

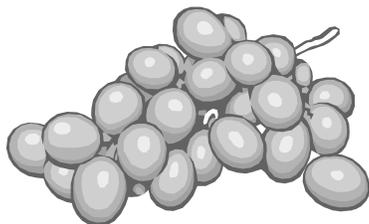
THE SCOOP

on fruits and nuts in Stanislaus County

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by Roger Duncan

Pomology and
Viticulture Advisor



North San Joaquin Valley Cling Peach Seminar

Sponsored by UC Cooperative Extension
& the Cling Peach Board

December 4, 2008

8:30 – Noon

Stanislaus County Agricultural Center

Service and Crows Landing Roads, Modesto

1.5 hrs. Continuing Ed Credits, includes .5 hr of Laws & Regs.

8:00 Registration, coffee, snack & socializing

8:30 • **Cutting Labor and Input Costs**
• **New Rootstock Considerations**
Ted DeJong, UC Davis

• **Control Strategies & New Materials for Insect Control in Peaches**
Walt Bentley, UC Cooperative Extension, Kearney Ag Center

• **Cling Peach Board Business**
Discussion of Industry Research Needs
-Board Member Nominations
Jim Melban – Cling Peach Board

• **Regulation Changes for Orchard Crops - Laws & Regs.**
Gary Casari, Ag Commissioner, Stanislaus County

• **Mechanical Pre-Thinning**
Maxwell Norton, UC Cooperative Extension, Merced County

12:00 Lunch hosted by the Cling Peach Board

U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of California, and Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors cooperating

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Bug-Proof Microsprinklers

Do you have problems with your microsprinklers clogging in the late summer and fall? If you do, there is a good chance that it is due to the Fuller rose beetle. Beginning in late summer, these weevils look for little cracks and crevasses to lay their cream-colored egg masses. Unfortunately, the pivot point for microsprinkler spinners is a favorite spot for laying eggs which prevents the spinner from spinning. This can be very frustrating because the problem is always the worst during the busy almond harvest season.

Last year I tested two new microsprinklers with almond grower Larry Carter and compared them to his older Daan 2001 microsprinkler spinners in a replicated field trial. Each time Larry irrigated his orchard, he counted the number of sprinklers that were clogged and compared them to his older Daan 2001 microsprinklers in the trial area. His Daan microsprinklers averaged between 15% - 33% clogging. Not one of the new test sprinklers clogged due to Fuller rose beetle egg laying during the whole test period.

One of the new sprinklers was called the “Eliminator” from NaanDan Jain Irrigation (Point Source Irrigation; 877-228-9774). It is a pretty high tech, pressure compensating spinner with a pretty high tech price. The second was the Fan-Jet Plus from Bowsmith (800-269-7648), a pretty low tech sprayer (not a spinner) with a lower tech price. Both sprinklers hide their operating parts inside of a cup when they are not running which blocks the Fuller rose beetle from laying her eggs. Both sprinklers also come in a range of flow rates. I don’t know how these new sprinklers will hold out over years of use, but they both definitely keep out the Fuller rose beetle.

To simplify information, trade names of products have been used. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.

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