Orchard Notes

Sutter/Yuba Counties Cooperative Extension
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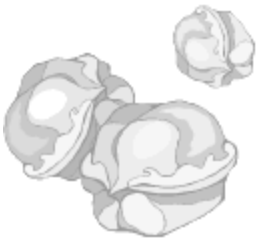
February 2005 newsletter



SUTTER/YUBA/COLUSA WALNUT DAY
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2005
1:00 to 4:15 P.M.
VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL, 1425 CIRCLE DRIVE, YUBA CITY, CA

12:30 p.m. Registration

PROGRAM

Welcome & Moderator: Janine Hasey

MARKETING UPDATE

1:00 Annual Report 2005, Walnut Marketing Board and California Walnut Commission, *Dennis Balint, CEO, California Walnut Commission*

POLLINATION ISSUES

1:30 New Research in Walnut Pollination, *Vito Polito, Department of Pomology, UC Davis*

2:00 The Effect of Retain in Reducing Pistillate Flower Abortion in Serr Walnut *Bob Beede, UC Farm Advisor, Kings County*

2:30 Regulatory Update/Herbicide Drift Issues*, Jan Kendel, Sutter County Agriculture Department*

2:45 BREAK – COURTESY OF HELENA CHEMICAL

Moderator: John Edstrom, UC Farm Advisor, Colusa County

PEST MANAGEMENT

3:00 Recent Advances in Walnut Huskfly Control with Reduced Risk Insecticides and Navel Orangeworm Management, *Bob Van Steenwyk, Entomology Specialist, UC Berkeley*

3:45 Walnut Scale and Other Pest Updates, *Janine Hasey, UC Farm Advisor, Sutter & Yuba Counties*

4:00 International Walnut Meeting Highlights, *Janine Hasey, UC Farm Advisor, Sutter & Yuba*

4:15 Adjourn

SPONSORED BY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, SUTTER/YUBA/COLUSA COUNTIES
CO-SPONSOR – SUTTER COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT
PCA AND PRIVATE APPLICATOR CREDIT – 1.25 HOURS PENDING INCLUDING LAWS
CCA CREDIT – 2 UNITS

Supervisory Skills Workshop (*in English*)

Increase your farm manager's people-handling skills. On Friday, March 11, 2005, agricultural supervisors, foremen, crew bosses and others can attend a training program, "Agricultural Supervision & Management." Topics to be covered include interpersonal relations on the job, employee discipline, employee counseling techniques, listening skills, and conflict management. Our workshop, conducted in English, provides supervisory staff a chance to actively participate through role-playing examples, case studies, and lecture discussions.

The meeting will take place at the UC Cooperative Extension office, 70 Cottonwood Street, **Woodland**,CA 95695 in Norton Hall. The full-day seminar is scheduled from **10 AM to 4:00 PM on Friday, March 11, 2005**. Participants should check in by 9:30 AM.

The trainer is Gregorio Encina Billikopf, UC labor management farm advisor from Stanislaus County.

Fee for the meeting is $20 per participant to cover lunch and an English-language version of Gregorio Billikopf's book, *Labor Management in Agriculture: Cultivating Personnel Productivity*. If registering after March 1 (postmarked with payment enclosed), fee will be $30. To register, mail the form below. For additional information, telephone our office manager, Teressa McClellan, at (530) 666-8143 or e-mail tlmcclellan@ucdavis.edu

✂----------cut and mail----------✂

Agricultural Supervision & Management Workshop in English (Fri, March 11, 2005)

Name _____ ☎ ( ) _____

Business / Employer _____

Address _____

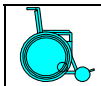
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is a check payable to *UC Regents* for $_____.

[ ] postmarked by March 1 ($20/person)
[ ] postmarked after March 1 or later ($30/person)

Sorry, **no** refunds for cancellations, but substitution of participants may be made. Reservations will be limited to 80. Lunch will be included.

✉ Mail to: UC Coop Extension, 70 Cottonwood Street, Woodland, CA 95695 or FAX to: (530) 666-8736



- Wheelchair accessible facility. With advance request, efforts will be made to provide accommodations for persons with disabilities.
- *Instalaciones accesibles a las sillas de rued. Con notificación previa, se harán esfuerzos para proveer acomodaciones para personas con incapacidades.*

UC Cooperative Extension Office, Yolo County, 70 Cottonwood Street (northwest side of town)
530 666-8143

Driving Directions

From Sacramento Valley take I-5 North to Woodland. Take the West St. exit. Turn left on to West St. and go back over the freeway. Turn right on to Kentucky Ave. Turn left on to N. Cottonwood St. The UCCE building is on the right-hand side of the street. As you face the building, the door to UCCE is on the left side.

CHILLING HOURS UPDATE

February 1, 2005	910	2004-05	?
February 2, 2004	713	2003-04	886
January 31, 2003	569	2002-03	779

Chilling hours recorded at our office in Yuba City on Garden Highway. For hours below 45° F model. The chilling units for the same model on 1/31/05 at the Nicolaus Cimis station were 891.

SCALE CONTROL IN KIWIFRUIT

Three armored scales, greedy scale (*Hemiberlesia rapax*), oleander scale (*Aspidiotus nerii*) and latania scale (*Hemiberlesia lataniae*), are widely distributed in California. These scales attack bark, leaves and fruit on kiwifruit. Plant vigor may be affected in heavy infestations that can also result in scales being present on fruit at harvest. Fruit infested with scale are culls thereby increasing offgrade. Scale infested fruit also causes premature softening in cold storage.

Since the late 1980s, Supracide and Volck Supreme Spray oil have been registered as controls for scale on kiwifruit. Unless populations are high, most growers are able to control scale with annual applications of Volck Supreme Spray oil. We have not seen many scale problems over the last decade because these materials have been effective and growers have paid attention to spraying for it. For organic growers, oil is the only material which is available for scale control and only works in low to moderate populations. It is very important that scale not be allowed to multiply to high populations in these vineyards. Up until the 2004 season, Volck Supreme Spray oil was allowed for organic use until it lost its status for that purpose. An emergency 24(c) for the organically acceptable Omni Supreme Spray oil for scale control in kiwifruit was approved on February 11, 2004 and is still in effect for 2005

Although Supracide has been an excellent scale control material and used where scale populations are high, it is an organophosphate and requires a permit to use. An effective reduced-risk alternative is needed for two reasons: 1) Supracide could be lost due to the Food Quality Protection Act and 2) Many kiwifruit vineyards are near urbanized areas making it difficult to use this material. Also, there are reports in the Sacramento Valley of Supracide not controlling scale, at least in high populations, as well as in the past. Additionally, organic kiwifruit growers have no registered organically acceptable oil for scale control. For these reasons, I conducted a scale control study in 2004 funded by the California Kiwifruit Commission. The reduced-risk insect growth regulator Pyriproxyfen (Seize 35 W) and two organically acceptable oils, JMS Stylet-Oil and Omni Supreme Spray oil at 4 or 6 gallons per acre, were compared to an untreated control in a very high population vineyard.

Oleander scale was identified on fruit samples. There were no significant differences in average percent bud break between the treatments suggesting that the spray treatments had no phytotoxicity effects when compared to unsprayed vines. All treated vines had significantly lower percent infested fruit than did the untreated control (69.5 percent infested fruit with one scale or more). JMS Stylet-Oil at the 6 gallon per acre rate (21 percent infested fruit) gave significantly better control than the other treatments. Another way to look at efficacy is to compare percent control of fruit infestation for the treatments to the unsprayed vines. The 6 gallon rate of JMS Stylet-oil cut scale infested fruit by 70 percent and the Pyriproxyfen plus 1 gallon Volck Supreme Spray oil by 46 percent when compared to fruit from untreated vines. None of the tested materials are registered for use on kiwifruit for 2005. Organic growers can use Omni Supreme Spray oil under the emergency 24(c) as mentioned above. Conventional growers can continue to use Supracide where scale populations are high and Volck Supreme Spray oil where populations are low to moderate. In vineyards where Supracide does not seem to be performing as well as in the past, perhaps consider using Volck Supreme Spray oil at the 6 gallon per acre rate. Treatments should be applied prior to bud break.

You can receive a copy of the report by contacting the California Kiwifruit Commission or me after mid-February. There will be additional studies on Pyriproxyfen this season conducted by the manufacturer.

POWDERY MILDEW CONTROL IN PEACH

Powdery mildew is a fungal disease that affects foliage and fruit on peaches. It can be quite severe in certain orchards and in years when environmental conditions favor disease development – cool, damp nights and warm days. It usually starts as a netlike white growth on new shoots or as whitish patches on green fruit. The fungal spores turn the leaves powdery white and their growth is distorted. The causal organism *Sphaerotheca pannosa* overwinters as mycelium inside infected peach buds. As shoots grow in the spring, young peach leaves are infected as they emerge from infected buds. The spores from these leaves are spread by air movement to other foliage and young fruit. Fruit after the beginning of pit hardening and older leaves are resistant to infection.

The usual spray program begins at 80-100 percent full bloom using a fungicide that has both brown rot and powdery mildew activity. The next spray is applied about two weeks after petal fall with either sulfur, which is contact and has no residual activity, or a fungicide with systemic activity such as Elite, Indar, Orbit, Rally, or Pristine. The last spray is made prior to pit hardening. For orchards with a history of disease, apply sulfur about two weeks before bloom. Allow enough time between dormant oil and pre-bloom sulfur treatments because of incompatibility. Rotate between fungicide spray classes to minimize the risk of resistance developing to any one class of fungicides.

The 2005 updated Fungicide Efficacy and Treatment Timing Tables for Peach and Nectarine and other tree crops should be available the second week of February. They will help answer your questions as to how effective a particular fungicide is for a disease and when to apply it. There is also a table on fungicide properties to help you plan your fungicide program to manage resistance. They are available from the following websites: UC Kearney Agricultural Center: http://www.uckac.edu/plantpath/ or UC Davis Dept. of Plant Pathology: http://www.plpnem.ucdavis.edu/PLP/Index.htm. The report is produced by UC Plant Pathologists.

ORIENTAL FRUIT MOTH TIME

February is here and it is time to prepare for the first flight of oriental fruit moth (OFM). The biofix (first moth) for Sutter County was February 29 in 2004, March 5 in 2003 and February 22 in 2002. OFM traps should be hung by the third week of February to detect the first moth. Consider using pheromone mating disruption this season to manage insecticide resistance, reduce insecticide sprays and encourage long-term population reduction.

UPDATED GUIDELINES

The Walnut Pest Management Guidelines has been updated and is available online or from our office. The on-line version (http://ipm.ucdavis.edu/index.html) will have pictures using heat to treat crown gall disease.

TRAINING and PRUNING WALNUT HEDGEROWS

There have been several newly planted walnut hedgerows in our area, particularly of the Howard variety. If you would be interested in attending an informal field meeting sometime in early March to discuss and demonstrate pruning young hedgerows, please call or email me (jkhasey@ucdavis.edu). If there is enough interest, I'll contact potential participants with the time and location of the meeting.

JANINE HASEY
UC FARM ADVISOR