



OLIVE NOTES

Agriculture & Natural Resources

April 5, 2013



In This Issue:

- UCCE Sacramento Valley Olive Day – May 1st, Orland
- Olive Fruit Fly Management
- Irrigation
- Fertilizer Application
- Olive Production Manual, 2nd Edition

Joe Connell

UCCE Farm Advisor

UCCE Sacramento Valley Olive Day -- May 1, 2013 Glenn County Fairgrounds, Orland - Arts and Crafts Building

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

7:30 a.m. **Registration**

8:00 **Introduction-** *Bill Krueger, UCCE Emeritus*

8:05 **Agricultural Commissioner Update**

Glenn County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

8:35 **Mechanical Harvest of Table Olives**

- 2012 Experiences - *Dennis Burreson, Director of Field Operations, Musco Family Olive and Chair, California Olive Committee Research Committee*
- Research Update – *Dr. Louise Ferguson- UCCE Olive Specialist, Plant Science, UCD*

Mechanical Harvest of Oil Olives

State of the Art - Brian Mori, Director of Research and Grower Relations, California Olive Ranch

9:45 **Olive Pest Management Districts Update**

Glenn and Tehama Counties, Speakers to be determined

10:00 **Break-** *Refreshments provided by West Coast Olives*

10:20 **Black Scale- Biology and Control**

Dr. Kent Daane, UCCE Entomologist, UC Kearney Agricultural Center

10:50 **New Developments in The Control of Olive Knot Disease**

Dr. James Adaskaveg, UC Riverside, Department of Plant Pathology

11:20 **Marketing Order Update- Formation of the California Olive Oil Marketing Order and Activities of the California Olive Committee** – *Alex Ott, Executive Director*

12:00 **Lunch** - *Courtesy Musco Family Olives, Bell Carter Olives and California Olive Ranch*

**Continuing Education
applied for:
1.5 hours other,
0.5 hour laws and
regulations**

Please phone (530-865-1107) or email in (jesamons@ucdavis.edu) your reservation for the Complimentary lunch by April 24th 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.