

UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA  
Agriculture & Natural Resources



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DATE: July 22, 2015

TO: All Brentwood Cherry Growers

FROM: Janet Caprile  
Farm Advisor

RE: Cherry Buckskin Update  
San Jose Scale Alert  
Sustainability Workshop

I'm happy to report that we found no trees with Cherry Buckskin Disease during this year's survey! Since 2009, we have only found the disease in a single orchard near the original infection site at Walnut Blvd and Eureka Ave. That orchard had a small "hot spot" that showed a couple of infected trees every other year or so. This year that hot spot was removed. That was the last vestige of any active infestation in the Brentwood area.

A light cherry crop (like we've had over the last couple of years) makes it harder to detect the disease. So I don't quite feel comfortable saying that the disease has been eradicated – but we are close. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping this disease in check!

Enclosed you will also find some information on:

- The increasing incidence of San Jose Scale in cherries and what you can do about it
- An invitation to a Cherry Sustainability Workshop sponsored by the California Cherry Board to introduce and demonstrate their new self-assessment workbook



# San Jose Scale Alert

San Jose Scale (SJS) has typically been well controlled in cherries by beneficial insects and dormant oil sprays. However, the application of regular broad spectrum insecticides for SWD and leafhoppers (the Cherry Buckskin Disease vector) have reduced the populations of beneficials in our orchards. And the dry winters have reduced the application of dormant oils. As a result we are starting to see severe outbreaks of SJS in some of our cherry orchards. This tiny insect injects a toxin as it feeds and if left untreated, infestations can kill trees in 1-2 years!

## What does it look like?

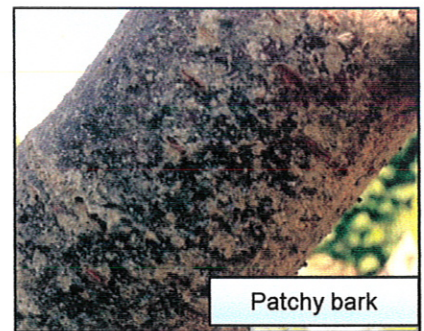
The insect is quite small and not easy to see unless you are specifically looking for it. The first symptom you might notice is limb dieback and gumming on major scaffolds. On closer inspection you would likely see tiny "bumps" on the scaffolds that have coalesced into a patchy light gray coating on the bark. The individual scales are about the size of a fat pencil lead and can be seen with a hand lens. If SJS gets on the fruit, it causes dimpling with a red halo which makes the fruit unsalable.



Limb dieback



Gumming



Patchy bark



Fruit dimples and halos



Adult scales magnified

## How to control it:

Low to moderate populations can be controlled with a simple dormant or delayed dormant, narrow range oil at a rate of 6-8 gallons/100 gallons of water/acre. Don't apply oil to dry trees. Wait until winter rains (or irrigation) have replenished soil moisture.

Severe populations that are causing limb dieback and gumming need an insecticide added to the oil. One of the insect growth regulators - Seize (4-5 oz/100 G/A) or Centaur (34.5 oz/100G/A) - are good choices as they are effective against SJS and soft on beneficials. Diazinon and Lorsban can also be effective additions to the oil spray but there are concerns about potential contamination of waterways, resistant populations of SJS, and the negative effects on honeybees and beneficial insects with these materials.

If you miss the preferred control timing of a dormant/delayed dormant application, a spring application can be effective, *if timed correctly*. This requires pheromone traps hung in early March to monitor male flight and an insect growth regulator application at 400 DD after the flight begins. This usually occurs sometime in May and harvest may prevent the spring application in some years.

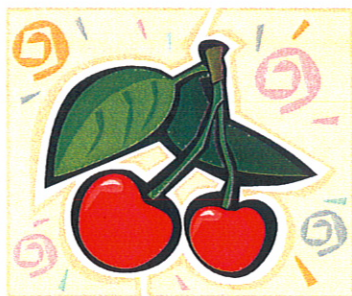


# Sustainability Workshop

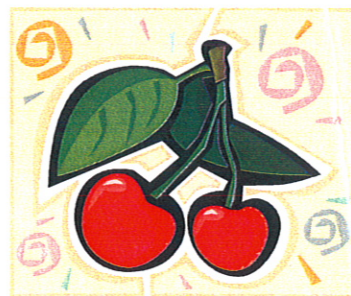
## for cherry growers, packers, PCAs

Are California cherries sustainably farmed?  
Consumers, buyers and retailers want to know...

The California Cherry Board has developed a self-assessment workbook to help document and promote good stewardship. Come to a workshop & lunch to learn about this new tool:



Tuesday, August 25  
Robert J. Cabral Agriculture Center  
2101 East Earhart Ave, Stockton,  
Workshop: 10 am to noon  
Lunch: noon to 1:00 pm



The Cherry Self-Assessment Workbook was developed by a committee of growers, packer/shippers, and University of California Farm Advisors under the guidance of the California Cherry Board. It was created to enable growers and packers to anonymously document the wide array of practices used in cherry orchards today and to learn about other practices that may serve to improve orchard performance. Using the workbook will provide statistics that confirm the commitment to good stewardship by California cherry growers. It may also help with food safety planning and programs like Whole Foods Market's Responsibly Grown program. All participants will receive a printed copy of the self-assessment workbook and a demonstration of how to use it and gain secure, on-line access.

The project is funded by a California Department of Food and Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant to the California Cherry Board.

*An hour of DPR Continuing Education Units has been applied for*

Please RSVP to:

Nick Matteis, California Cherry Board at (916) 441-1064 [nmatteis@agamsi.com](mailto:nmatteis@agamsi.com); or  
Cliff Ohmart, SureHarvest at (530) 601-0740 [cohmart@sureharvest.com](mailto:cohmart@sureharvest.com)