



University of  
California  
Cooperative Extension  
Agriculture & Natural Resources

# OLIVE NOTES

April 5, 2012



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*Joe Connell*  
UC Farm Advisor

## **UCCE Sacramento Valley Olive Day -- April 18, 2012** **Veterans Memorial Hall, 1620 Solano Street, Corning**

*Co-sponsored by Musco Family Olives, Bell Carter Olives, California Olive Ranch,  
West Coast Olive Products and the Glenn County Ag. Commissioner*

- 7:30 a.m. Registration
- 8:00 Ag Commissioner Update  
*Doug Compton, Tehama County Ag. Commissioner's Office*
- 8:20 Review of Olive Fly Situation at the Cannery 201  
*Canner Representatives*
- 9:35 Olive Pest Management District Updates  
*Speakers To be determined*
- 8:55 Olive Fly Control Update  
*Bill Krueger, UCCE Farm Advisor, Glenn County*
- 9:25 Mechanical Harvest Update  
*Louise Ferguson, UCCE Olive Specialist*
- 9:55 Coffee Break - *Courtesy of West Coast Olive Products*
- 10:15 Overview of Olive Diseases Including Olive Knot  
*Elizabeth Fichtner, UCCE Farm Advisor, Tulare County*
- 10:45 Olive Root Physiology and Root Functions  
*Joe Connell, UCCE Farm Advisor, Butte County*
- 11:15 Research Updates: Stem Water Potential, A Tool for Irrigation Scheduling and Monitoring and Mechanical Hedging of Oil Olives  
*Bill Krueger, UCCE Farm Advisor, Glenn County*
- 11:45 California Olive Committee Activities  
*Alexander Ott, Executive Director, California Olive Committee*
- 12:15 Lunch--*Courtesy of Musco Family Olives, Bell Carter Olives and California Olive Ranch*

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

**Please phone (530-865-1107) or email in ([jesamons@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jesamons@ucdavis.edu)) your reservation for the Complimentary lunch by April 12th so that we may accommodate all guests.**

## **Olive Fruit Fly Management**

The maximum tolerance for olive fly in **oil olives** depends on the individual processor, but is usually around 10% damage. You need to manage olive fly if you're going to produce excellent quality olive oil. Currently, GF-120 NF Naturalyte Fruit Fly Bait (a formulated Spinosad bait produced by Dow AgroSciences LLC) is available as a sprayable, insecticidal material that is also approved for organically grown olives. When using an "all terrain vehicle" (ATV), the solution should be applied to the upper half of each tree, in every other row each week (divide the amount of solution per acre by the number of trees per acre to determine the amount of solution to apply per tree). The following week, the alternate unsprayed rows should be treated in a similar manner. For best effect, large droplets (4–5 mm in diameter) are needed so they do not dry out quickly. When using a handgun applicator for individual trees, cover approximately a 2-foot diameter area within the tree canopy on the north or east side of each tree. Do not use flat fan nozzles. For best results, about three to six 5 mm diameter droplets per square foot of foliage are necessary.

Olive fruit fly populations are relatively low during the heat of the summer but increase in September and can increase substantially by harvest. Damage to fruit is certain to occur if sprays to control olive fly are not being applied. Monitoring your own orchard with traps will give you an idea of population trends over the season and can help you evaluate your spray program effectiveness. Additional information on OLF control is available in our office. Stop by or call for more information, 538-7201.

## **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.

For a complete discussion of the water budget method of irrigation scheduling, call our office and ask for the free publication "Scheduling Irrigations in Butte County Evergreen Orchards". This leaflet contains tables on water use that can be used to plan an entire season's irrigation schedule based on your orchard conditions and historical weekly tree water use.

## **Fertilizer Application**

Now is the time to apply nitrogen fertilizers. Additional rain or irrigation following the application will move 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.

## **Olive Production Manual, 2nd Edition**

Released in 2005, this manual quickly became a bestseller as the definitive guide to olive production in California. If you don't have it already, you'll want to update your library with this edition that includes new chapters on deficit irrigation, an expanded chapter on olive oil production, and coverage of four new pests, including the olive fly. The 180-page manual is fully illustrated with 40 tables, 19 line drawings, and 36 charts, and 100 color and black and white photos. Includes production techniques for commercial growers worldwide - from orchard planning and maintenance to harvesting and postharvest processing.

*Olive Production Manual, 2nd Edition*, ANR publication 3353, is available for \$35.00 in our Butte County Cooperative Extension office, call (530) 538-7201 for more information.