



Orchard Notes

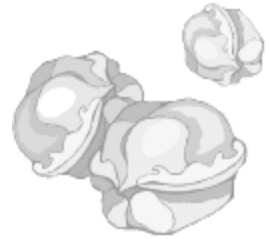
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December 2004-January 2005 Issue



11th ANNUAL SACRAMENTO VALLEY CLING PEACH DAY

Wednesday, January 19, 2005, 8:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Agricultural Building, 142 Garden Highway, Yuba City

MEETING PROGRAM

- 8:15 a.m. Registration, Coffee and Danish – Courtesy of Grower's Ag Service
- 8:45 a.m. Welcome – *Janine Hasey, UC Farm Advisor, Sutter and Yuba Counties*

IMPROVING FRUIT QUALITY AND LABOR SAVINGS STRATEGIES

Chemical Thinning and Improving Fruit Firmness Research Update
Kitren Glozer, Staff Research Associate, UC Davis

- 9:15 a.m. Peach Drop and Fruit Firmness Studies, Mechanical Thinning Update
Janine Hasey, UC Farm Advisor, Sutter and Yuba Counties

- 9:45 a.m. Regulatory Update/Herbicide Drift Issues
Steve Scheer, Sutter County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

- 10:00 a.m. California Cling Peach Board Business Session

POST HARVEST

- 10:30a.m. Measuring Color and Firmness at Cling Peach Inspection Stations
David Slaughter, Biological & Agricultural Engineering, UC Davis

PEST MANAGEMENT

- 11:00 a.m. Effects of Preplant Fumigation and Post Plant Treatments on Peach Tree Growth and Yield - *Roger Duncan, UC Farm Advisor, Stanislaus County*

- 11:30 a.m. **Lunch** - Chicken lunch provided by California Cling Peach Board. Please RSVP to the Sutter/Yuba Extension office at (530) 822-7515 by Tuesday January 14th if you plan to stay for lunch. You may also fax to (530) 673-5368 or email: pabagley@ucdavis.edu to have your name put on the list for lunch.

Meeting Sponsored by University of California Cooperative Extension, Sutter & Yuba Counties
Co-Sponsor – Sutter County Agricultural Department

PCA and Private Applicator Credit Pending – 1 hour, Includes .25 hour of regulations
CCA Continuing Education Units Pending – 2 units

UPCOMING MEETING

Save Wednesday, February 23, 2005, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. for the annual Sutter/Yuba /Colusa Walnut Day at the Veterans Hall in Yuba City. Watch for the meeting announcement in the February issue of “Orchard Notes”.

WALNUT ISSUES

Every fall I discuss the advantages of managing your orchard floor using no-till with mowed middles of either resident vegetation or planted cover crop. Facilitating harvest by enhancing orchard access is one more reason (and one not usually considered) to stop disking your orchard. Some Chandler growers who disk and flood irrigate were unable to harvest this fall after it rained. Walnut harvest was moving along well then slowed down with the early October heat. Then it started raining October 17 and continued for 10 days into early November adding about 21/2 inches of rainfall. Some growers lost from 80-100 percent of their crop on hundreds of acres. It doesn't take long to pencil out that the costs of mowing and planting a cover crop would have been minimal compared to crop loss because of inaccessibility. The cover crop does not have to be a perennial or permanent sod type to increase orchard accessibility although that is one option. An annual cover crop of either winter weeds or a planted legume or legume/grass mix that is mowed in the late spring to early summer will usually decompose by fall leaving a mulch over firm ground without much trash that can interfere with harvest.

Navel Orangeworm dilemma - There are literally tons of mummy nuts on trees and nuts on the ground where orchards went unharvested. These are the sites where navel orangeworm overwinter as larvae. They feed and develop inside the nut during warm weather, pupate in March through May and start emerging in April. Mummy nuts in trees will need to be removed by shaking or knocking them down this winter. They should be flail mowed by mid-March to kill overwintering larvae and eliminate food sources for first-generation larvae later in the spring. Disking mummy nuts is not quite as effective as flail mowing. Maintaining a ground

cover during the winter will allow better orchard access for these operations and also aid in decomposing trash nuts by microorganisms.

Make sure to remove and destroy any trash nuts in and around hullers. Do not allow navel orangeworm to build in 2005 since we already saw increased damage in the 2004 crop. Destroy mummy nuts and control walnut blight, codling moth and sunburn during the season.

DORMANT SPRAY – PEACHES

The pesticides used in the conventional dormant spray include oil, an organophosphate or pyrethroid and copper. The target pests controlled by the oil are San Jose scale (low to moderate populations) and European red mite, the organophosphate controls peach twig borer and San Jose scale, pyrethroids control peach twig borer (not scale), and copper controls peach leaf curl. Delayed dormant spray timing (mid-February before bloom), is more effective than dormant spray timing for controlling San Jose scale and European red mite and peach leaf curl. Additionally, there is often more orchard floor vegetation in mid-February reducing pesticide runoff potential.

With increasing concern and regulations regarding pesticides in surface water, growers must seriously consider their dormant spray options and management. The first step is **monitoring** for the pests by taking dormant spur samples. These samples will tell you what the San Jose scale and European red mite populations are which will help you determine the appropriate pesticide and rates. If San Jose scale is below 10 percent, oil alone should be an effective control using higher rates where more scale is present. If San Jose Scale is over 10 percent, then consider using an organophosphate such as Supracide or the insect growth regulator Seize.

When applying any organophosphate or pyrethroid, it is best not to apply it 48 hours before a predicted rain event to avoid runoff. For Diazinon, the label states that it cannot be applied 48 hours before a predicted rain event or when soil moisture is at field capacity. There are other options to avoid runoff, such as, alternative materials like biologicals or insect growth regulators that have low runoff

potential. These are used as replacements for dormant spray organophosphates and pyrethroids.

Dormant Spray Alternatives - For peaches, all alternative programs build from the basic dormant/delayed dormant spray which is oil for scale and copper for peach leaf curl. Below are programs that have been demonstrated to be effective:

Target Insect	Alternative Material	Rate	Spray Timing
Peach twig borer	<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> (Bt)	1 lb or 1 qt/acre	2 bloom sprays often with brown rot timing
Peach twig borer	Spinosad (Success)	6 oz/acre 4 oz/acre	Delayed dormant Late bloom (avoid bees)
Peach twig borer	Dimilin 2L	12-16 oz/acre	Delayed dormant
San Jose scale	Seize 35W	4 oz/acre	Delayed dormant

Bt and Spinosad also control oblique banded leafroller. In orchards where we have sampled spurs annually, using Seize on blocks with over 10 percent San Jose scale applied delayed dormant

with oil and copper have resulted in these blocks having either very low or no scale the following year.

WINTER WALNUT TIPS

Walnut Scale – Many Chandler growers are seeing high populations of walnut scale in their older blocks. While pruning this winter, take time to inspect pruned limbs randomly across your orchard to assess the scale population. Treatments are not applied until the delayed dormant period; the safest time is as bud swell begins. More about scale and treatments will be included at our February walnut meeting.

Pruning 1-3-year old trees – Not now! It is best to prune in March after the threat of winter kill from freezing temperatures has passed.

CHILLING HOURS UPDATE

December 20, 2004	336	2004-05	?
December 19, 2003	293	2003-04	886
December 20, 2002	275	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 12/19/04 at the Nicolaus Cimis station were 373.

RENEW NEWSLETTER

If you want to continue to receive “Orchard Notes” newsletter, you must respond immediately to the renewal form that was sent to you in November. You can either mail or bring form to office or email and subscribe electronically. You will be dropped from the mailing list otherwise. Also, we usually post upcoming meetings once a date is set on our website (<http://cesutter.ucdavis.edu/>) before the meeting announcement is made through the newsletter, so it is good to browse the site occasionally for updates.

PROSPECTIVE ALMOND GROWERS

There are many peach growers who already have or are considering removing peaches and planting almonds. Besides the economic considerations of changing crops, growing an almond crop is quite different than growing a peach crop. Franz Niederholzer, our Sutter and Yuba Counties’ almond farm advisor, is holding a January meeting to address this topic (see announcement).

COST SHARE PROGRAMS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is taking applications for 2005 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The 2005 deadline is mid-January. If you are interested in improving irrigation efficiency, alternative pesticide programs, chipping prunings, etc., you should call our local office or visit their website at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>.

I would like to thank all of you for your support of our programs this past year. I also appreciated the efforts and contributions of cooperators on research projects and educational programs this past year. I wish you a prosperous 2005.

JANINE HASEY, U.C. FARM ADVISOR

INTRODUCTION TO ALMOND PRODUCTION IN YUBA AND SUTTER COUNTIES

*Agriculture Building Meeting Room,
142 Garden Highway, Yuba City, CA.
January 18, 2005*

- 8:30 a.m. Sign-in, coffee and donuts
- 9:00 a.m. How is almond production different from peach and/or prune production?
Franz Niederholzer, UCCE Yuba/Sutter Counties
- 9:30 a.m. Variety selection
John Edstrom, UCCE Colusa County
- 10:00 a.m. General overview of the year in almond production: January-July
Franz Niederholzer, UCCE Yuba/Sutter Counties
- 10:30 a.m. Frost Protection
Joe Connell, UCCE Butte County
- 11:00 a.m. General overview of the year in almond production: July-December
Franz Niederholzer, UCCE Yuba/Sutter Counties
- 11:30 a.m. Adjourn

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