



Orchard Notes

November/December 2002

NEW WEBSITE

Our office has a new website for UC cooperative Extension programs and activities in Sutter and Yuba Counties. Although it is still in the development phase, this is a fast way to find out about upcoming meetings and events and see newsletters before receiving them in the mail. There will also be links to several useful sites. Check it out at <http://cesutter.ucdavis.edu>.

NEW FARM ADVISOR

After many years, we now have another tree crops farm advisor in our office, Franz Niederholzer. The following outlines his program objectives and background:

Franz Niederholzer has been the UC Orchard Systems Farm Advisor in Sutter since September 2002. His primary responsibilities are to 1) conduct applied research and 2) deliver educational programs in support of the dried plum and almond industry of these two counties. He will also work with pear growers in the region, as well as growers of other tree crops that make up a relatively small component of the total orchard acreage in those two counties. The economic and environmental sustainability of these growers are his primary objectives.

Franz's parents owned and operated a commercial prune orchard in Glenn County, California for 25 years. Experience on this

parents' farm convinced him to pursue a career in agriculture after receiving a BA in History from Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts. He then earned an MS and PhD in Soil Science from the University of California, Davis. At Davis, Franz worked primarily with faculty and staff in the Pomology Department, specializing in orchard nutrition. Since leaving Davis, he has worked in production agriculture in both the public and private arenas. He has been the County Horticulture Agent for Oregon State University Extension Service in Hood River, Oregon, and a PCA for United Agri Products, prior to accepting his current position with UCCE in Yuba-Sutter Counties.

The crop assignments are:

Franz Niederholzer: Dried plums, almonds, pears, apples, cherry, olive, plum and pomegranate

Janine Hasey: Walnuts, peaches, kiwifruit, apricot, grape, nectarine, chestnut, pecan, pistachio and persimmon

I would like to thank the following UC Farm Advisors who helped cover orchard calls in Sutter and Yuba Counties for several years through cross-county assignments:

Bill Olson, Butte County - Prunes
John Edstrom, Colusa County - Almonds
Rachel Elkins, Lake County - Pears
Joe Connell, Butte County - Citrus, olives, persimmon

HERBICIDE CHARTS AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Included for your reference is the 2002 Registration Status of Herbicides in Trees and Vines and Susceptibility of Weeds to Herbicides. Extension Weed Specialist Clyde Elmore from UC Davis recently updated it. To cut costs, some growers have switched from weed control programs using both preemergence and postemergence herbicides to using just postemergence herbicides. Continual use of one herbicide is not advisable because it may lead to resistance. This can happen through selection where the herbicide is the selection pressure, killing susceptible plants while herbicide-resistant plants survive and reproduce without competition. If the herbicide is continually used, resistant plants successfully reproduce and become dominant. To avoid this potential problem, it is best to practice herbicide or cultural rotation. This can be accomplished by using preemergence herbicides one year and then rotating to postemergence herbicides the following year. For more information on herbicide resistance and other weed information, go to the website <http://wric.ucdavis.edu>.

When planning your weed control program, another consideration is keeping herbicides out of runoff water. Cover crops, either planted or as resident vegetation, can effectively reduce the amount of surface water runoff, allow for winter access, reduce compaction, increase water infiltration and soil aggregation. Your objectives should be clearly defined before investing in planting a cover crop. For planted cover crops seed should have germinated and emerged before substantial leaf fall for the best stand. An article "Cover Cropping in Walnut Orchards" written by Water Management Specialist Terry Prichard and myself, discusses the benefits, potential problems, costs and choosing a cover crop species. It is available from our office.

LATE FALL ORCHARD PRACTICES

Peaches

Shot Hole Disease - Growers should plan to apply a Ziram or copper spray at leaf fall to effectively control the bud blight phase of this fungus disease, which is the most damaging to peaches. The fungus, *Wilsonomyces carpophilus*, overwinters in infected buds and twig lesions. Infected buds are the most important source of inoculum in peach; spores are produced and spread by splashing rain and wind during wet weather. Twig and bud infection can occur any time there is 24 hours of continuous wetness from fall through spring.

Dormant spray - Consider coming to either the meeting on 11/22/02 or 12/6/02 with a dormant spur sample to discover if San Jose scale may or may not be a problem in your orchard. We will cover the value of the dormant spray and alternatives to using organophosphate or pyrethroid for peach twig borer. Please see flyer in this newsletter.

Walnuts

Prune mature trees with deadwood when leaves are still on tree. Limbs killed from branch wilt disease should be completely removed into uninfected wood. Examine winter prunings for the presence of scale insects.

UPCOMING MEETING

The annual Peach Day meeting will be either January 29 or 31, 2003. Look for the final date and program in the January issue of "Orchard Notes" and our website. If there are any particular topics you want covered, please let me know soon.

JANINE HASEY, U.C. FARM ADVISOR

HELPFUL VIDEOS

The following are available on a 2-day checkout from our office. Check them out on a rainy day.

- ◇ Pruning Walnut Trees - Early Developmental Years
- ◇ Crown Gall in Tree Crops (English and Spanish)
- ◇ Creative Cover Cropping For Perennial Farming Systems

SHORT COURSES

Varietal Winegrape Production, February 4-6, 2003, UC Davis

Cherry Production A Pomology Short Course, March 25-27, 2003, Stockton

For information, contact UC Davis Extension at (800) 752-0881

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December 6, 2002**

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2002 Registration Status of Herbicides to Trees and Vines

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