



# OLIVE NOTES

Agriculture & Natural Resources



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## 1 UCCE Sacramento Valley Olive Day -- April 20, 2010 Veterans Memorial Hall – 1620 Solano Street – Corning

Co-Sponsored by Bell Carter Olives, Musco Family Olives, California Olive Ranch, West Coast Olives, Tehama and Glenn Co. Ag. Commissioners and UCCE in Glenn, Tehama and Butte Counties

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|-----------|--|--|
| 7:50 a.m. | <b>Registration</b>  |  |
| 8:20      | <b>Introduction</b> – <i>Bill Krueger, UC Farm Advisor, Glenn County</i>   |  |
| 8:25      | <b>Mechanical Harvest of Table Olives</b><br><i>Louise Ferguson, UC Olive Specialist</i>   |  |
| 9:10      | <b>Olive Fly Update</b><br><i>Bob Van Steenwyck, UC Entomology Specialist, UC Berkeley</i>   |  |
| 9:40      | <b>Olive Pest Management Districts Update</b><br><i>Tehama and Glenn County -speakers to be determined</i>                               |  |
| 10:00     | <b>Break</b>   |  |
| 10:20     | <b>Ag. Commissioner Update, Laws and Regulations and New Olive Pests</b><br><i>Doug Compton, Tehama County Ag. Commissioner's Office</i> |  |
| 10:40     | <b>UC Davis Olive Center Update of Activities</b><br><i>Dan Flynn, Director</i>  |  |
| 11:00     | <b>Olive Freeze Damage Review and Olive Knot Control</b><br><i>Bill Krueger, UC Farm Advisor, Glenn County</i>                           |  |
| 11:30     | <b>Irrigation of Oil Olives and Phytophthora Problems on Young Trees</b><br><i>Joe Connell, UC Farm Advisor, Butte County</i>            |  |
| 12:00     | <b>Lunch</b><br><i>Courtesy of Bell Carter Olives, Musco Family Olives and California Olive Ranch</i>                                    |  |

1 Continuing education credit has been applied for and will be granted if approved.

**Please phone - 865-1105 or e-mail ([jesamons@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jesamons@ucdavis.edu)) your reservation for the complimentary lunch before April 15 so that we may accommodate all guests.**

## **Nitrogen fertilizer applications**

Adequate fertility is very easily achieved in olives with ground applications of nitrogen fertilizer. Make annual applications in accordance with leaf analysis to ensure that you have adequate new shoot growth of between 8 and 20 inches. Since olives bear fruit on one year old shoots, this new growth each year is important to reduce the severity of alternate bearing.

Nitrogen application rates in the range of 50 to 75 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre per year are usually appropriate in mature orchards. Be sure to take into account the percentage of nitrogen in the fertilizer you're applying. Now is a good time to apply nitrogen fertilizers. Be sure that additional rain or irrigation following the application moves the nutrients into the root zone.

Tree nutrition can be further checked with a leaf analysis this coming July. The three nutrients that are most likely deficient in our area are nitrogen, potassium, and boron. If any one of these elements is deficient your olive trees will not be able to produce at the maximum level.

## **Irrigation**

High temperatures and longer days will cause olive trees to use soil moisture at a rapid rate as bloom approaches. Begin to plan for the irrigation season soon. We are currently in an important stage for the developing olive bloom. If additional rains don't come, bloom can be adversely affected and fruit set can be reduced if the trees suffer water stress. Water stress during the spring floral development period increases pistil abortion and reduces the number of flower clusters and flowers formed. Stress following bloom increases natural fruit drop.

Our olive orchard soils are shallow, rocky, and often have a limited soil water reservoir. Shortly after rainfall ceases, the available water in the soil profile can be used up very quickly.

If trees run out of water, all growth processes are adversely affected. Don't let water stress reduce fruit set or negatively affect new shoot growth thereby making alternate bearing problems more severe.