

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



TREE AND VINE NOTES



DECEMBER 2004



2004 North San Joaquin Valley Cling Peach Seminar

14 December 2004
8:30 – Noon

Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
Service and Crows Landing Roads, Modesto

8:00 – 8:30 Registration, coffee & donuts

- **Progress Report on Stanislaus County Research Trials**
 - Foliar urea sprays to reduce bacterial canker susceptibility
 - Review of 2004 Blossom Thinning Trials
Roger Duncan, UCCE Farm Advisor, Stanislaus County
- **Factors that Effect Time of Harvest and Fruit Size**
Dr. Ted DeJong, Pomology Specialist, UC Davis
- **Progress on Using Electro-magnetic Shaker Technology for Fruit Thinning**
Uriel Rosa, System Professor, Biological and Ag Engineering, UC Davis
- **Cling Peach Board Business**
 - Discussion of Industry Research Needs
 - Board Member Nominations
- **Developing and Maintaining Reduced Height Orchards**
Kevin Day, UCCE Farm Advisor, Tulare County
- **Conditionally Restricted Materials & Label Review**
Kevin Gonsalves, Deputy Ag Commissioner, Stanislaus County

Noon : BBQ lunch hosted by the Cling Peach Advisory Board

1.0 hour of Continuing Education Credits, including 0.5 hour Laws & Regs

Light Management in Orchards, Dormant Considerations

Kevin R. Day, UC Cooperative Extension, Tulare County

One of the goals of an efficient orchard system is uniform light distribution throughout the tree canopy. An emphasis is often placed on the role of summer pruning in developing, maintaining and improving this relationship, but the importance of dormant pruning should also be considered.

The dormant season allows growers the opportunity to encounter a different perspective on tree structure, limb placement and number, and tree height. A great deal of information can be gained by observing how much of a shadow a dormant tree casts when its leaves are absent. In some instances just the scaffold structure of the tree – in the dead of winter – has the capacity to shade a large percentage of the orchard floor. This can translate into severe shading problems in the next season.

Such problems are most apparent in older plum and apricot orchards, but can also occur in peach and nectarine orchards. Much of the time these problems are most easily fixed by complete removal of several large secondary or tertiary scaffolds. This action has several benefits including, 1) immediate improvement of light penetration to the middle and lower parts of the tree, 2) reduction in growing points for interior watersprouts and suckers, and 3) reduction in per tree dormant pruning costs. Other tree responses can include a reduction in fruit set and subsequent thinning requirements – which can be either good or bad depending on the season, and improvement in shoot and spur vigor in the middle and lower parts of the tree.

Plan to spend some time in the orchard thinking about these concepts prior to making your dormant pruning decisions. Steps taken now toward improving tree structure and light distribution will go a long way toward benefiting tree performance next season.

A New Technique in Plant Nutrition – Shoot Sampling

Kevin R. Day, UC Cooperative Extension, Tulare County

For the past several years, UC Extension Specialist Scott Johnson has been working on a “Sand Tank” trial in which full-sized peach, nectarine and plum trees are grown in controlled nutrient environments. One of the outgrowths of this project is the development of a new sampling method to help better determine the nutrient status of fruit trees. Instead of sampling leaves in June or July, Scott has been taking fruiting shoot samples during the dormant season. One of the major advantages of this new method is that nutrient status can be determined going into the season rather than during the season when it is often too late to help the current crop. This method also allows growers a tool that can help gauge the effectiveness of previous fertilizer applications. Nutrients that show promise using this evaluative method so far include nitrogen, phosphorous, zinc and boron. Preliminary usage guidelines for these elements are currently being developed.

WINEGRAPE SHORT COURSE

Varietal Winegrape Production Short Course presents reviews with updates with farm advisors and faculty members at UC Davis, thus serving the needs of experienced vineyard managers and new vineyard owners. Topics include a review of vine physiology, vineyard establishment, vineyard management and pest management. Coordinating instructor Larry Bettiga is a viticulture farm advisor with UC Cooperative Extension in Monterey. **Note: Participants must be 21 years of age or older to enroll and attend.**

February 8-10: Tuesday, 8:45 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., and Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The \$625 fee includes three lunches, one social and course materials. For more information or to enroll, please call (800) 752-0881, email aginfo@unexmail.ucdavis.edu or visit www.extension.ucdavis.edu/winemaking.

Three Publications Each Almond Grower Should Have In Their Library

All of these publications plus others are available at your local Cooperative Extension office – in Merced at the corner of Wardrobe and Grogan near the airport. We can accept cash and checks but no credit cards. Open 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

Almond Production Manual

Provides information on all stages of almond production, from planting and developing new orchards to managing bearing orchards and harvesting and handling the crop. Written by more than 50 UC experts, the manual's information is practical and suited to field application. More than 80 color photos. \$30.00 + tax

Integrated Pest Management for Almonds 2002 2nd Edition

This updated edition of our best-selling guide for almonds is completely revised and expanded. Covers 120 different pest problems including diseases, insects and mites, nematodes, vertebrate pests, and weeds; including 10 new insect pests and diseases including anthracnose, *Alternaria* leaf blight, rust, tenlined June beetle, and leafhoppers.

New in the second edition you'll find:

An extensively revised chapter on vertebrate pest management which adds recommendations for control techniques where endangered species occur.

A revised and expanded chapter on vegetation management including detailed information on cover crops.

A revised section on navel orangeworm, emphasizing cultural control techniques instead of insecticides.

A revised section on peach twig borer includes discussions of bloomtime sprays with *Bacillus thuringiensis* and pheromone mating disruption.

Revised and updated tables on susceptibility of rootstocks and scion cultivars to major pests and a detailed index.

This indispensable reference is illustrated with 259 photos, including 33 new color photos, along with 69 line drawings and tables. \$32.00 + tax

UCIPM Pest Management Guidelines: Almond

These official UC-approved guidelines for pest monitoring techniques, pesticide use, and non-pesticide alternatives for agricultural crops are essential tools for anyone making pest management decisions in the field. This frequently updated list is used in conjunction with the IPM manual above. \$5.00 + tax