargic,” he said. “It wasn't really moving like normal, so maybe it had yet to die.”

According to Steve Salisbury, research and regulatory coordinator for the MIRC, because of the efforts by Dobson to measure the product's efficacy, the Gowan Company has now provided a supplemental label for Magister that includes mint bud mite. The

supplemental label was approved in Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan in late August.

Unfortunately, in researching the product, Salisbury found that fenazaquin, the active ingredient in Magister, has a prohibitive export restriction in Europe with a maximum residue level (MRL) of 0.02 ppm. On the positive side, the MRL for fenazaquin in the U.S. is 10 ppm, a level not expected to be a concern if mint treated with Magister is sold in the U.S.

Asked if he would be interested in using Magister in the future, Dobson said, “Absolutely. If we can get it through all the regulatory issues, I am absolutely interested in using it.” 🌿



MRL Regulations Compound Pest-Control Issues in Mint

Circumstances surrounding a recent pest outbreak in Indiana could serve as a reminder for growers to watch for allowable pesticide residue levels when applying crop protection chemicals to mint.

At issue was a bud mite outbreak in a grower's mint crop last summer. After some research, the grower found that the Gowan product Magister, or fenazaquin, provides good control of that particular mite species and is registered in mint.

The problem, however, is that maximum residue level, or MRL, for fenazaquin on mint in Europe is 0.02 ppm. "That is the detectable limit. In other words, if any residue is found in the mint, it's out," said Steve Salisbury, research and regulator coordinator for the MIRC.

"The challenge is that many countries have established their own MRLs, and they can differ. And particularly challenging is if the MRL is missing in a country or the MRL they have established is lower than the U.S. MRL."

Matthew Lantz

The U.S. MRL for fenazaquin on mint, incidentally, is 10 ppm, a level not expected to cause concern if the mint is sold in the U.S. Given the highly restrictive MRL in Europe, however, it turns out that buyers are reluctant to have growers use Magister in mint.

Concern over MRLs in mint is by no means isolated to that incident, according to Salisbury. Growers and buyers should always be aware of MRLs when dealing with pesticides, he said, particularly given the lack of global harmonization of MRLs.

Matthew Lantz, senior vice president for global access at Bryant Christie Inc., who is speaking at the MIRC's Annual Meeting in January, said issues with MRLs are challenging in large part because of this lack of harmonization.

"The challenge is that many countries have established their own MRLs, and they can differ," he said. "And particularly challenging is if the MRL is missing in a country or the MRL they have established is lower than the U.S. MRL."

"You can have a case where you have done everything right, you've followed the label and you have no problem selling that product in the United States, but if you ship it to a foreign country and they don't have an MRL or it's more restrictive than in the U.S., you can have a violation," Lantz said.

Lantz added that the European Union is a particularly challenging market for MRLs. "They take a different approach to pesticides than essentially the rest of the world," he said. "They have what is called a hazard-based approach, where they look to see if a chemical is hazardous, where the rest of the world takes a risk-based approach. They look not only at the hazard, but also the exposure."



Matthew Lantz

"So what has happened is as a result of their methodology, the European Union has removed many pesticides from use in the market and has subsequently eliminated MRLs, as well," he said. "And as a result, there are many MRLs in Europe that are lower than the U.S. MRLs or Codex MRLs. So, that is why Europe is particularly challenging."

If a grower or grower group wishes to try and change a European MRL, Lantz said the best approach is to contact the registrant of the product in question, and see if the registrant would be willing to make an application for an import tolerance to the European Union.

It is also possible that the USDA could get involved in the effort.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture is working a lot on MRLs and trade," Lantz said, "and they have recently put funding together to help on MRL issues through a program called Assisting Specialty Crops Exports initiative, or ASCE."

As a part of that program, the USDA has been publishing Excel charts with information on different countries' MRLs, and mint is one of the products on that chart. "So, if people need to know what the MRLs are in a key market, they can go to the ASCE program and look up the MRL charts," he said.

Another option for growers wishing to gather information on MRLs is to go to www.Foodchainid.com, he said.

Lantz added that Gowan, makers of Magister, "is very engaged on MRLs. They know their products very well, and they'd be able to provide some feedback," he said. 🌱

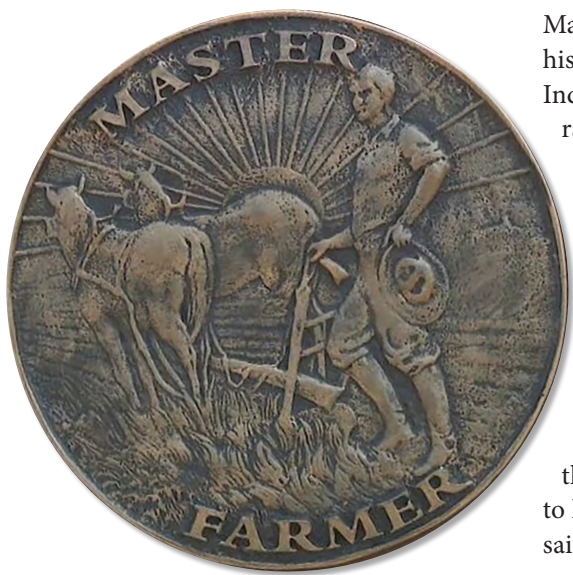
Matthys Honored with Indiana Master Farmer Award

Over the past forty years, Randy Matthys hasn't always been the grower representative for Indiana on the MIRC Board of Directors. But he has been the grower/state rep for the vast majority of those years, and he's pretty much always been at meetings.

"I've either been a rep or sitting close on the sidelines," he said.

In part because of his dedication to the mint industry, Matthys was named to the 2025 Indiana Master Farmer class. He joined four farmers and a Purdue University agricultural economics professor in receiving the award at a ceremony in West Lafayette in July.

From all accounts, Matthys is the first mint farmer among the more than 245 Indiana farmers and agribusiness professionals ever selected to a Master Farmer class in the recent history of the award. The award, which is co-sponsored by Indiana Prairie Farmer and the Purdue College of Agriculture, actually dates back almost a century, but was discontinued for many years before starting back up in 1968.



"One of the biggest reasons I think it is important to highlight the achievements of Master Farmers is that they are great examples for younger farmers," said Don Villwock, a Master Farmer from Knox County, Indiana. He added that Master Farmers go the extra mile.

Matthys said he was very honored to receive the award, and was surprised when he got the phone call informing him he had won.

"It's been exciting, very surprising and enjoyable," he said.

In a story honoring Matthys, Indiana Prairie Farmer commended him for being a voice for American mint growers and for sticking with the crop his entire career.

"His dedication to the crop and his operation is something that makes Matthys stand out as a Master Farmer," wrote Allison Lynch in a story announcing the award. "He held steadfast to mint while also staying on top of innovations for his corn and soybean operation. And through it all, Matthys has remained a voice for American mint growers."

Matthys is the fourth generation of his family to farm in Joseph County, Indiana, and the fourth generation to raise mint.

"All in all, for the family, it's always been a great crop to grow, and then we would look at the books at the end of the year and decide, 'Well, we better keep planting some,'" he said.

Matthys added that the family will probably keep growing mint well into the foreseeable future. "My son wants to keep with it, so we will keep going," he said.



Randy Matthys

While providing a voice for Indiana mint growers and mint growers everywhere, Matthys said his participation in the MIRC also benefits him individually by helping him stay abreast on the latest in mint research.

"And I don't know where else I can go and sit on a board and sit with Tracy Bariexca from Colgate-Palmolive or Tim Sullivan from Mars Wrigley and sit with dealers and growers from across the North American growing area," he said.

"We're all competitive," he said. "We are all competing against each other in one way, shape or form, but at the end of the day we are all working together for the betterment of the industry."

"I just always felt the MIRC was a good group to be a part of, and I've always enjoyed being with everybody," he said. 🌱

New Idaho Entomologist Prioritizing Mint

Marcelo Dimase, who joined the University of Idaho in August as an Assistant Professor of Entomology, Pesticide Extension Specialist and IR-4 Liaison, has included mint among three crops he is prioritizing.

Based at the Parma Research and Extension Center, near the bulk of Idaho's mint production, Dimase said he chose to prioritize mint along with onions and potatoes to address research needs prominent in Western Idaho and to complement the work of fellow Parma-based entomologist Armando Falcon-Brindis, who is working primarily on alfalfa, potatoes beans and hops.

"This is something nice about the University of Idaho," he said. "We have freedom to pick which crops we want to work with."

Also, Dimase said he narrowed his crop focus because he would rather conduct meaningful research on a few crops than spread himself thin. And because he has only a 25 percent research appointment (to go along with a 70 percent Extension appointment), he doesn't believe he can dedicate adequate resources to multiple crops.

Further, Dimase said he has developed a good working relationship with Idaho mint growers in the short time he's been at the university and had a productive meeting with MIRC's Research and Regulator Coordinator Steve Salisbury at the IR-4's Food Use Workshop, a national meeting put on each September by the IR-4 Project, in which the project prioritizes research projects for the upcoming year.

"I also obtained my first grant from the Idaho Mint Commission, so mint has a special spot for me," Dimase said. "These kinds of things are important when you are new in an area. It's always good to work with people that trust in you

and believe in your ideas and your past experiences."

Dimase hails most recently from Cornell University, where he worked with renowned entomologist Brian Nault for 15 months. He received his doctorate in entomology from the University of Florida in 2024 and his master's in entomology from Louisiana State University in 2020. He is originally from Brazil.

He chose the University of Idaho over Texas A&M, which also offered him a professorship, because he said he liked the people and the setting in Idaho. "It felt like home. The people are very nice, and the University of Idaho is a university that I respect. There are a lot of distinguished researchers in the (entomology) department, and I felt this was my best option."

In addition to his appointment as Extension Entomology Specialist, Dimase is the pesticide safety and education coordinator for the university. In that position, he oversees the pre-license and recertification programs for pesticide safety and education, helping applicators obtain and retain licenses.

As IR-4 Liaison, Dimase oversees a team of researchers that conduct efficacy and residue trials for the national project, which supports registration of pesticides for minor crops.

His first two projects in mint involve researching the biology and control of the mint stem borer, a problem localized to Idaho mint production but one that can be a significant issue in the area.

The stem borer damages mint plants in the larval stage by burrowing tunnels in stems. "They can completely destroy the plant by blocking the distribution of nutrients through the vascular system of the plant," he said. "So, they are very problematic."

Growers in the area have reported losses of between 15 to 30 percent in fields where the mint stem borer is present, he said.

Dimase is the lead investigator in a project looking at the biology and management of the stem borer.

"Right now, we don't have enough information about the pest's biology," he said. "We don't know how many instars it has. We don't know how many generations it has per year. So there is a lot of information to develop from the biology."

In the second project, in which he is serving as a collaborator with Falcon-Brindis, the research is focused on understanding the ecology of the pest in hopes of finding clues for alternative pest management.

Currently, no pesticides are registered for mint stem borer.

"Because mint is a perennial crop, it typically remains in the same field for three to four years or longer, which allows stem borer populations to build up over time," he said.

Crop rotation can reduce infestations, he said, but some growers, especially small farmers, don't have that option. "They don't have large enough areas to do a meaningful rotation, because you have to go to a field at least a mile or a couple of miles away."

Dimase said researchers aren't sure why the mint stem borer is so localized: One theory is weeds common in the area, such as goldenrod or kochia, are hosts. 🌱



Marcelo Dimase

MIRC Chooses Multifaceted Firm as New Administrator

The Mint Industry Research Council (MIRC) has selected BCI Management, LLC (BCIM) as its new administrator. BCIM is a new entity formed by Bryant Christie Inc. (BCI), a leading international trade policy, marketing, and research consulting firm that specializes in working with clients in the agricultural, food, and beverage sectors.

BCIM offers a team of experienced professionals, led by Oregon commodity commission veteran Michelle Palacios, who will serve along with Shawn Anderson as administrator of the MIRC. Anderson previously served with Bryan Ostlund as administrator of the MIRC. Ostlund and his wife, Lisa, have retired.



Michelle Palacios

“We were thrilled to be selected to administer the Mint Industry Research Council. We have big shoes to fill following Bryan and Lisa, but we are looking forward to the challenge.”

Eric Rosenberg,
Bryant Christie Inc.

In addition to the MIRC, BCIM is serving as the administrator of several Oregon commodity commissions, including the Oregon Mint Commission, as well as three other agricultural associations formerly managed by the Ostlund's firm Pioneer National Advertising.

The transition began on September 1, and the Ostlunds are continuing to provide guidance as needed for the next year. “We will still be in the background and still helping as needed,” Bryan Ostlund said.

The MIRC selected BCIM over multiple applicants after what principals described as “a very competitive process.”

“We were thrilled to be selected to administer the Mint Industry Research Council,” said BCIM’s President Eric Rosenberg. “We have big shoes to fill following Bryan and Lisa, but we are looking forward to the challenge.”

As Palacios works alongside the Ostlunds to take over their administrative duties for the MIRC, she will continue to serve as administrator of the Oregon Hop Commission, a commission she joined out of college and worked with for more than 20 years.

“I’m excited for the chance to support a diverse group of commodities and help them succeed,” Palacios said. “This opportunity with BCIM and these agricultural commissions and organizations, especially the MIRC, is particularly meaningful to me. With this team, especially with the strength of BCI’s experience and resources, I believe we can accomplish a great deal together.”

Palacios attended Oregon State University and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in speech communications from Portland State University.

In addition to bringing on Palacios, BCIM has retained key staff of Pioneer National Advertising. “We think it

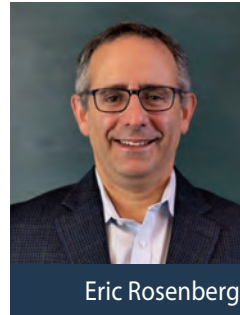
is important to provide some degree of continuity to these commissions,” Rosenberg said. “Bryan and Lisa have done an outstanding job. We intend to maintain that level of service and earn the trust of these organizations.”

A consideration for the MIRC in its selection of BCIM is that the firm will be able to draw on the experience and services of BCI. Founded in 1992, BCI helps companies and industry organizations in the agriculture, food and beverage sectors to open, access, and develop markets around the world.

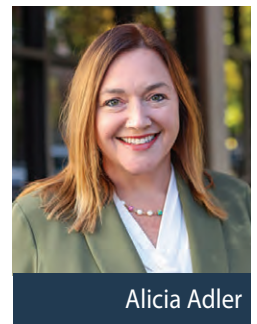
BCI’s Global Access team opens new markets and works to eliminate barriers to trade, including tariffs, phytosanitary, and other technical issues. The Market Development team helps organizations implement global marketing strategies and offers grant management services to support their programs. BCI’s Research and Information Services team provides market intelligence, data analysis, and customized research tailored to an industry’s needs. The team also monitors the latest developments on food labeling, packaging, sustainability, and other trade and shipping requirements, delivered in a weekly report called the BCI Monitor.

Alicia Adler, BCIM Vice President looks forward to working with the North American mint industry. “The North American mint industry is a

major player in the global flavor and fragrance markets,” Adler said. “With that comes opportunity, but also new and ongoing challenges. Our team looks forward to finding solutions to those challenges moving forward.” 🌿



Eric Rosenberg



Alicia Adler

Chair's Report

A.J. Todd, Chairman of the Board

I'd like to start this, my second column as Chair of the MIRC, with a warm welcome to our new administrator, BCI Management. We're excited to have this new entity of Bryant Christie Inc. on board as we head into our second fifty years of existence. Between Bryant Christie Inc. and BCIM, they bring a wealth of resources to our organization that offer us exciting benefits.

In addition to member services and engagement, BCIM offers program management, bookkeeping and financial management, meeting and event planning, public and government outreach and grant writing/grant management. This full scope of services should benefit us greatly. So, Welcome Aboard BCI Management and Michelle Palacios, who in her role as the company's director of association management, will be serving as

administrator of the MIRC alongside Shawn Anderson, who is staying on in that role.

Speaking of Shawn, we are thrilled that she, as well as Jeff Booth and other key members of our former administrator, Bryan Ostlund's group, are continuing to work with our organization.

We look forward to seeing several key members of our new administrative team at our annual meeting, January 21 and 22 in Tucson.

Speaking of the annual meeting, the agenda is packed this year with great presentations. I'm looking forward to getting updates on several of the research projects we are currently funding, as well as hearing special reports on the MAHA Movement and Agriculture and the U.S. ag economy, as well as hearing an update on mint marketing and consumer trends.

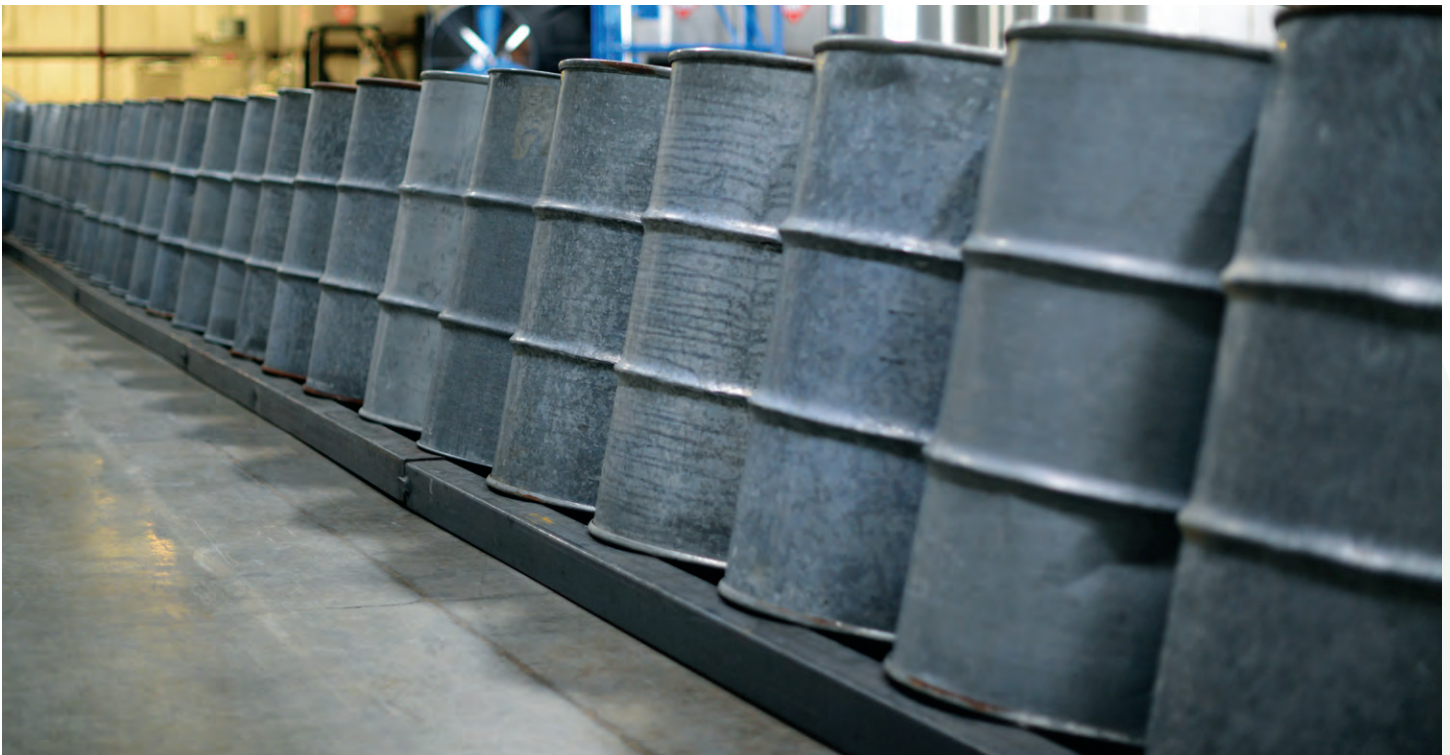
We also will be welcoming Matt Lantz and Alinne Oliveira of Bryant Christie Inc. for a presentation on Gaining Global Market Access at the annual meeting.



A.J. Todd

I hope all of you can make it to the meeting, where the MIRC will be celebrating 50 years of existence. In addition to the presentations and social events, I'm guessing the weather in Tucson in January should be better than wherever you are coming from.

Hope to see you all there. 🌱



Annual Meeting Agenda Packed with Substantive Presentations

Sessions on the U.S. agriculture economy and mint marketing, as well as looks at efforts to control weeds, spider mites and diseases highlight presentations at the 2026 MIRC Annual Meeting, January 21-22 in Tucson, Arizona.

After welcoming remarks from MIRC Research and Regulatory Coordinator Steve Salisbury, James Mintert, an emeritus professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University and former director of the Center for Commercial Agriculture, will provide a presentation on the “U.S. Ag Economy and What Growers are Telling Us.”

Mintert is one of the principal investigators for the Purdue University-CME Group Ag Economy Barometer, a nationwide monthly sentiment survey of U.S. farmers. While at both Purdue and Kansas State University, where he spent twenty-three years as a professor and Extension state leader in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Mintert taught classes on commodity risk management. And he has conducted risk-management workshops for producers throughout the nation.

Mintert holds a bachelor's and master's degree in agricultural economics from Purdue and a doctorate from the University of Missouri. He acquired his interest in agriculture while working on his family farm in the Mississippi and Missouri River bottoms just north of St. Louis, Missouri.

Following Mintert's presentation, UC Davis geneticist Isabelle Henry will update meeting participants on progress being made in mint varietal development. Henry, a project scientist

at the UC Davis Genome Center, and her team are taking two approaches to advancing breeding lines with desirable traits, including using seeds from fertile Black Mitcham plants to produce new plants and crossing the Black Mitcham plants with a spearmint clone that confers *Verticillium* wilt resistance.

Researchers are analyzing the plants in field trials being conducted at the University of California's Intermountain Research and Extension Center in Tulelake, California. And Henry and her team have sent breeding material from the crosses to Oregon State University plant pathologist Jeremiah Dung, who is further testing the plants for *Verticillium* wilt resistance in greenhouses.

Dung, who is based at the Central Oregon Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Madras, is also presenting at the meeting. Dung will talk on both the *Verticillium* wilt resistance trials he is conducting with Henry's project and on research he is conducting into using crop rotation for help with disease management in mint.

Continuing on the theme of pest control, Washington State University weed scientist Rui Liu will be presenting on her research into weed control in mint. Liu also will talk on optimizing nitrogen fertilization in spearmint, where she is looking at different timings and rates. And Doug Walsh, a professor and Extension specialist in the Department of Entomology at Washington State University, will present on “Managing Spider Mite Populations in Mint.” Walsh is known internationally for his research on the modes of action and resistance mechanisms of acaricides on

spider mites. He has been at WSU since 1998.

Cindy Smith, Agriculture Relations Director for Gowan USA, will provide a highlight on Day 2 of the meeting. Smith, who works to ensure that U.S. government policy supports U.S. agriculture by providing safe, affordable and effective crop inputs to U.S. growers, will talk on “The MAHA Movement and Agriculture.”

Smith works with regulatory authorities at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation as well as other influencers and decision makers on a national level to ensure regulatory policy is science based, follows established law and considers the impacts to agriculture.

Smith, who has worked in agriculture for thirty years in a variety of regulatory and commercial roles, has been appointed to several Federal Advisory Committees over her career and is intimately involved in CropLife America, currently serving as the chair of the organization's Strategic Oversight Council.

The annual meeting will also feature a presentation on “Gaining Global Market Access” by Matt Lantz and Alinne Oliveria of Bryant Christie Inc., a global access, research and marketing firm that focuses on the agriculture, food and beverage sectors. BCI Management, which now serves as the administrator of the MIRC, is an entity of Bryant Christie Inc.

Jonathan Akins from Tessengerlo Kerley, Inc. will present on “Trends and Priorities in Agriculture.” Based in Phoenix, Arizona, Tessengerlo Kerley is a leading producer of liquid fertilizers

and an established leader in the production and marketing of crop nutrition and crop protection products.

Jennifer Moore, a soil scientist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Corvallis, Oregon, will provide a presentation on the “Carbon Dynamics of Mint Production.”

Jerry Baron from the IR-4 Project, will present on “Pesticide Research and Regulatory Challenges.” And Candace White from Colgate-Palmolive will provide participants “A Mint Marketing and Consumer Trends Update.”

Presentations will also include a Council Update from MIRC Board Chairman A.J. Todd and a Research and Regulatory Report from Salisbury.

The annual meeting will take place at Casino Del Sol, 5655 W. Valencia Road in Tucson. Hotel reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 1-855-765-7829. A group rate will be available for MIRC members until December 30. 🌱

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Make plans now for a 2026 getaway to Tucson and attend the 47th Annual Meeting of the Mint Industry Research Council where all segments of the mint industry gather.

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 21-22, 2026, in Tucson, Arizona. The meeting will feature two days of special guest speakers from around the country, in addition to industry research reports and updates. The meeting comes to a close with a Thursday evening industry reception.

Hotel

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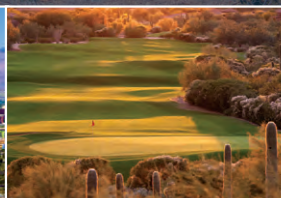
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Room rates start at \$189 single/double occupancy, + tax

The group rate will be available until December 30, 2025.



Research & Regulatory Update

Steve Salisbury

In the last newsletter we mentioned that the MIRC has supported a collaborative effort between Drs. Isabelle Henry and Jeremiah Dung to continue advancing the genomics work on peppermint. This was a strategic move by our Scientific Affairs Committee to position these two programs to maximize the efforts towards an improved cultivar of mint. This past summer, Greg Biza, who is our interim SAC chair, with RCB International, and I made a couple of road trips to visit both Dr. Henry in Tulelake, CA and Dr. Dung in Madras, OR to see their work in person.

The Dung lab is located at Oregon State University's Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center just outside of Madras. It's not a big facility, but Jeremiah's program is well established, and he manages a tight shop that works with great efficiency. We got the opportunity to tour his lab, greenhouse and fields on-site. It was very nice to see the instrumentation and equipment that we hear so much about in his presentation and research reports. Additionally,

his greenhouse was full of mint plants that he had received from Dr. Henry's program. Those plants were being cared for with great detail and looked very healthy.

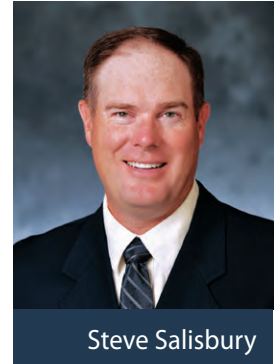
The Dung lab received several progeny plants that consisted of both first and second generation hybrids as well as doubled Black Mitcham plants that were all developed by Dr. Henry's MIRC genomics project. These plants were inoculated with *Verticillium* and evaluated for *Verticillium* wilt resistance and compared to both commercial Black Mitcham and Native spearmint. The preliminary data show progress and promise towards the development of improved *Verticillium* wilt resistance in peppermint. We will be anxiously awaiting his reports this winter at the annual meeting.

The Dung lab is also researching and developing new techniques to potentially screen mint progeny for wilt resistance. Currently, this process of screening takes a substantial amount of time and resources. The research here is looking

at techniques and technology that could lead to much quicker but still reliable methods of screening genetic materials for resistance.

As with most anything, speed with accuracy is always a good thing and we hope that the Dung lab is able to accomplish this goal.

Greg and I were joined by MIRC Board member and mint grower Mike McKoen when we met Dr. Henry at the University of California Intermountain Research and Extension Center in Tulelake, California to see the field trial portion of the genomics research. We really appreciate Mike joining us during this visit. It was very exciting to see the plots of hybrids, selfed doubled Black Mitcham and doubled Black Mitcham progeny in the field. The amount of diversity observed between the progeny



Steve Salisbury



Jeremiah Dung and Greg Biza in greenhouse in Madras, Oregon.



Jeremiah Dung in the Dung lab.

growing was quite remarkable. Of course, diversity is a good thing when working on genetics and trying to improve a cultivar. In other words, lots of various genetics to work with when making selections. The field trials are extremely useful in determining basic agronomic characteristics of each of the progeny. For example, a mint that only gets a few inches tall and produces small leaves is not going to be ideal for commercial production. As compared to larger robust mint plants with big leaves and stands tall shows more promise.

The other advantage of field plots is being able measure potential yield and oil properties. both of which are key to improving peppermint in this program. The third leg is of course the wilt resistance piece. While we were there, Dr. Henry had Greg provide feedback on the organoleptics of the progeny in the plots. This engagement by the MIRC is a key piece in supporting this work in ways that ensures progress in the right directions. Overall, just as there is diversity observed in agronomic characteristics, there was plenty of diversity in the organoleptic properties as well. Again, this diversity is a good thing in a program like this.

In summary, these site visits were beneficial for both the MIRC and for our scientists that are working diligently to advance our cultivars. Both Drs. Henry and Dung are doing very good work, and we look forward to hearing their collective reports at the annual meeting in January.

On the pesticide front, I am pleased to report that we were able to get a 2ee supplemental label for Magister for mint bud mite control in the Midwest. I know that bud mites in the Midwest production areas can be and have been a perennial problem. There are not many options available for growers that are effective on bud mites. Bud mites are not spider mites. In fact, they are completely different species of mite. Therefore,



Greg Biza and Dr. Isabelle Henry at the University of California Intermountain Research and Extension Center in Tulelake, California



Mint field trial at the University of California Intermountain Research and Extension Center in Tulelake, California

acaracides that work on spider mites may not be effective on bud mites.

A big thank you to Indiana grower Gerrett Dobson in the Rensselaer area for conducting a field experiment this past summer. His efforts along with Gowan Company's support led to the development of results that consequently resulted in a Magister 2ee supplemental label for mint that includes mint bud mite. Another great example of our

industry collaborating on issues and efforts to achieve useful things like labels for crop protection.

I look forward to seeing you at the MIRC annual meeting in Tucson, AZ in January. I feel that we have a great program agenda put together for our members, and it will be a great opportunity to see everyone in our industry again. I hope you all can make it. 🌿



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