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### **Protect Fruit Trees from Frost This Weekend: Zamzows Brings in Trial Product**

BOISE (April 19, 2008) -- With temperatures expected to drop well below freezing through Tuesday, Zamzows, a well-known local nursery, has brought in limited quantities of a trial product for preventing frost damage to fruit trees and flowers.

Frost protection appears to be a secondary benefit of CCF, or concentrated compost formula, which was introduced last fall to spur plant growth, said Jos Zamzow, vice president of Zamzows' sister company TerraLife, Inc., which distributes the product.

"All 10 Zamzows location received eight bottles of CCF," Zamzow said.

Zamzows and TerraLife already are spraying the test orchard they share near Emmett, Zamzow said. "We are no different from everyone else in the valley with fruit trees. We're trying everything we can to save our fruit," he added.

When CCF is applied to the trunks of fruit trees at dilutions of eight drops to a gallon, preliminary indications are that it will protect them for up to 45 minutes at 25 degrees.

"A few degrees of protection can be the difference between losing and saving this year's crop," Zamzow said. "We think the frost protection comes because CCF causes the plants to create sugars, and the glucose acts like antifreeze in the cell tissues.

"We hadn't planned to conduct large-scale tests on frost protection now, but we have no choice with the unseasonably cold temperatures," he said. "We hope that people who try CCF at home will give us feedback," he said.

Zamzow cautioned that additional steps may be necessary to protect trees against several hours of temperatures in the low 20s. These include applying a trickle of running water to the ground at the base of the tree, covering small trees with a tarp or even a sheet, and spraying water over the tops of trees in the coldest hours just before dawn.

Another alternative is hanging 100-watt electric light bulbs below the foliage, making certain that they are not so close that they burn the tree. It obviously is unsafe, he stressed, to use water and light bulbs simultaneously.

“Our initial interest in CCF was not for its frost protection properties, but for its ability to increase yield,” Zamzow said. In last year’s trials CCF produced roses the diameter of dinner plates, tomato plants that towered overhead and shoulder-high bell peppers.

CCF is not, however, a fertilizer. “It simply sends a message to plants to grow,” Zamzow explained. “As soon as you apply CCF, it’s essential to provide the plant with adequate nutrition.”

CCF is derived from an edible mushroom grown for three years on a sterile mixture of pineapple and papaya puree, sugarcane molasses and water.

The Hawaiian Organic Farmers Association has approved the ingredients in CCF, and worldwide patents are pending.

“CCF is one of those once in a lifetime discoveries,” said Wesley Chun, a former University of Idaho academic researcher and consultant to TerraLife. “One of my colleagues, Mr. Bryan Hiromoto, found the substance and has been studying it for the past three years.”

Chun, who holds a Ph.D. in plant bacteriology from the University of California, Riverside, has been senior editor for Plant Disease, Phytopathology and APS Press, the publishing arm of the American Phytopathological Society, and a member of numerous research review panels for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“The effect is remarkable, and can range from increased plant growth to increased production of seed, flowers and fruit,” Chun added. “The way CCF works, particularly at extremely low concentrations, is a fascinating biological puzzle that we are near resolving through our research efforts.”

Tests indicating CCF’s effectiveness in spurring growth have been conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington State University, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center, University of Hawaii, Oregon State University, Pennsylvania State University and several commercial growers.

Development of Dr. JimZ Secret Formula products, distributed by TerraLife, Inc., began four generations ago when the Zamzow family opened a feed mill near Boise and became interested in organic gardening principles. Today Zamzows operates 10 nurseries in the Boise area, with stores in Boise, Eagle, Kuna, Meridian and Nampa.

Additional information is available from Zamzows store managers or by calling (866) 855-9552 on weekdays. A video on applying CCF is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLCNZjQviwU> on YouTube.com.

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