



University of California Cooperative Extension

WALNUT NEWS

Stanislaus County

February 2008



University of California Cooperative Extension 38th Annual Tri-County Walnut Institute

Thursday, February 28, 2008
UC Cooperative Extension Auditorium
420 South Wilson Way, Stockton
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

8:00 Registration and Refreshments

8:30 Refining Use of Retain[®] to Reduce Pistillate Flower Abortion in Serr
Kathy Kelley Anderson, UC Walnut Farm Advisor, Stanislaus County

Codling Moth Mating Disruption Using “Puffers” & Other New Dispensers
Joe Grant, UC Farm Advisor, San Joaquin County

Staying Under the Regulatory Radar: Managing Pesticide Run-Off in Walnuts
Terry Prichard, UC Water Management Specialist, UC Davis

Walnut Industry Annual Report
Dennis Balint, Executive Director/CEO, WMB/CWC

Break

Nursery Production and Future Availability of UC Clonal Paradox Rootstocks
Tom Burchell, President/CEO, Burchell Nursery

Recent Advances in Crown Gall Biology and Control
Dan Kluepfel, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, UC Davis

New On-Line Walnut Research Database
Donna Seaver, Program Representative, Master Gardener Program, UC Davis

Walnut Growing and Research in France
Joe Grant

12:00 Adjourn



1.5 continuing education credit hours pending

University of California, US Department of Agriculture and Stanislaus County Cooperating

Pest Hotline. The Tree and Vine IPM Pest Hotline for the 2008 season will begin March 18. Information on degree-days, flight activity and treatment timing for codling moth, peach twig borer, Oriental fruit moth and omnivorous leafroller is available 24 hours a day by calling 525-6841. Information is based on monitoring by farm advisors in local orchards. The information will be updated every Tuesday.

IPM Breakfast Meetings. Roger Duncan and I will resume our Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Update Breakfast Meetings for tree and vine crops. They will begin Wednesday, March 5 from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. and continue on the first and third Wednesday of each month through June 18. The meetings will be held at the Peach Tree Restaurant located at 2535 E. Whitmore Avenue in Ceres. Informal discussions will include IPM topics, ongoing research and examples of pest damage for viewing. One hour of continuing education credit for DPR license holders and growers will be offered for each date. The meetings are open to anyone interested in tree and vine crop IPM topics. There are no fees or reservations required. If you have suggestions for discussion items, please call me at 525-6800.

Ground Squirrels. Controlling adult ground squirrels before they reproduce in the spring is a critical part of good management. Burrow fumigation is the method of choice at this time of year when squirrels feed on green vegetation and are not interested in baited grains. A fumigant program followed by anticoagulant baiting in the summer can control 90% of the population. Squirrels typically breed from late January to early March, but the time can vary with the weather and location. During the winter, squirrels with good fat reserves hibernate in sealed burrows. Other squirrels, usually the spring born juveniles, forage above ground even in cold weather. For the best results, use burrow fumigants about three weeks after the first squirrels emerge from hibernation. Zinc phosphide tablets, a restricted use material, is an effective substance.

Save supply and labor costs by treating only active burrows. Cover burrow openings and treat only those that are re-opened. Fumigate following rain or irrigation since soil moisture is necessary to release the gas. The best timing is early morning or evening when ground squirrels are most likely to be inside the burrows. Check all treated burrows a few days after fumigation and treat any that have opened. Do not treat burrows that are near or under buildings. More information can be found on the UC Ground Squirrel Best Management Practices website at <http://groups.ucanr.org/gsbmp>.

Orchard Sanitation. Preventing navel orangeworm (NOW) infestations is the most reliable approach to managing the pest. Over the winter, NOW live in mummy and trash nuts in the orchard and around hullers and dryers. They are the source of this season's infestation. Reduce the population by removing mummy nuts in trees and off berms and flail mow the orchard middles. The shells must be shattered to kill the larvae. Disking, irrigation or letting nuts decay in the cover crop are minimally effective in reducing the population. Destroy any trash nuts around hullers and bins.

Scale Pests. Check trunks, scaffolds, shoots and prunings for scale pests. The most widespread is walnut scale. It is often seen in daisy-shaped clusters of gray to brown scale coverings about 1/12 inch in diameter. Flip off the cover to expose the yellow scale body with its indented margins. Dead scale bodies appear shrunken with a dark orange color. Spray treatments are not always needed because trees can tolerate moderate populations and natural enemies provide good control. Numerous small holes in the coverings are a good indication of adequate parasitism. Extremely heavy populations can cause the bark to crack. If necessary, apply sprays at the delayed dormant period or after crawlers emerge in late spring depending on the material.

San Jose scale is less common and more likely to cause economic damage. This time of the year, the scale cover is black; the yellow scale body has smooth margins. Treatment is required when there are more than an average of five black caps per foot of last year's wood and less than 90% parasitism. If necessary consider treating during the delayed dormant period for the best control and to avoid killing natural enemies.

Information on effective materials is available at our office in the UC Walnut Pest Management Guidelines and online at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu.

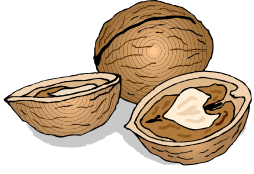
Nitrogen Fertilization. Walnut trees begin taking up nitrogen from the soil when the catkins are about half expanded. Time applications so that nitrogen is available at this point. In soils with good nutrient holding capacity, growers often apply about 2/3 of the trees' annual requirement in the spring. In sandier soils with little clay or organic matter, it is more efficient to apply smaller amounts of fertilizer more frequently. This is a very simplistic statement because there are many things to consider when developing a nitrogen fertilization program. In fact, each orchard essentially requires a different fertilizer program since soil type, irrigation practices, application method, etc. all influence how efficiently the tree uses nitrogen.

A new UC publication, #21623, Guide to Efficient Nitrogen Fertilizer Use in Walnut Orchards for \$10.00, provides research-based, practical information useful in developing a nitrogen program. It is available through UC ANR Communications Services, which can be reached at 1-800-994-8849 or <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>.

Kathy

Kathy Kelley Anderson
UC Farm Advisor

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Directions to this event:

From Highway 99 merge west onto Highway 4. Travel 1.7 miles and take the Wilson Way exit. Upon exiting the freeway you will travel 0.1 mile west on E. Washington St. Turn left (south) onto Wilson Way.

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