

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ~ SUTTER/YUBA COUNTIES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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ORCHARD NOTES

M A Y 1 9 9 8

NICKELS FIELD DAY

May 13, 1998
8:30 am-Noon
Green Bay Road, Arbuckle

Disease Prevention in Almonds

Beth Teviotdale, Plant Pathologist, UC Kearney Ag Center

New Fungicides

Jim Adaskaveg, Plant Pathologist, UC Riverside

Pruning Close Planted Almonds

John Edstrom, UC Farm Advisor, Colusa, Yuba & Sutter Counties

Walnut Hedgerow

Bill Krueger, UC Farm Advisor, Glenn County

Nursery Innovations

Wilbur Reil, UC Farm Advisor, Yolo & Solano Counties

Crown Gall Prevention/Treatment

Janine Hasey, UC Farm Advisor, Yuba-Sutter Counties

Potassium and Micro-Irrigation

Rollie Meyer, Soils Specialist, UC Davis

Micros vs. Drip

Larry Schwankl, Irrigation Specialist, UC Davis

Almond Industry Update

Chris Heintz, Research Director, Almond Board

CLING PEACH CHEMICAL THINNING FIELD MEETING

Tuesday, May 19, 1998, 9:30 am
Bill Filter's Orchard, Highway 70
North of Marysville (District 10)
(call UCCE office for map)

Fruit thinning is one of the most costly cultural operations in growing peaches. Labor is becoming less available and costing more. UC Davis Pomology Extension Specialist Steve Southwick, Staff Research Associate Jim Yeager, and Sutter/Yuba Counties UC Farm Advisor Janine Hasey will discuss results from several years of chemical thinning research. Growers will get to see Loadel, Andross and Carson sprayed at different rates with the surfactant Armothin. We will also discuss using the growth regulator Ralex which is sprayed in the June/July period rather than at bloom. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about chemical thinning.

SIGNS WILL BE POSTED FOR MEETING

DISEASE UPDATES

Dying Peaches

Peaches showing symptoms of yellow leaves, poor shoot growth and collapse since early April are suffering from waterlogged soils. Affected trees are especially evident on heavier, poorly drained soils or rutted soils with standing water. Saturated soil from excess rainfall does not have oxygen in the soil pore spaces that is needed by roots for growth. New roots can die under saturated situations in one to four days when roots are active. The process speeds up as temperatures get warmer. Avoid using heavy equipment on wet soils; it leads to compaction and poorly drained soils.

Cling Peach Rust Update

Rust spores were found in annual twig cankers the week of April 6 in Sutter and Yuba Counties. Spores formed in the fall germinate and infect green shoots. The fungus then overwinters as mycelium (not spores) in the twig. New spore pustules are formed in cankers in early April, not March. New cankers on hangers are easy to see on Andross now. We have not found two year old cankers to sporulate again. Control rust with fungicide sprays like sulfur every two weeks if rain persists into early June.

Walnut Blight

So far it is hard to find blight on walnuts in spite of all the rain. The temperatures were cold during most of the rain storms and the shoots were not elongating. Temperature thresholds for infection by blight bacteria are being researched. Continue to apply copper or copper + Manex tank mixes through May or early June if rain threatens.

PEST UPDATES

The pest tracker in our front office is updated every Monday. If you would like the update via E-mail, let me know at jkhasey@ucdavis.edu. Please indicate which tree crops you're interested in.

Codling Moth

Depending on the orchard location, the biofix for our area was April 17, 18 or 19. Sunset temperatures were 62 F or warmer on those dates, so the moths were able to mate. This is the latest biofix in the sixteen years that I have been here. Most likely, the nut drop period will not start until June if you monitor efficacy for your first flight control.

Peach Twig Borer (PTB)

As of April 28, we have a biofix for PTB on April 27 at the Yuba City site only. The other orchards should start biofixing soon. If doing mating disruption, hang pheromone dispensers at first moth; for spray applications, apply at 400-500 degree-days.

Leafroller Monitoring

Because of leafroller damage in peaches, prunes and apples last year, IPM Advisor Carolyn Pickel and I (peaches and apples) are doing weekly monitoring for larvae. Since it is very difficult to distinguish between leafrollers such as fruit tree leafroller and oblique banded leafroller (OBLR) in the larval stage, we are in the process of raising larvae to adults for positive identification. We plan to show you what we find at a field meeting in early summer. We will be monitoring all season to hopefully predict spray timing for second generation OBLR.

Don't forget to return the Orchard Index form that was in the March Newsletter. Thank You

ASSESSMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SOILS AND LAND CAPABILITIES

MAY 28-29, 1998

A copy of the enrollment form can be obtained from our office or contact Anna Trunnell at (530)757-8899 for further information. This intensive two-day course provides an overview of soil science and basic assessment principles with a particular emphasis on soils used for agricultural operations. Enrollment fee of \$275.00 includes course materials, two lunches and field trip transportation.

A handbook entitled "*How to Get the Most From Radial Ply Tires; A Guide to Select the Correct Inflation Pressures*" is available at no charge through the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department, UC Davis, CA 95616, phone (530) 752-0102. Low/correct tire pressure guides may also be obtained from tractor dealers. Further information on Dr. Upadhyaya's work is available on the California Energy Commission web site (www.energy.ca.gov).

JANINE HASEY

U.C. Farm Advisor