



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION • UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Tree and Vine Newsletter



Chuck Ingels, Pomology/Viticulture Farm Advisor

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January 2003

ANNUAL PEAR RESEARCH MEETING

Wednesday, February 12, 2003

8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Courtland Auditorium, corner of Primasing Ave. (off Hwy 160) and Washington Ave., Courtland
C.E. credit applied for: PCA/Private Applicator - 3.0 hours, and CCA - 3.5 hours

--Free of Charge--

Sponsored by:

UC Cooperative Extension, Calif. Pear Advisory Board, and the Pear Pest Management Research Fund

Agenda

***** Please note that you must RSVP with Chuck Ingels for lunch by Feb. 7 *****

- 8:00 Sign-in and refreshments
8:20 Welcome and announcements

Entomology

- 8:30 1. Determination of key predators of pear psylla using molecular bioassays for prey detection
2. Development of alternative dispensing technologies for management of codling moth
Steve Welter, UC Berkeley
9:00 Control of codling moth and true bugs with reduced risk insecticides
Koji Zolbrod (for Bob Van Steenwyk), UC Berkeley and Lucia Varela, UCCE North Coast
9:35 Conspere stink bug trial, Upper Sacramento Valley
Rachel Elkins, UCCE Lake/Mendocino Counties

Plant Pathology

- 9:50 Effects of Apogee on shoot growth, rat-tail bloom, and fire blight
Steve Southwick, UC Davis
10:10 --Break--
10:30 Control of fire blight and fruit russet using biological and chemical controls
Steve Lindow, UC Berkeley
10:50 1. Evaluation of new bactericides for control of fire blight
2. New fungicides for postharvest management of fruit decays
Jim Adaskaveg, UC Riverside
11:10 Studies in the biology and control of oak root fungus
Rachel Elkins, UCCE Lake/Mendocino Counties
11:40 Outlook for UC Cooperative Extension in Sacramento County
Gloria Barrett, County Director, UCCE Sacramento

Horticulture

- 12:00 Abandoned Orchard - Pest Eradication Program
Bob McClain, CPAB
12:15 Effects of pruning method on yield and fruit size
Chuck Ingels, UCCE Sacramento County
12:30 Lunch (RSVP)– *Courtesy of the Calif. Pear Advisory Board*

VINE MEALYBUG PREVENTION & CONTROL

In 2002, the vine mealybug (*Planococcus ficus*) was found in vineyard blocks in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Napa, Sonoma, Madera, and Stanislaus Counties, as well as in and around Sacramento County. An infestation was recently found in the Gold Hill area of El Dorado County. The vine mealybug (VMB) poses a very significant long-term threat to grape production in all areas of the state.

Local Monitoring. In August 2002, a VMB infestation was identified in a Sacramento County vineyard, and with the assistance of UC researchers Kent Daane and Walt Bentley, the Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner's office, and research assistant Gordon Card, each week through October we monitored pheromone traps set in the infested vineyard block. We found up to thousands of males per trap in the infested block and a surrounding block, and far fewer in other blocks. The males can apparently fly up to about a mile to reach the traps with strongly attractive lures, so it was impossible to determine if these blocks were actually infested, but they probably were not because of the very low numbers. We also set dozens of traps in vineyards throughout the county but found no more VMB males.

Sanitation. Fortunately, the female VMB is unable to fly, but it can move to other vineyards by hitchhiking on humans, equipment (e.g., harvesters, birds, or vine material). New infestations in previously clean areas have been associated with contaminated planting materials coming from infested regions. Spread of the insect by its own movement will be relatively slow, and tends to be along the direction of the rows.

The key to control is prevention! To avoid spread of VMB from infested vineyards to non-infested vineyards:

- Steam clean all vineyard equipment that is shared between properties. It should be free of all plant material.
- Avoid movement of vineyard workers from one property to another. If it is necessary for workers to operate in different vineyards, they should be given time to

change clothes prior to entering a new vineyard.

- Workers should be trained to identify VMB and the VMB poster should be displayed prominently (see below).

Eradication. Complete eradication from a vineyard is difficult, and may not be possible in many situations without removing the heavily infested vines. Early detection and quick, thorough action is the key to a successful eradication effort to reduce long-term chemical use. There will be more success in eradicating the pest from young vines (less than 4 years old), because the vines have yet to develop thick layers of bark, and their less-developed root systems contribute to efficient uptake of systemic insecticides.

Every effort should be made to eradicate the VMB to prevent its spread and permanent establishment. If your vineyard is heavily infested, consider applying Lorsban® (chlorpyrifos) just before budbreak in March. The 4-pt. rate applied in a minimum of 200 gallons per acre should cover the vine and also contact the base of the plant. No other additive is required with this treatment, which is more effective if applied on a warm day (70°F). Crawlers and later instar nymphs are active on such days and contact with the insecticide will be improved compared to application when temperatures are below 65°F. However, this treatment will not affect those VMB that are hidden under bark and on roots.

During the bloom period, if on drip irrigation, Admire® (imidachloprid) should be injected with irrigation. There is a 24(c) Special Local Need label for this application. A single application can be made with a minimum of 24 fl. oz./acre. If two applications are made, each should be made at 16 fl.oz./acre. The first should be applied during bloom and the second approximately 8 to 10 weeks later, but not later than 30 days before harvest. Do not exceed 0.5 lb. active ingredient imidacloprid (Admire + Provado) per acre per year.

In addition, an early summer foliar application should be made using the insect growth regulator, Applaud® (buprofezin), which is "soft" on beneficials and is also labeled for

control of leafhoppers. Other insecticides are also available for this treatment.

During the summer, consider releasing the parasitoid *Anagyrus pseudococci*, which is available from the FAR Insectary in southern California. Specific recommendations for release are currently under development and will be available soon.

Useful Resources. A new UC publication, *Mealybugs in California Vineyards*, is now available in our office (Pub. no. 21612, 16 pp.). The cost is \$7 plus tax. It covers 6 mealybug species and has over 30 color photos. Or call UC ANR Communication Services, (800) 994-8849 or log on at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>.

An informative color poster in both English and Spanish has been developed by UC Farm Advisors Mark Battany (San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara) and Lucia Varela (North Coast). The poster is being mailed to all growers in the Lodi District by the Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission, and to all growers the Clarksburg District by the Clarksburg Wine Growers Association. Additional copies are available in our office, in both 8½ x 11 in. and 11 x 17 in. formats.

UCCE NEWSLETTERS ON-LINE

Past issues of the Sacramento County Tree & Vine newsletter, as well as the Sacramento County Landscape & Nursery News are now available on our web site (<http://cesacramento.ucdavis.edu>). Issues of many other UCCE Farm Advisor newsletters can be found on the UC Fruit & Nut Research & Information Center web site (<http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu/>). Chilling hours and other weather information from throughout the state, as well as tree crop information is also available on their web site.

OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS

Advances in Codling Moth Management for Apples, Pears, and Walnuts

Tuesday, March 6, 2003
Yuba City, CA

Contact:

UC Cooperative Extension, (530) 822-7515.
Cost: \$15

Cherry Production: A Pomology Short Course

March 25-27, 2003
Stockton, CA

Contact:

University Extension – Phone: (800) 752-0881
or web site: www.extension.ucdavis.edu

51st Annual Lodi Grape Day

Tuesday, February 4, 2003
Hutchins St. Square, 125 S. Hutchins St., Lodi
Registration – 7:30 a.m.
Meeting begins – 8:00 a.m.

Topics:

Syrah clone trial in the Lodi District
Vine Mealybug field experiences and control
Code of Sustainable Winegrowing Workbook
The GWSS/PD containment program & threats
of other invasive species
Young vine decline: causes & controls
Luncheon speaker – How to recognize and
report illegal methamphetamine lab dumps
on farms and ranches

Lunch tickets (\$12) available at the door



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