

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

TREE TOPICS

INFORMATION FOR TREE FRUIT AND NUT GROWERS
IN CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL COAST REGION

JANUARY 17, 2007

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FRUIT INSTITUTE

The Fruit Institute, my annual meeting for apricot and cherry growers, will be on Tuesday, February 13. This meeting is free and open to everyone – no pre-registration is required. It will be held from 9:00 a.m. through 12 Noon at the Veterans Memorial Building in Hollister. Continuing education hours have been approved by the Department of Pesticide Regulation, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Certified Crop Adviser Program. See the attached agenda for more details.

WALNUT INSTITUTE

The Walnut Institute will be held Thursday, February 15 from 8:30 a.m. until 12 Noon. This is my annual walnut growers meeting which is free and open to everyone with no pre-registration required. The location is the Veterans Memorial Building in Hollister. Continuing education hours have been approved by the Department of Pesticide Regulation, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Certified Crop Adviser Program. See the attached agenda for more details.

CHILLING AND REST-BREAKING TREATMENTS

This winter is turning out to be the coldest since the winter of 2000-01. This is good for deciduous orchards such as apples, apricots, cherries and walnuts since a certain amount of chilling is required for normal bloom and leafing. The amount of chilling has traditionally been measured by the number of chilling hours below 45 deg F from November through February. More recently we have utilized a more complicated measurement called chill portions which takes into account the effectiveness of various temperatures for chilling. (continued)

Chill portions is still a relatively new concept but is rapidly becoming accepted in the cherry industry for the timing of rest-breaking treatments. Details have been worked out for cherries but not for other fruits and nuts where we still use chilling hours. For cherries, Dormex is applied at 42-50 chill portions and CAN 17 + adjuvant is applied at 54-58 chill portions for advancing bloom, more uniform blooming and earlier fruit maturity. Ask me for a copy of the fact sheet on rest-breaking treatments that appeared in last January's Tree Topics. The current chilling hours and chill portions are shown below through January 15 for various Central Coast locations.

	Chilling Hours (<45 deg F)	Chill Portions (Dynamic Model)
Hollister	623	42
San Juan Valley	625	44
Morgan Hill	547	45
Watsonville	612	42
Santa Cruz	483	54
Salinas	588	61
King City	735	47

There are anomalies that show up when utilizing chill portions such as the high values for Santa Cruz and Salinas – these are most likely due to lower daytime temperatures that make chilling more effective at least as far as the model is concerned. As it stands right now, I would utilize chill portions only for cherries in the inland areas such as Hollister and Morgan Hill, not those directly exposed to the coast. For other crops we like to see 900 to 1000 chilling hours by the end of February which we have a good chance of reaching this year. You may check the current chill portions and chilling hour accumulations by going to our fruit and nut web site at <http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu>. Click on “Weather Services” to access current and historical data for each location.

FREEZE INFORMATION

The mid-January freeze will not harm apples, apricots and cherries but some other crops will be impacted. We could see some shoot dieback on walnuts particularly because of the dry winter conditions. Be careful when selecting grafting wood to make sure you have undamaged wood. You may want to delay pruning until damage can be assessed. For citrus (in the Greenfield area) and avocados (in the Watsonville area), severe damage to the fruit is expected and variable but potentially severe damage to trees. Damage is also expected in olive orchards, especially with young trees. Wait to do any pruning of evergreen sub-tropical fruit trees until late in the spring after damage is apparent. Below are some low temperatures (deg F) for Central Coast locations through January 15.

	1/11	1/12	1/13	1/14	1/15
Hollister	30	24	20	20	22
San Juan Valley	31	25	19	19	20
Morgan Hill	30	29	23	21	23
Watsonville	29	26	25	22	24
Santa Cruz	32	30	28	25	26
Salinas – North	30	25	23	25	26
King City	28	20	16	15	15

NEW DORMANT SPRAY REGULATIONS

New dormant spray regulations went in to effect in August, 2006 which will have a significant impact on the use of dormant insecticide sprays in tree crops. Only dormant oils, spinosad (Success or Entrust) or *Bacillus* sp. (many Bt products) can be used without restriction. Conventional insecticides such organophosphates (Diazinon, Chlorpyrifos, etc.) or pyrethroids (Asana, Pounce, etc.) are subject to the new regulations. You must now get a written recommendation from a Pest Control Adviser, provide a 100-foot buffer zone from any sensitive aquatic site and apply when the wind speed is between 3 and 10 miles per hour. There are other restrictions such as no dormant sprays being allowed if the National Weather Service has forecast rain within 48 hours or the soil is saturated and field runoff is likely. These new regulations are designed to reduce drift and runoff into rivers and streams. For more information contact your local Agricultural Commissioner's office. Information is also available at the Department of Pesticide Regulation web site at www.cdpr.ca.gov . Click on the A-Z index and then "Dormant Spray Water Quality Initiative". Click on the "Fact Sheet" which is easy to read and is available in English and Spanish.

Also, be aware that oil sprays applied to dry trees or during freezing weather could be phytotoxic. We have both conditions. Bud damage could occur from oil injury.

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CENTRAL COAST COUNTIES
FRUIT INSTITUTE

FOR APRICOT AND CHERRY GROWERS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2007

9:00 A.M. –12 NOON

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING
649 SAN BENITO STREET, HOLLISTER

- 9:00 WELCOME AND CHILLING HOUR UPDATE
- 9:05 PESTICIDE REGULATION UPDATE
Ron Ross, Senior Agricultural Biologist
San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
- 9:35 INSECT PEST MANAGEMENT FOR APRICOTS AND CHERRIES
Bill Coates, UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor, Fruit and Nut
Crops, San Benito, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara and Monterey Counties
- 10:15 BREAK
- 10:20 EUTYPA DIEBACK OF APRICOTS AND CHERRIES
Dr. Doug Gubler, Extension Plant Pathologist, UC Davis
- 11:00 BLOOM AND FRUIT DISEASE MANAGEMENT FOR APRICOTS AND
CHERRIES
Dr. Jim Adaskaveg, Professor, Plant Pathology, UC Riverside

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT APPLIED FOR with Department of Pesticide Regulation, Central Coast Regional Water Board and California Certified Crop Adviser Program.

ALL DAY PARKING IS AVAILABLE ON EAST STREET BEHIND THE VETERAN'S BUILDING AND ON THE BUILDING SIDE OF 7TH STREET. MOST OTHER PARKING IS A TWO HOUR LIMIT. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL BILL COATES AT 831-637-5346 OR FAX AT 831-637-7111 OR E-MAIL AT bwwoates@ucdavis.edu .

CENTRAL COAST COUNTIES
WALNUT INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2007

8:30 A.M. –12 NOON

649 SAN BENITO STREET
VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING
HOLLISTER, CA

- 8:30 PESTICIDE REGULATION UPDATE**
Ron Ross, Senior Agricultural Biologist
San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
- 9:00 WALNUT VARIETY AND ROOTSTOCK RESEARCH AND
WALNUT BLACKLINE DISEASE MANAGEMENT**
Bill Coates, Farm Advisor
- 9:45 Break**
- 10:00 COVER CROPS AND NITROGEN FERTILIZER USE IN WALNUT
ORCHARDS**
Bill Coates, Farm Advisor
- 10:30 CODLING MOTH AND WALNUT HUSK FLY MANAGEMENT**
Dr. Bob Van Steenwyk, Extension Entomologist, UC Berkeley
- 11:00 WALNUT RESEARCH UPDATE**
Dr. Bruce Lampinen, Extension Specialist, UC Davis
- 11:30 WALNUT MARKETING BOARD / WALNUT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES**
Dennis Balint, CEO, Walnut Marketing Board / California Walnut Commission

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT APPLIED FOR with Department of Pesticide Regulation, Central Coast Regional Water Board and California Certified Crop Adviser Program. All day parking is available on the south and east sides of the Veteran's Building. All other parking is 2 hour. Enter building from the main (west) entrance facing San Benito Street. For further information contact Bill Coates at 831-637-5346, FAX at 831-637-7111 or e-mail at bwwcoates@ucdavis.edu.

TREE TOPICS NEWSLETTER

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