

E-MAIL EXTRA FOR WALNUTS: NOVEMBER 23, 2010

AUTUMN FROST PREDICTED TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND THURSDAY NIGHTS

Young walnut trees, especially 1 to 3 year olds, if not hardened off, can sustain injury to the cambium at temperatures of 28° F and below. The NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Office in Sacramento <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sto> is predicting lows of 25° F on Tuesday night, 26° F on Wednesday night, and 28° F on Thursday night for Yuba City.

Last December, I sent out this newsletter on my website at http://cesutter.ucdavis.edu/newsletterfiles/Orchard_Notes18960.pdf that contains information and photos on freezing temperature effects on walnut and what to do to reduce damage. Although it was primarily written for what to do for a winter freeze, there are articles on autumn frosts which are what we're expecting this week and how to reduce potential damage to young trees. The soil has been wet for several days so that will be helpful since the soil will store more heat. However, if there is water on the soil surface before a freeze, it will make the soil surface colder because of evaporative cooling.

If these freezing temperatures are reached, it would be a good idea within two days after Thanksgiving, to check the cambium on young walnut trees. If you discover discolored cambium, it is recommended that you follow the directions on painting your trees white to protect them from further damage.

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