

Contra Costa & Alameda Counties

CROP CURRENTS

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FEBRUARY 2014

- Quad County Walnut Institute – March 6, Stockton
- The Weather Report – Rain & Chill Update
- UC Drought Management Information
- UC Weed Management Information
- Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Series
- USDA Drought Assistance
- UC IPM Grape Pest Notification Service
- New UC Publications
- Calendar

University of California Cooperative Extension

Quad-County Walnut Institute

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Evelyn Costa Assembly Room

San Joaquin County Agricultural Center

2101 E. Earhart Avenue, Stockton, California 95206

- 8:00 Coffee & registration
- 8:30 **Reports from walnut research trials in San Joaquin County**
Joe Grant, UC Cooperative Extension, San Joaquin County
- 8:50 **Irrigation management in a drought year**
Dr. Ken Shackel, Dept. of Plant Sciences, UC Davis
- 9:20 **Getting the most from your irrigation system**
Larry Schwankl, UC Cooperative Extension Irrigation Specialist, Parlier, CA
- 9:50 **Salinity management in walnuts**
Janet Caprile, UC Cooperative Extension, Contra Costa County
- 10:15 Break
- 10:35 **Understanding the biology of Botryosphaeria/Phomopsis canker of walnut and ways to manage the disease**
Dr. Themis Michailides, Plant Pathologist, UC Kearney Ag Center, Parlier
- 11:05 **Optimum walnut canopies: Spacing and managing orchards for both early and mature production**
Dr. Bruce Lampinen, Walnut and Almond Extension Specialist, UC Davis
- 11:35 **Update of unheaded v/s headed pruning trial after three years.**
David Doll, UC Cooperative Extension, Merced County
- 12:00 **California walnuts .An industry working together**
Dennis Balint, CEO/Executive Director, California Walnut Board & California Walnut Commission
Carl Eidsath, Technical Support Director
Jennifer Olmstead, Marketing Director, Domestic
- 12:30 **Adjourn**

THE WEATHER REPORT

The Rain Situation: We've had only had 35% of our normal rainfall to date. That means we are 6 to 7 inches short for this time of year! We are unlikely to get close to that amount if rainfall even if we resume a normal pattern from here on out. But that is not likely as the forecasters are predicting continued dry weather.

If you have deep rooted crops like trees or vines I suggest that you consider irrigating now to refill the soil profile like the rain usually does. This may take a few irrigations, a week or more apart, to allow the water to percolate into the root zone and not run off. Avoid irrigating during bloom if you have a crop that is prone to bloom diseases (stone and pome fruit) so that you can get in to apply preventative sprays if needed. And don't irrigate for longer than a 24 hour set as it could encourage root diseases.

Why irrigate now? When trees/vines start out the season with dry soil, it can cause erratic and uneven leafout and bloom. Also, if they start the season with less than their typical, fully charged soil profile, it can be difficult to keep up with irrigation needs in mid and late summer as the deep soil moisture that often assists them during that time is missing. Another reason to irrigate trees and vines now rather than later is that the water quality at this time year is likely to be better than it will be later as there is expected to be less snowmelt/water flushing through the Delta this year. Storing a few extra inches of good quality water in the soil now to reduce the amount of "salty" water that you might need to use in mid and late summer, is better for the long term sustainability of your soil and crops.

How much should you apply? Enough to refill your active rootzone. This is going to depend on what type of soil you have, how deep your roots penetrate, and how much rain fell. As an example, trees or vines growing on a Brentwood clay loam soil will hold about 2 inches of available water per foot of soil. We typically consider the active root zone to be about 5' deep so this soil will hold 10 inches of available water in the active root zone. If you have had 4 inches of rainfall, then you need to apply another 6 inches to completely refill the profile. If you irrigate, but you don't apply enough water to fill your profile fully, be aware that you'll need to begin irrigating earlier in the year than you usually do.

RAINFALL (inches)				
	BRENTWOOD		PLEASANTON	
MONTH	2013-2014	28 Year Average	2013-2014	10 Year Average
Oct	0.9	0.7	0.2	1.2
Nov	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.7
Dec	0.2	2.5	0.9	3.5
Jan	0.1	2.8	0.1	2.4
Feb	1.3*	2.7	1.7*	2.3
Mar		1.5		3.0
Apr		0.8		1.4
May		0.6		0.7
Jun		0.1		0.4
Jul		0.0		0.1
Aug		0.0		0.0
Sept		0.2		0.1
TOTAL	3.5"	13.1"	4.15"	16.7"
SHORT FALL	6.4" (65%)		-7.0" (63%)	

* through 2/12/14

Winter Chill. According to our traditional chill calculation method, using the number of hours below 45°F, we are doing well in terms of accumulating enough chill units to satisfy our tree crops. As you can see from the charts below, we are ahead of last year and doing better than the average. This traditional method has worked well under the rainy, foggy, and overcast winters that used to be typical for us in the past. In more recent years, we have had less fog and more warm, bright, sunny days in the winter which can negate or reverse the chill accumulation. Our old model doesn't take this into account even though we know that it can influence chill.

In the 1990's, Dr. Ammon Erez and other researchers developed a more complex chill accumulation method to account for the negating effects of fluctuating winter temperatures that were common in his native Israel. It is called the Dynamic Model and calculates the chill accumulation in units called "chill portions".

This model hasn't been widely tested in California so we don't know how applicable it is to our climatic conditions and the wide variety of tree crops that we grow here. It's been most thoroughly tested in California cherries to help determine when sufficient chill has accumulated to be able to successfully apply rest breaking sprays.

Our experience with cherries shows it to be a better tool to time rest breaking sprays than our old “below 45⁰F” method. However, we haven’t collected the data that indicates how many chill portions are required for cherries (or most other tree crops) to prevent yield reduction from inadequate chilling under California conditions.

So even though we don’t quite know exactly what Chill Portions are required to satisfy the rest requirement for our various tree crops, I include the Chill Portions calculations for Brentwood below as an interesting comparison. If you compare the Chill Units and the Chill Portions, you’ll see that the Chill portions better reflect the chill “negation” that we experienced last year resulting in a straggly bloom and poor set in some crops (even though the Chill Hours seemed sufficient). It also shows that we have had even more chill negated by our warm winter temperatures this year than last year. So beware.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UC Drought Management Information

Do you expect to have less water available for irrigation this year? For some crops there may be growth periods when the crop can be deficit irrigated with minimal impact on yield and quality. The UC Drought Management website (<http://ucmanagedrought.ucdavis.edu/>) outlines specific deficit irrigation strategies for:

almonds	alfalfa
corn	olives
pistachios	stone fruit
walnuts	winegrapes

It also includes information on improving your irrigation system and scheduling and other drought related resources.

UC Weed Management Information

In a year with limited water supplies, controlling weeds can mean saving precious water for your crop. Dr. Brad Hanson, our UC Cooperative Extension Weed Specialist at UC Davis, has recently updated his chart showing the registration status of Herbicides in Tree & Vine Crops. I have included the chart on page 7 of this newsletter for your reference. Some notable changes in herbicide registrations include:

- Mission herbicide was labeled in grape
- Chateau is now labled for bearing pecan, olive, and pomegrante
- Alion is registered on olive, grape, stonefruit, citrus, and tree nuts
- Zues is registered on pistachio, walnut, citrus, grape (NOT STONEFRUIT)
- Gramoxone was registered on pomegranates.

Information about the susceptibility of weeds to various herbicides can be found at:

- The Weed Research and Information Center <http://wric.ucdavis.edu>
- The UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines <http://ucipm.ucdavis.edu>. Go to the weed section under each individual crop.

PLEASANTON CHILL UNITS (hours below 45 F)						
MONTH	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012	2010-2011	2009-2010	10 year Average
Nov	206	132	182	254	222	170
Dec	658	416	558	548	564	486
Jan	972	809	855	936	821	816
Feb	1046*	1097	1056	1217	922	991

* through 2/12/14

BRENTWOOD CHILL UNITS (hours below 45 F)						
MONTH	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012	2010-2011	2009-2010	28 year Average
Nov	130	95	162	159	145	117
Dec	551	355	559	287	471	419
Jan	816	769	907	685	746	733
Feb	884*	998	1066	966	778	884

* through 2/12/14

BRENTWOOD CHILL PORTIONS (The Dynamic Model)						
MONTH	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012	2010-2011	2009-2010	13 year Average
Oct	1	1	1	2	2	1.5
Nov	11	12	19	16	18	14
Dec	31	33	42	37	43	36
Jan	46	56	62	60	68	59
Feb	52*	74	79	78	83	77

* through 2/12/14

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Series

*Sponsored by the Alameda County Conservation
Partnership in conjunction with Sustainable Agriculture
Education (SAGE)*

February 20, 2014:

Weed Management Workshop and Field Day, Sunol Ag Park, 9am-1pm. Learn the basics of weed management and the pros and cons of commonly used tools in diverse cropping systems. Workshop topics will include planting and cultivation techniques, flaming, organic herbicides, tillage techniques and more. Hosted by SAGE and led by Jim Leap, Farm Manager, emeritus, for UC Santa Cruz Agro-ecology program and organized by SAGE. RSVP to beginningfarmerrancher@sagecenter.org or call 510-526-1793 x5.

March 2, 2014:

Farm Tour at Yolo Press Olive Grove in Winters, CA, 10am-1pm. Tour the farm, talk with farmers Mike and Dianne Madison and learn the ins and outs of a successful small-scale high-density olive operation. This tour is intended for olive producers in the first ten years of production. RSVP to susan.ellsworth@acrcd.org or 925-371-0154 ext. 103 by February 24.

March 13, 2014:

Irrigation Management Workshop and Field Day, Sunol Ag Park, 9am - 1pm. Given the current drought, learn how to optimize water applications, improve yield and crop quality, limit weed competition, reduce disease pressure and more. Workshop led by Jim Leap, Farm Manager, emeritus, for UC Santa Cruz Agro-ecology program and organized by SAGE. RSVP to beginningfarmerrancher@sagecenter.org or call 510-526-1793 x5.

For more information contact Susan Ellsworth at 925-371-0154 ext. 103 or visit www.acrcd.org/workshops.aspx

Drought Assistance from the USDA

The USDA will make \$20 million available for agricultural water conservation efforts throughout California to combat the effects of drought. Interested landowners and managers have until **March 3, 2014 to apply for available funds.**

The top priority will go to helping farmers without

access to water who need to protect fragile, uncovered soil. "There are options such as cover crops, surface roughening, residue management, mulching and other practices we can recommend. And there are payments available for farmers willing to adopt these critical steps to keep our essential topsoil from becoming a wind-borne, dust hazard," said Suarez.

To help ranchers suffering from drought conditions, NRCS can offer practices such as livestock well development, piping, troughs, and fencing. "For some ranchers this may allow livestock to take advantage of available grass while protecting vulnerable ranch resources," said Suarez.

Finally, for farmers who have access to water and want to make every drop count, NRCS can provide improved irrigation hardware with an irrigation management plan to optimize efficiency.

This drought assistance package is being funded through NRCS's **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** that shares the cost of conservation practices with agricultural producers willing to voluntarily invest in conserving natural resources on their farm or ranch. The contact information for the Alameda and Contra Costa County NRCS offices is:

Alameda County:
3585 Greenville Road,
Livermore, CA 94550,
(925) 371-0154

Contra Costa County :
5552 Clayton Road
Concord CA, 94521
(925) 672-4577

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is also providing drought assistance through the **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**. ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for implementing emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. The program's initial focus will be to provide assistance to livestock producers with emergency water needs. Interested producers can sign up between **February 10 and March 27, 2014.**

The FSA office serving both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties is located at:
3422 W Hammer Lane,
Stockton, CA 95219
(209) 472-7127

UCIPM Grape Pest Notification Service

Are you a grape grower, farm manager, or PCA? Could you use a few reminders in the upcoming growing season about important vineyard pests to be on the lookout for? [Subscribe](#) to UC IPM's new grape pest management notifications and receive emails keeping you up-to-date on management activities to do throughout the year. Notifications will link you to UC Pest Management Guidelines for grapes where you'll find information on:

- pest description and photo identification pages
- monitoring techniques and monitoring forms
- pest biology
- management options

Click the "subscribe" link above or go to:
<https://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=11911>

NEW UC PUBLICATIONS

Preview and order publications at:
<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>

**Enter code PRCC7 at checkout
for a 10% discount**

Grape Pest Management

Larry Bettiga, Technical Editor

In this much anticipated 3rd Edition, more than 70 research scientists, cooperative extension advisors and specialists, growers, and pest control advisers have consolidated the latest scientific studies and research into one handy reference. The result is an up to date, comprehensive, easy-to-read pest management tool including several new invasive species and management advances for familiar pests.

609 pages, \$100.00, Publication # 3343

Weed Identification and Monitoring Cards

Joseph DiTomaso

This is the perfect pocket-sized companion for anyone working in the field. Each weed is identified by a description and excellent close-up color photographs of various growth stages - 187 photos in all. On the reverse of each card is a description of the various growth stages, habitat, distribution and management tips. The cards cover the most common weeds, grouped into 8 categories for easy identification:

48 cards, \$25.00, Publication # 3541

CALENDAR

February 19

SONOMA COUNTY GRAPE DAY

What: An annual program that provides research based information on issues important to the production of coastal winegrapes.

When: 8 a.m. to Noon

Where: Wells Fargo Center for the Arts
50 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa

Cost: \$45 at the door

Sponsors: UC Cooperative Extension,
Sonoma County Winegrape Commission.

More info at: <http://ucanr.org/scgrapeday>

February 20

BEST PRACTICES FOR VINEYARD WATER MANAGEMENT TO MAXIMIZE VINE HEALTH AND WINEGRAPE QUALITY

What: A full day of presentations by experts in the field of irrigation management and winemaking to address how we can make the best of what looks to be a difficult year for all of agriculture.

Where: Freeborn Hall, UC Davis

Time: 9:00am to 3:45pm

Cost: \$200 includes continental breakfast, lunch, handouts.

Registration: (530) 754-9876;

<http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=12025>

Sponsors: VENSOURCE &

Dept. of Viticulture & Enology, UC Davis

March 9-11

SMALL FARM CONFERENCE

What: The state's premier gathering of small farmers, ag students, farmer's market managers, and others involved in the small farm industry. The 3 day conference includes full day short courses and farm tours; focused workshops; engaging keynote addresses; networking opportunities.

Where: DoubleTree Hotel,
Rohnert Park, CA

Cost: Variable

Sponsors: numerous

Registration: www.californiafarmconference.com

March 13

RECENT ADVANCES IN VITICULTURE AND ENOLOGY

What: An opportunity to hear researchers discuss their latest projects and ongoing research in an open forum where discussion is encouraged and your input is highly regarded.

Hosted by: Dept. of Viticulture & Enology, UC Davis

When: 9:00am to 4:20pm

Where: Freeborn Hall
UC Davis

Cost: \$200.00, includes continental breakfast, lunch and all handouts

Registration:

by CREDIT CARD,

<http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=12087>

by CHECK:

<http://wineserver.ucdavis.edu/content.php?category=VENSource&id=1011>

For more information:

Kay Bogart (530) 754-9876; vensource@ucdavis.edu

May 9-10

SENSORY EVALUATION OF OLIVE OIL CERTIFICATE COURSE

What: This two-day course is perfect for producers, buyers, importers, and anyone wanting to know more about assessing the quality of extra virgin olive oil. The course will lead you through the tasting of dozens of olive oils from around the world, allowing you to dive into the extraordinary attributes as well as the common defects of extra virgin olive oil. It will also address the politics and science behind quality standards and grades, best practices for growing and processing, consumer attitudes toward olive oil, strategies for professional buyers to get better quality for the price and best practices for consumers.

Presenters: Sue Langstaff, sensory scientist
Dan Flynn, Exec Dir., UCD Olive Center

Where: Mondavi Institute,
UC Davis

Cost: \$495 until March 9;
\$550 after March 9

Register: <http://olivecenter.ucdavis.edu/>

UC WEBSITES

UC Fruit and Nut Research & Information Center

<http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu>

- Crop Information
- Chill unit accumulation
- Irrigation, nutrition, water quality information

UC Vegetable Research & Information Center

<http://vric.ucdavis.edu>

- Crop & production information
- Good Agricultural Practices & Food Safety

UC Agronomy Research & Information Center

<http://agric.ucdavis.edu/>

- Crop information – alfalfa, grains, specialty crops

UC IPM Program

<http://ipm.ucdavis.edu>

- Pest Management Guidelines
- Weather data & chill unit accumulation
- Degree day models & interactive tools
- Pest photo gallery

UC Weed Research & Information Center

<http://wric.ucdavis.edu>

- Weed ID & photo gallery
- Herbicide efficacy guidelines
- Poisonous plant information

UC Postharvest Technology

<http://postharvest.ucdavis.edu>

- Produce Facts (postharvest handling guidelines for over 100 individual commodities)
- Post harvest resources directory

UCD Agriculture & Resource Economics

<http://coststudies.ucdavis.edu>

- Cost of Production studies

UC Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program

<http://sarep.ucdavis.edu>

- Cover crop database
- Organic farming information/links

UC Small Farm Center

<http://www.sfc.ucdavis.edu>

- Agritourism
- Specialty crops
- Direct marketing

UC Integrated Viticulture

<http://iv.ucdavis.edu>

Herbicide Registration on California Tree and Vine Crops *-(updated January 2014 - UC Weed Science)*

Herbicide-Common Name <i>(example trade name)</i>	Site of Action Group ¹	Almond	Pecan	Pistachio	Walnut	Apple	Pear	Apricot	Cherry	Nectarine	Peach	Plum / Prune	Avocado	Citrus	Date	Fig	Grape	Kiwi	Olive	Pomegranate	
		---- tree nut ----				- pome -		-----stone fruit -----													
Preemergence	dichlobenil (<i>Casoron</i>)	L / 20	N	N	N	N	R	R	N	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	N	N	N	
	diuron (<i>Karmex, Diurex</i>)	C2 / 7	N	R	N	R	R	R	N	N	N	R	N	N	R	N	R	N	R	N	
	EPTC (<i>Eptam</i>)	N / 8	R	N	N	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	
	flazasulfuron (<i>Mission</i>)	B / 2	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	N	N	N	
	flumioxazin (<i>Chateau</i>)	E / 14	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NB	NB	N	NB	R	N	R	R
	indaziflam (<i>Alion</i>)	L / 29	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	N	R	N	N	R	N	R	N
	isoxaben (<i>Trellis</i>)	L / 21	R	R	R	R	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	N	NB	R	NB	NB	NB
	napropamide (<i>Devrinol</i>)	K3 / 15	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	R	N	N
	norflurazon (<i>Solicam</i>)	F1 / 12	R	R	N	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	N	N	R	N	N	N
	oryzalin (<i>Surflan</i>)	K1 / 3	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	N	R	R	R	R	R
	oxyfluorfen (<i>Goal, GoalTender</i>)	E / 14	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NB	R	R	R	R	R	R
	pendimethalin (<i>Prowl H2O</i>)	K1 / 3	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	N	R	N	N	R	N	R	R
	penoxsulam (<i>Pindar GT</i>)	B / 2	R	R	R	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
	pronamide (<i>Kerb</i>)	K1 / 3	N	N	N	N	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	N	N	N	N	R	N	N	N
	rimsulfuron (<i>Matrix</i>)	B / 2	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	N	R	N	N	R	N	N	N
	sulfentrazone (<i>Zeus</i>)	E / 14	N	N	R	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	N	N	R	N	N	N
	simazine (<i>Princep, Caliber 90</i>)	C1 / 5	R	R	N	R	R	R	N	R*	R	R	N	R	R	N	N	R	N	R	N
	thiazopyr (<i>Visor</i>)	K1 / 3	NB	N	NB	NB	N	N	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	N	R**	N	N	NB	N	N	N
Postemergence	carfentrazone (<i>Shark</i>)	E / 14	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
	clethodim (<i>SelectMax</i>)	A / 1	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	N	R	N	N	NB	N	NB	N	
	clove oil (<i>Matratec</i>)	NC3	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
	2,4-D (<i>Clean-crop, Orchard Master</i>)	O / 4	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	N	N	N	N	R	N	N	N
	diquat (<i>Diquat</i>)	D / 22	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB
	d-limonene (<i>GreenMatch</i>)	NC3	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	N	R	N	R	R	R	N	N
	fluazifop-p-butyl (<i>Fusilade</i>)	A / 1	NB	R	NB	NB	NB	NB	R	R	R	R	R	NB	NB	NB	NB	R	N	NB	NB
	glyphosate (<i>Roundup</i>)	G / 9	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
	glufosinate (<i>Rely 280</i>)	H / 10	R	R	R	R	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	N	N	N
	halosulfuron (<i>Sandea</i>)	B / 2	N	R	R	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
	paraquat (<i>Gramoxone Inteon</i>)	D / 22	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	N	R	R	R	R	R
	pelargonic acid (<i>Scythe</i>)	NC3	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	N
	pyraflufen (<i>Venue</i>)	E / 14	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	N	N	R	R	R	R	R	R
	safinylfenacil (<i>Treevix</i>)	E / 14	R	N	R	R	R	R	N	N	N	N	N	N	R	N	N	N	N	N	N
	sethoxydim (<i>Poast</i>)	A / 1	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	NB	NB	R	NB	NB	R	N	NB	NB

Notes: N = Not registered, NB = nonbearing, R = Registered. This chart is intended as a general guide only.

CROP CURRENTS

Hope you find something of interest in this issue.

Janet Caprile
Farm Advisor
jlcaprile@ucdavis.edu

NOVEMBER 2013

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- **Useful UC Websites**
- **Calendar**

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

UCCE – CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
75 SANTA BARBARA RD, 2ND FLOOR
PLEASANT HILL, CA 94523-4215