

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



## TREE AND VINE NOTES



JULY 2003

### GRAPE HARVEST SAFETY PROGRAM

**Thursday, July 17, 2003  
Madera Fairgrounds**

University of California Cooperative Extension, Madera County Farm Bureau, and Employment Development Department are sponsoring the Annual Grape Harvest Safety Program. The program will be presented in both Spanish and English. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. and the program will conclude by 12:00 noon. Lunch will be provided. There is no charge for the program or lunch.

**Please be sure to RSVP to Sandra at 559/675-7879 Ext 201 or Marci at 209/385-7403 Ext. 4795**

#### **AGENDA:**

Registration 7:00AM  
First on the Scene - First Aid  
Tractor and Gondola Safety  
Alcohol and Drugs on the Job  
Back Safety  
Mechanical Harvester Safety  
Forklift Safety  
Fire Safety  
Gas and Electrical Public Safety  
Summary and Certificates Noon

A Certificate of Completion will be given to document safety training of employees for your injury and illness prevention program.

Support for this meeting has been provided by the following companies: Arvesta, Bayer, BASF, Best Sulfur Products, Cerexagri, Dow AgroSciences, Gowan, MicroFlo, Monterey Chemical, Syngenta, and Uniroyal. Special thanks to Ag-Right Enterprises, California Highway Patrol, CIRKL Safety Training, SimplexGrinnell Fire Protection, Madera County Fire/California Department of Forestry, Midland Tractor, PG&E, Pistoressi Ambulance, State Compensation Insurance Fund, and to Proteus AmeriCorp for providing translators.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:**

Please call the University of California Cooperative Extension Office 559-675-7879 Ext. 201 or 209-385-7403, by Monday, July 14, 2003 if you will be attending the program and luncheon.

**ENTRENAMIENTO DE SEGURIDAD**

sobre la COSECHA DE LA UVA

Jueves, 17 de julio, 2003

Terrenos de la Feria de Madera

La Extensión Cooperativa de la Universidad de California, el Buró Agrícola y el departamento de el desarrollo de empleo presentan el programa anual de entrenamiento de seguridad sobre la cosecha de la uva. El entrenamiento será presentada en español e inglés.

Registración empieza a las 7:00 a.m. y el programa terminará al medio-día. Se servirá almuerzo patrocinado por las compañías: Arvesta, Bayer, BASF, Best Sulfur Products, Cerexagri, Dow AgroSciences, Gowan, MicroFlo, Monterey Chemical, Syngenta, and Uniroyal

No hay costo para recibir el entrenamiento y el almuerzo. Favor de registrarse llamando al (559) 675-7879 Ext. 201 o 209-385-7403 Ext 4795

**AGENDA:**

- Registración
- Primeros Auxilios mientras llega atención médica
- Seguridad-Tractor y la Gondóla
- Alcohol y otras Drogas en el Trabajo
- Seguridad-Piscadora de Uva
- Seguridad-Montecargas
- Como usar su espalda correctamente
- Seguridad del Fuego
- Seguridad de la electricidad y gas natural
- Almuerzo

Participantes recibirán un certificado para documentar el entrenamiento y para cumplir con el requisito de su Programa de Prevención de Lastimaduras y Enfermedades.

Favor de registrarse llamando al (559) 675-7879 Ext. 201 o 209-385-7403 antes de 14 de julio para dar a saber cuántos asistirán.

**NO NEWS IS BAD NEWS WITH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION BUDGET**

by Maxwell Norton

While the budget stalemate drags on in Sacramento, Cooperative Extension is still marked for an additional 25% cut back. This is following a 5% retroactive cut into last year's budget. Over the last 20 years CE has really been down-sized. In Merced County we used to have four crops Farm Advisors and now we are down to two – Scott Stoddard and Maxwell Norton. We have

been totally unsuccessful in getting approval for a new nut crop Farm Advisor and it now looks like it may be a few years before we will have a chance at one – if ever.

Keep the letters and phone calls coming – we appreciate all the help we can get!

### **WHERE TO GET COOPERATIVE EXTENSION COST STUDIES**

It's easy and free, go to: [coststudies.ucdavis.edu](http://coststudies.ucdavis.edu) and download what you need.

We also have some of the most common ones in our office for a nominal cost.

### **BROWN SPOTS ON PEACHES**

by Maxwell Norton

I have looked at some peach blocks with brown patches on the sides of the fruit. They look like powdery mildew PM colonies but are not the typical white color. I have seen a lots of PM this year in peaches. The conditions have been ideal for PM infection. One of our plant pathologists has looked at two samples and the colonies were PM that were parasitized with a yeast-like organism. We do not know if the organism parasitized the colonies and killed them or the colonies died from the heat and they were colonized after.

I do not have any recommendations as what to do about the spots other than to make sure the block is well-treated for PM to prevent any further infections. You cannot reverse damage to the skin once it has occurred. All you can do is try to kill the active colonies and prevent new ones from starting.

### **DOWNEY MILDEW IN GRAPES**

by Maxwell Norton

For the first time in my career I have observed an infection of downey mildew in grapes in Merced County. DM requires pretty high humidity to develop and the late rains probably contributed to the infections. The site was in a low swail which may have reduced air circulation and the vines had some tall weeds under them which may have kept the humidity up. If you find DM you should try to prune out the infections and bury or burn them to reduce the spore load. If the colonies are still alive you can apply fungicides that are effective against DM. Some brand-name examples would be Abound, Flint, Ridomil Gold, or Soveran.

Next year's spring fungicide program should include a material that is active against DM to prevent it from developing into a full-blown infection.

### **WHITE LINED SPHINX MOTH**

They look like tomato hornworms and they will spit at you after they have had their fill of grape leaves. The problem is that they quickly defoliate vines before people realize they are there. Keep a heads up for this pest. Control involves either Bt if they are small, and possibly an OP like Lannate. Imidan might work and so may a product like Danitol.

### **DON'T ALLOW WILD FIGS ON YOUR PROPERTY**

by Maxwell Norton

For the last few years Kadota growers have suffered damage from unwanted pollination from wild Capri figs which are not native and can become quite invasive. Cultivated fig orchards do not pose a problem - only the trees that have infested un-maintained lots and creeks. The

irrigation district is attempting to keep their right-of-ways cleaned up. Local land owners can help out by eliminating any wild fig that infests their property. These will trees can produce large numbers of fruit when they mature and they are a real nuisance to your fig-growing neighbors. Any cooperation in this manner is greatly appreciated!

### **USDA-FSA CROP DISASTER PROGRAM**

The Farm Services Agency is now accepting applications for disaster relief for crop losses from weather-related cause during the 2001 and 2002 crop years. There is no program for the 2003 crop year. That will have to be passed by congress first.

For full details on the program and how to apply contact FSA at 722-4119 X 2 or stop by their office in the Merced County Agriculture Center.

Don't forget – if you suffered a weather-related loss, report it to the Ag Commissioner. A quick call is all that is needed – ask for Mark Smith. The Ag Commissioner does not have anything to do with the USDA disaster relief programs but their reports are needed for USDA to document and qualify the county for disaster programs. If you have any questions call FSA at 722-4119 X 2.

### **FREE VINE MEALY BUG GUIDES**

Early detection of vine mealy bug is essential to preventing extensive damage.

Show any suspicious mealy bugs to your PCA and if needed get a sample to the Cooperative Extension office or Ag Commissioner. Most of the viticulture Farm Advisors have some full color guides available as training aids either for free or at a small cost to cover materials.

Contact your local CE office.

### **KEARNEY AGRICULTURAL CENTER GRAPE DAY 2003**

UC Cooperative Extension  
UC Kearney Agricultural Center  
9240 South Riverbend Avenue, Parlier, CA  
Tuesday 12 August 8:00 am – 11:00 am

Some Physiological Implications of Dried On the Vine Systems for Raisins  
Interaction of Irrigation Amounts and Canopy Management Practices on Wine  
Grape Yield and Wine Quality in the San Joaquin Valley

New Directions in Dried On the Vine Raisin Production Research  
Influence of In-row Spacing and Training Systems on the Performance of Syrah `  
Grapevines in the San Joaquin Valley

Control of Vine Mealybug

**No charge – just show up!**

### **CHOOSING AN ALMOND VARIETY**

by Roger Duncan, UCCE Stanislaus County

I often get asked which almond varieties I would plant if I were starting a new orchard. This is a very difficult question to answer. Although yield is very important, there are other important considerations as well. Disease and insect susceptibility, bloom and harvest date, marketability, even personal preference need to be considered. If you are a small grower with only a few acres and no equipment, you may consider planting what your neighbor has so sprays and harvests can be coordinated together. Three varieties are generally better than two for pollination, but again small growers need to consider the expense of a third harvest. Many handlers now accept Butte and Padre harvested together. There are several new varieties not widely planted that have performed well in University variety trials. However, when planting any new variety a grower assumes some risk of potential unknown drawbacks. You can pick up a summary of our regional almond variety trials in your local Cooperative Extension Office. Many of these varieties can also be viewed at our office demonstration "orchard" along Service Road.

### **NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE**

Winegrape Varieties in California #3419

This is the first comprehensive variety publication written by UC Cooperative Extension Specialists and Farm Advisors for all wine districts in California. Includes data on 53 varieties with expanded information 36 major varieties. \$30.00 + tax

Tree Fruit Pest Identification and Monitoring Cards #3426

Glove box sized laminated cards that can be used in the field to ID a wide variety of pests and diseases common to CA deciduous tree fruits and nuts. Store them in a zip lock bag and they should last for years. \$15.00 + tax

Guide to Almond Fungal Diseases: 2-page color guide to common diseases. Free

Commercial Cooling of Fruits, Vegetables, and Flowers #21567 Revised Edition

This revised version of this award-winning resource is must-have for anyone in the produce industry. This practical handbook is appropriate for those just investigating produce cooling as well as the operator and professional designer. You'll get accurate, detailed descriptions of proper temperature management for perishables and commercial methods of cooling fruits, vegetables, and cut flowers. Included is a complete discussion of design for hydro-cooler and forced-air cooler systems, the two most commonly used cooling methods. Features 25 graphs and illustrations, 11 color plates, and 15 tables. 61 pages \$10.00

Abiotic Disorders of Landscape Plants - A Diagnostic Guide

This new book contains a wealth of information to help you diagnose abiotic disorders in landscape plants – disorders caused by environmental, physiological or other nonbiological factors. You'll learn how to diagnose injury symptoms from over 20 different abiotic agents including water deficit, nutrient deficiencies, salinity, pH, sunburn, air pollution, herbicide and other chemical phytotoxicities, mechanical injuries, lightning, wind, and hail. You'll also learn how to develop a step-by-step diagnostic strategy. 319 color photographs and 38 tables, 248 pages \$35.00 + tax