

**MANAGEMENT OF EUROPEAN ASPARAGUS APHID IN ASPARAGUS**

Alan Schreiber

Agriculture Development Group, Inc.

2621 Ringold Road

Eltopia, WA 99330

(509) 266 4348

[aschreib@centurytel.net](mailto:aschreib@centurytel.net)

There exists less than 200 acres of organic asparagus in Washington. Demand exists for ten times the amount this area produces. The two limiting factors to producing organic asparagus are weed control and control of European asparagus aphid. Weed control is more of an expense than an unknown challenge. European asparagus aphid is production ending pest without a highly effective means of control. Organic growers have no means to control this pest, hence the lack of production.

Based on three year's work, we believe a means to control this pest has been developed. The control requires intensive scouting for early detection of the pest. Applications made at frequent intervals (7 days) for the duration of time the aphid is detected at any level. We assume an action threshold of 1 aphid per plant. The applications must be a tank mix of Pyganic with an azadiractin product.

Historically, growers successfully relied on Di-Syston for control of European asparagus aphid. Recognizing that this product would not be available in the future, growers supported the development of alternative product, Warrior (lambda cyhalothrin). This product is currently being used via the Section 18 process. In 2012, growers expressed dissatisfaction with use of the product when applied via chemigation and requested development of additional aphid materials.

Results of 2012 research on organic and conventional control of European asparagus aphid will be discussed. Implications for future management of aphids in asparagus will be reviewed.