

WA

Mint Drops

Summer - 2017

A PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON MINT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Upcoming Events

December 5, 2017: Washington Mint Growers Association Winter Conference. Yakima Convention Center, Yakima, WA. For more information please call the Washington Mint Growers Association at (509) 585-5460.

December 7, 2017: Idaho Mint Convention. For more information please call the Idaho Mint Growers Association at (208) 888-0988

January 11-12, 2018: Oregon Mint Convention. The Salishan Lodge, Salishan, OR. For more information please call the Oregon Mint Growers Association at (503) 364-2944

January 24-25, 2018: Annual Mint Industry Research Council Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana For more information please call the MIRC business office at (503) 371-5936

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Tuesday, December 5, 2017
NEW LOCATION:
Yakima Convention Center

Mark your Calendars for the 2017 Washington Mint Convention!

We look forward to building on the success of last year and we are working hard to continue bringing a first-rate program filled with topics relevant to the mint industry, research reports and financial updates. Please note that we will be holding the 2017 Mint Convention at the Yakima Convention Center.

This years program will include research reports from our researchers, policy updates, fuel outlook, weather forecast, an update from the MIRC and the Buyers report.



The Mint Growers Association will award the 2017 Grower of the Year, Fried of the Industry and the Lifetime Achievement awards.

Come, hear the presentations, network with other members of the mint industry and enter to win one of the coveted Mint Baskets.

We hope to see you all at the 2017 WA Mint Convention.



In Memory of

Recently the Mint Industry lost three of its longtime stalwarts. Al Thalheimer, Jack Labbee and Junior Newhouse were leaders and innovators in the mint industry. The contributions made by these three individuals will be valued by mint growers in Washington State and beyond for years to come.

Al Thalheimer

Al Thalheimer, age 83, died peacefully at home March 24, 2017. A lifelong farmer in the Toppenish area, he was active in the development of the Mint Marketing Order. In December, 2016, he received the Lifelong Achievement Award from the Washington Mint Growers Association.

Al was very involved in the community and volunteered for projects with both the Toppenish Chamber of Commerce and the Toppenish Rodeo Association.

Al loved flying planes, taking numerous trips both near and far. He was an active member of the Washington Pilots Association and the Yakima Aero Club.



Jack Vernon Labbee



In 1947, neighbor Gerrit Schilperoort got Jack involved with a crop new to the Yakima Valley - peppermint. Thus began a 70 year career in the mint business. After 15 years of growing peppermint Jack wanted to increase his mint production significantly but had limited acreage in Harrah. While maintaining the home farm, he ventured 100 miles Northeast to Othello, WA where there was unlimited new land available for peppermint production. After the large farm experience in the Columbia Basin in the 1960's, he changed his focus from farming to marketing mint oils and formed a new company, Labbeemint, Inc. in Harrah.

Now, after 50 years, through the efforts of family and employees, Labbeemint has become a major supplier of mint oils throughout the world. Jack enjoyed the opportunity to make many new friends in his business travels around the world. Jack was a farmer at heart and maintained his enjoyment of farming and the mint business throughout his retirement years. He so enjoyed seeing the business grow over the years and never met a building project (either his own or others') he didn't love!

Marinus "Junior" Newhouse

Junior grew up in Oregon City, his family owned the Newhouse chicken hatchery in Oregon City. Junior worked in the hatchery with his father up until the late 1940's when they sold and moved to Terrebonne Oregon. Junior's true passion was spending his spare time working in the barn designing and building things to make people's lives easier. He made several inventions that were targeted toward this but his true calling came in designing and building farm equipment for the local farming communities.

Over the following decades Junior continued to design and build various equipment for the farming community, as the local farming changed, so did Newhouse, over the years Junior built many pieces of equipment for different areas of farming including the Hay, Potato, Mint, Garlic, Cattle, Onion and Essential Oils industries. He is particularly known for his contributions to the Mint industry.



WA Mint Commission 2017 Field Day



The WA Mint Commission held its annual Mint Field Day on June 6, 2017 at the Washington State University Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center. There were over 50 mint industry members in attendance to hear research reports and tour Dr. Boydston's field trials, and Dr. Walsh's Hop lab to get a first hand look of the mite research. Below are a list of the research reports that were given at the field day. Links to the mid-term research reports can be found at: www.wamintgrowers.org/newsletter.html

Research Reports

Quantifying Acaricide Resistance in Spider Mite Populations Infesting Peppermint

Adekunle Adesanya, Laura Lavine, Fang Zhu, Dr. Doug Walsh

Management of Verticillium Wilt in Mint

Dr. Dennis Johnson, David Wheeler

2017 Field Day - Weed Research in Mint

2017 Native Spearmint Herbicide Trial Map

Dr. Rick Boydston, Ray Baker

Mint Varietal Improvement Project

Dr. Markus Lange

A Special Thank You to the Sponsors of the 2017 Mint Field Day Sponsors

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