



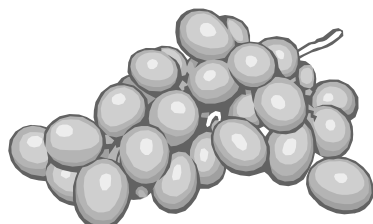
THE SCOOP

on fruits and nuts in Stanislaus County

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by Roger Duncan

Pomology and
Viticulture Advisor



Spring 2006 Cling Peach Field Day

Thursday, May 18, 2006

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

21131 Sexton Road, Escalon

This field day will be held in a Ross cling peach orchard with twenty-three different rootstocks, many imported from other countries. Some rootstocks are size controlling. Some are reported to do well in replant situations. Many rootstocks were severely impacted by bacterial canker this year. Attendees will have the opportunity to walk through the plot and observe the rootstocks.

8:30 Registration Begins

9:00 Using the Growing Degree Hour Model to Determine Your Harvest Date and How Hard to Thin

Ted DeJong, Pomology Extension Specialist, UC Davis

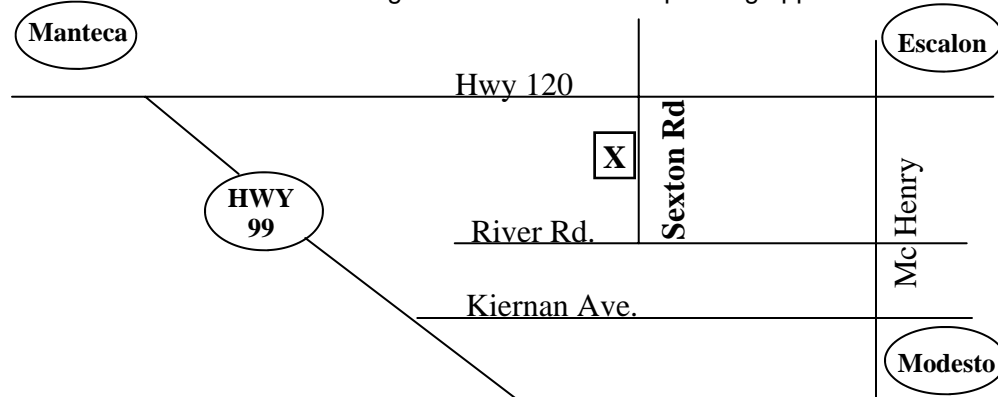
Overview of Bacterial Canker and its Management

Roger Duncan, UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor, Stanislaus County

Overview of 23 Rootstocks for Performance in an Orchard Replant Situation and Their Tolerance to Bacterial Canker

Ted DeJong & Ali Almehdi, Dept. of Plant Sciences, UC Davis

2 hours of continuing education credits are pending approval.



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

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Peach Growers: Thin Lightly for Maximum Yields

Maximum yields (and profits) are obtained in cling peach orchards when most harvested fruit are just barely over the minimum size at harvest. If fruit are much larger than the minimum size, trees were overthinned and overall yields will be lower than the potential for that orchard. Fruit size for most varieties is likely to be very large in 2006, so growers should be careful not to overthin. There are two main reasons why fruit will be large this year: lower than average fruit set in most orchards and a very long growing season.

Fruit development (the process of going from a flower to a mature fruit) is driven largely by temperature. U.C. Davis Pomology Specialist, Dr. Ted DeJong, has shown that the number of heat units accumulated during the first 30 days after bloom can be used to accurately predict when a peach orchard will be ready to be harvested. The warmer the first 30 days, the more quickly fruit will mature and the earlier the harvest. What happens after the first 30 days has a much smaller influence on harvest date.

On the other hand, fruit size is driven largely by the amount of carbohydrates a fruit accumulates before it matures. As trees produce carbohydrates through photosynthesis, the carbohydrates are partitioned out to all the fruit on the tree. The amount of carbohydrates each fruit will accumulate largely depends on two things. The first is how many other fruit it has to compete with. This is a factor of initial fruit set together with how early and severe a tree is thinned. The more fruit there are on a tree, the smaller they all will be. Also, the later a tree is thinned, the smaller the remaining fruit will be.

The second important factor in fruit carbohydrate accumulation is the length of time a fruit hangs on a tree. The longer a fruit hangs on a tree before ripening, the more opportunity it has to accumulate carbohydrates and the larger it will grow. That is why we thin extra early varieties like Loadel earlier and harder than late varieties. Loadel fruit just don't have the time to accumulate a lot of carbohydrates and are therefore more difficult to size.

Remember back to 2004 when we had a very warm spring. According to the Denair CIMIS weather station, we accumulated 8801 growing degree hours (GDH) during the first 30 days after bloom. As a result, fruit matured very quickly and we had a very short growing season. As a result, most growers struggled with small fruit in 2004, especially in early and extra early varieties unless they thinned early and hard. In contrast, the spring of 2005 was very mild. We only accumulated 6630 GDH in our area during the first 30 days after bloom. As a result, it took longer for fruit to mature so fruit were generally very large last year. In one Loadel orchard where I take harvest data every year, there were 132 days between bloom and harvest in 2005 compared to only 121 days in 2004. We all know how much size can occur in 11 extra growing days!

How about this year? Obviously this has been one of the coolest springs we have had in a long time. If we use March 17th as the "official" bloom date, we only accumulated 4945 GDH during the first 30 days after bloom (1685 less than last year). This means fruit maturity development will be extremely delayed and fruit will have a very long time to size on the trees this year. In addition to a long growing season, fruit set was lower than average in most orchards. This all leads to a potential for huge fruit in 2006.

What about harvest date? Using the model, the length of time from bloom to harvest may be as much as 10 - 12 days longer than last year. In addition, bloom was 2 weeks later in 2006 than in 2005 (March 17th compared to March 3rd). This means we have the potential for the harvest season to start 3 - 4 weeks later than last year! Will we harvest Loadels in August??

UC Cooperative Extension Stanislaus County Almond Field Day

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

9:00 am– 12:00 pm

Claribel Road, 6 miles east of Albers Road

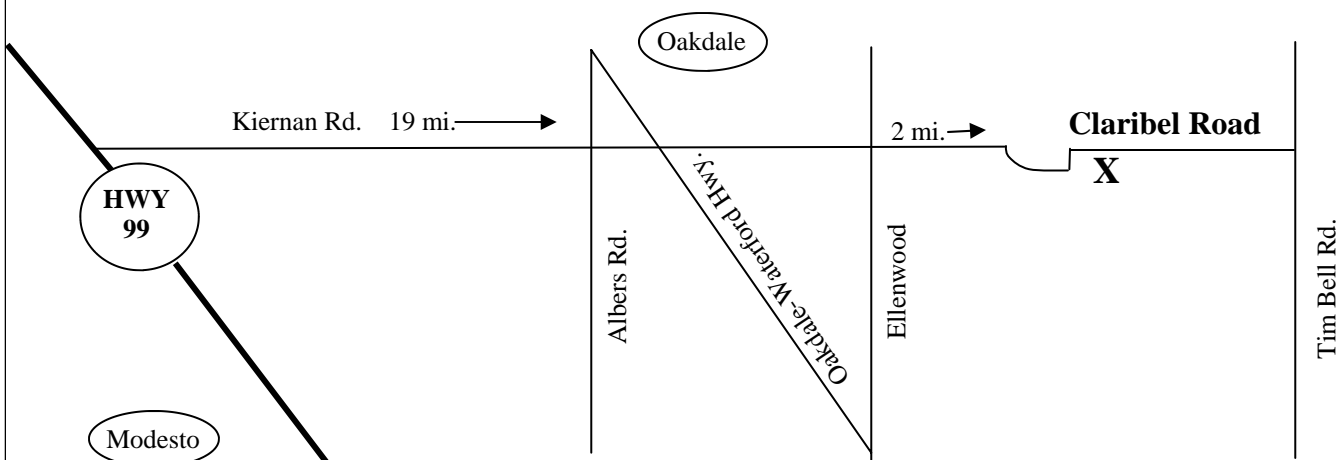
8:30 Registration Begins

9:00 Program Begins

- **Evaluation of Reduced Pruning Techniques and Various Planting Densities for Efficient Almond Production**
Roger Duncan, UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor, Stanislaus County
- **Discussion of “June Drop” of Almond Nutlets**
Dr. Ted DeJong, UC Cooperative Extension Pomology Specialist, UC Davis
- **Identification and Management of Phytophthora Root & Crown Rot**
Dr. Greg Browne, Plant Pathologist, USDA
- **Monitoring Techniques and New Miticides in an IPM Program for Spider Mites**
David Haviland, UC Cooperative Extension Entomology Advisor, Kern County
- **Irrigation Scheduling in Almond Using Soil and Plant Based Measurements**
Dr. Bruce Lampinen, UC Cooperative Extension Pomology Specialist, UC Davis

1.5 hours of continuing education credits are pending approval

This orchard is WAY out Claribel Road in the Sierra foothills. The plot contains unpruned and minimally pruned almond trees in their 7th growing season. Tree planting density ranges from 90 trees per acre (22' x 22') to 198 trees per acre (10' x 22'). Attendees will have the opportunity to walk through the plot and observe the trees. Please call if accommodations need to be made for people with mobility limitations.



**New Publication:
Fertigation with Microirrigation**

Blaine Hanson, Neil O'Connell, Jan Hopmans, Jirka Simunek, Robert Beede

This manual helps guide users through strategies and decision making for fertigation with nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and gypsum. The guide also covers the characteristics of selected fertilizers commonly used for fertigation, long and short duration strategies, how to calculate injection rates, frequency considerations, how to apply fertilizers uniformly, mixing considerations, injection devices, and how to prevent backflow. Publication #21620 \$25.00.

Orders can be placed by calling 1-800-994-8849.

Upcoming Events:

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Stanislaus County Almond Field Day

Wednesday, May 31, 2006
9:00 am—12:00 pm
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