



# OCIA Research and Education

## Organic Crop Improvement Association

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## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### OCIA Research and Education 2021 Scholarship Recipient

LINCOLN, NE: Kirsten Bevandick, a graduate student from the University of British Columbia – Okanagan, was the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship awarded by the Organic Crop Improvement Association Research and Education.

Kirsten will use the scholarship towards a project entitled, *Effects of Post-Harvest Deficit Irrigation on Sweet Cherry in Five Okanagan Orchards*. Due to an inconsistent water supply in Okanagan, her research aims to answer three main questions.

1. What are the effects of reducing irrigation after harvest, or Post Harvest Deficit Irrigation (PDI), on cherry fruit quality and yield in the season after the deficit irrigation is imposed? Do the results stay the same, even after six weeks of cold storage?
2. How will PDI affect the amount of water stress the cherry tree is under? How much CO<sub>2</sub> is released from the soil? And, how much carbon do the trees fix?
3. What are the costs and benefits to society of PDI in Okanagan cherry orchards?

Kirsten received recognition during the Organic Crop Improvement Association's (OCIA) Annual General Membership Meeting, which was virtual this year, and her research results of this 2-year project will be posted on OCIA's website and featured in the quarterly *Communicator*. If you are a graduate student conducting research on certified organic land, or research that will benefit organic farmers, please find our full scholarship application online at [www.ocia.org](http://www.ocia.org) and submit for consideration by January, 31<sup>st</sup>.

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*OCIA Research and Education is a charitable organization, created in 2003, by certified organic members of OCIA International, a global leader in organic certification. OCIA R&E's mission is to support organic research; facilitate connections between farmers, researchers, consumers and decision-makers; and educate producers and communities regarding organic farming and foods.*

**OCIA: The Worldwide Standard for Certified Organic Excellence**