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NOW Update

*Emily J. Symmes, Sacramento Valley Area IPM Advisor
University of California Cooperative Extension and Statewide IPM Program*

Now that the 2016 season has come and gone, it is a good time to reflect on pest management issues and use information learned to improve our IPM program in the coming year. Navel orangeworm (NOW) appeared to be a significant factor again in 2016 in harvest damage assessments. Of particular concern was the earlier-than-typical, and in some cases, spread out husksplit observed in later varieties, which have historically been considered less vulnerable to significant levels of worm damage. A number of growers and PCAs were caught off-guard by the worm damage present in these varieties in 2016.

Some considerations when planning your integrated NOW management program for 2017:

- **Consider all varieties important for NOW IPM activities.** These include sanitation, in-season monitoring, harvest timing, and minimizing other sources of in-season damage (codling moth, blight, and sunburn). There were areas in the Sacramento Valley last year where early season hail storms caused damage to developing walnuts. This resulted in malformation, and in some cases, enough damage that as nuts developed, openings were left in the husk, providing a prime opportunity for entry by early season NOW. Although we cannot protect against hail storms, be aware of the impact they may have on NOW infestation. For walnut photos of hail damage, see http://cesutter.ucanr.edu/newsletters/Orchard_Notes63563.pdf.
- **High NOW damage at harvest means the possibility of large overwintering populations.** Keep in mind that the thicker shell of walnuts offers overwintering NOW more protection than the softer shell of almonds. Therefore, less natural mortality should be expected in walnuts, even in wet years, and mowing or discing walnut mummies should always be done regardless of weather conditions. This concept for adequate sanitation for NOW management in walnuts is not new. Research in the early 1990s by UCCE Advisor Steve Sibbett and Specialist Bob Van Steenwyk showed that increasing levels

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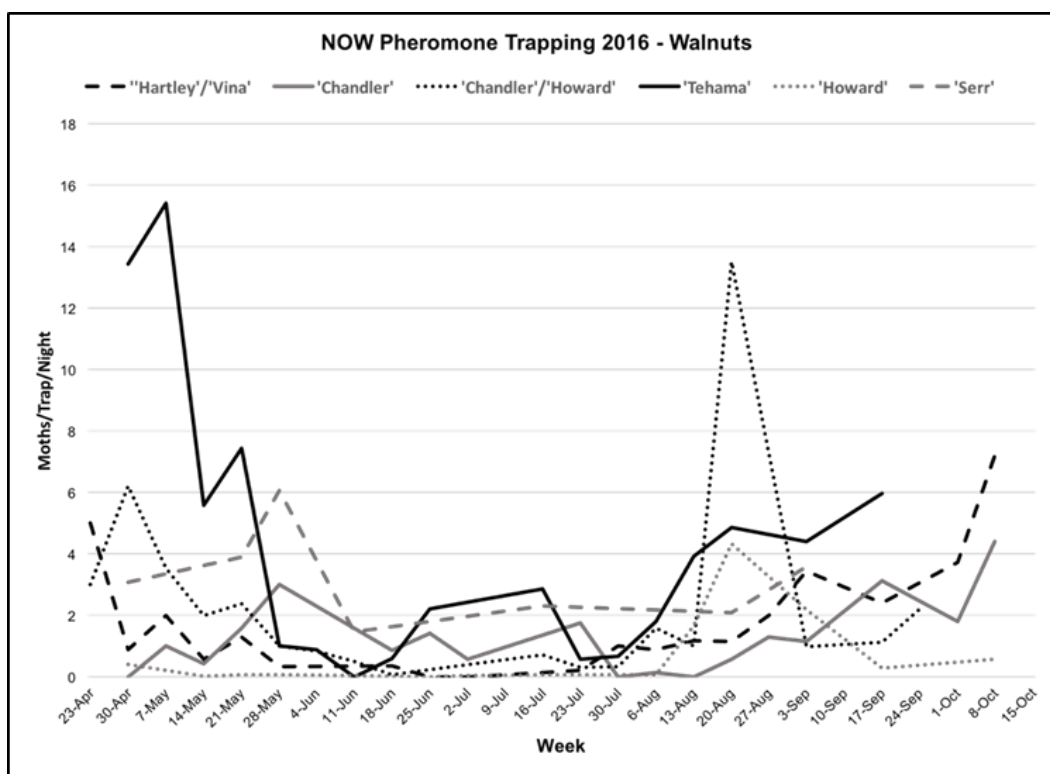
University of California, and the United States Department of Agriculture, Cooperating with Butte County

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of walnut mummy destruction after removal from the trees resulted in greater reductions in emerged NOW adults. Mummy nuts were placed on bare berm, in weeds, double-disked, or shredded. Over the two-year study, shredded nuts showed the highest levels of NOW reduction relative to those placed on bare berm (100% and 97%), followed by nuts double disked (95% and 68%), and nuts placed in the weeds (86% and 24%). A summary article of this research can be found at ucanr.edu/repositoryfiles/ca4705p26-70062.pdf.

- Pheromone trapping for NOW in walnuts – what does it all mean?** Well, the short answer is that we are still not entirely sure how to use the pheromone traps for treatment timing or thresholds for NOW in walnuts. The graph below shows season-long 2016 trapping data for six orchards spread throughout Butte and Glenn Counties. Trap numbers were relatively high during the first flight, less so during the second flight, and picked up in numbers again later in the season during the third and fourth flights. While research is ongoing to determine exactly how to use early, mid-, and late-season trap counts to inform NOW management activities, this suggests that there may be some value in monitoring traps season-long in walnuts, rather than focusing only on late-season trapping in early varieties.



- Pheromone trapping for NOW in walnuts – which lure works “best”?** There are now four commercial NOW pheromone lures available: Suterra Biolure®, Trece Pherocon® L2 high and low amplitude, and AlphaScents Amytra®. In a study last season in Butte County, all four lures performed comparatively well in tracking male NOW flights relative to traps baited with live virgin females, and all exhibited the same lower trap captures during the second flight. There may be some value in consistency in your lure of choice, particularly when looking at historical trap catch data (year-to-year comparisons). If you decide to switch from one lure product to another, be sure to note the change along with any unusual observations that may be related to the new trapping method. With any lure, be sure to use according to its particular manufacturer specifications (replacement interval, etc.) and remember that storage and handling can affect performance. Some lures may be particularly “hot” when initially deployed, which can cause issues in interpreting trap catch data. This was observed in particular for AlphaScents Amytra® lures during the first week of deployment. To avoid misinterpretations caused by fresh lures (not just the AlphaScents product), consider opening and pre-aging the lure for a day prior to deploying in your field trap.

In short, don't take your eye off NOW in walnuts, no matter what variety you grow. Much research is still needed to determine the relative importance of a number of factors that may contribute to NOW damage (e.g., native versus immigrant populations; proximity to external sources; previous season's damage; orchard sanitation; overwintering populations; in-season codling moth, blight, and sunburn damage; degree day accumulation; populations cycles in surrounding crops; harvest timing; ethephon application; pesticide choice and application timing; and various environmental conditions). In order to answer the outstanding questions, large data sets will provide the most value. If you would like to discuss the possibility of contributing data to further the cause, please contact me at ejsymmes@ucanr.edu. All private data and site-specific identifiers will be kept anonymous.



Navel orangeworm larvae, webbing, and frass in a walnut.

New this Year!

Monthly IPM Breakfast Meetings at various locations throughout the Sacramento Valley

Meetings will be held the second Tuesday of each month from February through November and will cover a wide range of timely pest management topics. Meeting locations will be rotated throughout the Sacramento Valley.

Colusa: February and July
Yuba-Sutter: March and August
Tehama: April and September
Glenn: May and October
Butte: June and November

Meeting locations and more information will be available at sacvalleyorchards.com or by contacting UC IPM Advisor Emily Symmes at (530) 538-7201 or ejsymmes@ucanr.edu

2017 UC Cooperative Extension Walnut Meetings	
January 19 th 7:30 am-1:30 pm	Butte & Glenn County Almond & Walnut Day in conjunction with North Valley Nut Conference Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, Chico <i>Topics include: Insect & disease management, nutrient deficiencies; hands-on breakout sessions on NOW, irrigation and spray coverage</i>
January 20 th 8am-noon Pre-register for lunch \$15, Call 530-527-3101	Tehama Walnut Day Red Bluff <i>Topics include: Nutrient deficiencies, insect/mite updates, irrigation, rootstocks, CWB research, laws & regs</i>
February 21st 12:30pm-4:30pm	Sutter-Yuba-Colusa Walnut Day Veteran's Hall, Yuba City <i>Topics include: Insect/mite & disease updates, walnut tree growth characteristics, rootstocks, laws & regs, CWB activities</i>
February 28th Morning <i>Rain date: March 2nd</i>	Walnut (9th leaf) Pruning systems compared in No Pruning long term study & Bot pruning wound study Field Meeting Nickels Soil Lab, Arbuckle
February 28th Afternoon <i>Rain date: March 2nd</i>	Walnut (2nd leaf & 4th leaf) No Pruning / Variation of No Prun- ing / Pruning Grower Comparison Field Meeting Wheatland
March 1 st 8:00am-noon	Sacramento-Solano-Yolo Walnut Day Norton Hall, Woodland <i>Topics include: orchard replanting and nematodes, mites, scale and Bot</i>

Butte & Glenn County Almond and Walnut Day
in conjunction with North Valley Nut Conference
January 19th, 2017, 7:30am-1:30pm
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds
2357 Fair St., Chico

Main Session

- 7:30am **Registration/Trade Show**
- 8:00am **Laws and Regulations Update:**
TBD, Butte County Agricultural Commissioners Office
- 8:30am **Spider Mite Control in Almond & Walnut Orchards:**
Dr. Jhalendra Rijal, UCCE IPM Advisor, Stanislaus County
- 9:00am **Symptoms of Nutrient Deficiencies (and How to Correct Them):**
Richard Buchner, UCCE Orchards Advisor, Tehama County
- 9:30am **Break/Trade Show**
- 10:00am **California Walnut Board Update:**
TBD, California Walnut Board
- 10:15am **Almond Board of California Update:**
Spencer Cooper, Almond Board of California
- 10:30am **Phytophthora, Crown Rots & Root Rots:**
Dr. Dani Lightle, UCCE Orchards Advisor, Glenn, Butte & Tehama Counties
- 11:00am **Almond Disease Control:**
Dr. Jim Adaskaveg, Dept. of Plant Pathology, UC Riverside
- 11:30am **Butte-Yuba-Sutter Water Quality Coalition Updates:**
Kayla Zilch, Program Coordinator, Butte County Farm Bureau
- 12:00pm **Free Industry Tri-Tip Lunch**
- 1:00pm **Trade Show**
- 1:30pm **Adjourn**

New this year - small group Hands-On Breakout Sessions! See next page for details!
3.0 CE credits (0.5 hr Laws & 2.5 hr Other) and CCA credits have been requested.

Butte & Glenn County Almond and Walnut Day

in conjunction with North Valley Nut Conference

January 19th, 2017, 7:30am-1:30pm

Silver Dollar Fairgrounds

2357 Fair St., Chico

Hands-On Breakout Sessions

Breakout sessions are *limited to 25 people* each.

Session registration will be available beginning at 7:30am.

8:30, 10:30, 11:30am Navel Orangeworm Control Using Mating Disruption:

Dr. Emily Symmes, UCCE IPM Advisor, Sacramento Valley.

Join Emily to learn more about different puff-er and mating disruption technologies and their role in a successful almond or walnut IPM program.

9:00, 10:00, 11:00am Using Dendrometers for Irrigation Management Decisions:

Allan Fulton, UCCE Water & Irrigation Resources Advisor, Tehama County.

Allan will have a tree dendrometer on hand, demonstrate how this new technology is used and share data supporting its utility.

9:00, 10:00, 11:00am Understanding and Optimizing your Spray Coverage:

Dr. Franz Niederholzer, UCCE Orchards Advisor, Colusa County.

Having problems with your herbicide coverage? Franz will have a Spray Tray on hand to demonstrate why your application procedure may be the problem and give you some pointers on troubleshooting.

8:00-11:30am Irrigated Lands Program – Question and Answer Table:

Have questions on your Irrigated Lands forms? Not sure which ones you're responsible for completing to be in compliance? Can't figure out what to fill in that blank? Representatives from the Butte-Yuba-Sutter Water Coalition and the Colusa Glenn Subwatershed Program will be available to help and answer your questions. Just stop by anytime during the morning.

See previous page for the Main Session agenda.

Counting Winter Chill

Katherine Pope, UCCE Farm Advisor Sacramento, Solano and Yolo Counties

Janine Hasey, UCCE Farm Advisor Sutter, Yuba and Colusa Counties

Joseph Connell, UCCE Farm Advisor Emeritus, Butte County

The last few years have been highly variable, both in terms of winter chill accumulation and spring bloom and leaf-out behavior. The winter of 2015-2016 had moderate-to-high chill accumulation in the Sacramento Valley and leaf-out in the spring was tight and early. The winter of 2014-2015, on the other hand, had low chill accumulation and leaf out was late and straggled. We documented this in Chandler, but also saw it in other mid-to-late leafing, mid-to-high chill varieties. What's driving this behavior? What can we expect this year? And how can one track and interpret chill accumulation?

What drives the timing of leaf-out?

Deciduous fruit species lose their leaves and enter dormancy each fall. This dormancy has external and internal requirements for growth to begin again in the spring. The first is favorable external conditions facing the plant, primarily adequate moisture and favorable temperatures for growth. Even if temperatures and moisture conditions are favorable, there is a period during the winter when trees will not grow. During this period, growth is inhibited by internal factors when the plant is said to be in "rest".

Rest is broken by exposure to cold temperatures. All deciduous fruit plants require a certain amount of chilling during the winter rest period to enable their buds to sprout evenly and for good flowering and fruit set to occur in spring. The winter chilling requirement to break this rest period varies with plant species and even with particular varieties within the same species. Early leafing walnut varieties require less chilling than later leafing varieties (Table 1). Insufficient winter chilling prolongs rest and results in delayed and uneven bloom and leafing the following spring. Bud drop and reduced set may also occur and consequent production and quality of fruits and nuts may be poor.

Table 1. Range of chilling requirements for common walnut cultivars.

Cultivar	Chill Hours Requirement ¹	Chill Portions Requirement
Payne	627	38
Serr	827	Not Available
Hartley	984	54
Chandler	1015	45-50
Howard	1015	Not Available

¹From Gale McGranahan et. al., Walnut Improvement Program 2006, Walnut Research Reports 2006, p.10. Chilling hours required to break bud after 15 days at 71.6° F.

What can we expect this year in terms of winter chill?

We don't have tools yet for predicting whether winters will be low, medium or high chill before they start. We do know that historically, low chill winters occur every 10-15 years. We had a low chill winter in 2014-2015, so it seems less likely that this would also be a low chill winter. But our climate has been doing some unusual and record-breaking things in the last few years, so past behavior is not a guarantee of future behavior. We also know that in the past, December and January have been our most critical months for chill accumulation. So if you're going to keep an eye on chill accumulation, those are the months to pay attention.

How to track and interpret chill accumulation?

There's growing evidence that the newer Chill Portions Model, also sometimes called the Dynamic Model, may be the more accurate model to use for tree crops in California and in other Mediterranean climates. How does the Chill Portions model work, and what makes it different from other chill models? The math behind Chill Portions is more complex than Chill Hours, which just counts each hour between 32-45° F as one chill hour (or even more simply, each hour under 45° F). But, while Chill Portions has some complex equations, it's based on some fairly simple components. There are three basic things that make Chill Portions different from Chill Hours:

1. Chill Hours counts any hour between 32°-45° F as the same. Chill Portions gives different chill values to different temperatures. No more wondering about the value of 'warm' chill hours. Temperatures between 43°-47° F have the most chill value. The chill value on either side of that range are lower, dropping to no value at 32° F and 54° F.
2. Chill Hours only count up to 45° F. Chill Portions count up to 54° F. This makes Chill Portions better able to approximate effective chilling for the trees we grow, most of which evolved in fairly mild climates.
3. Chill Hours does not subtract for warm hours. With the Chill Portions model, warm hours that closely follow cold periods can subtract from the running total of chill accumulation.

In recent years, chill hours and chill portions have counted winters differently. In the winter of 2013-2014, the chill portions model showed low chill accumulation, whereas we had average to high chill hours accumulation. Both models counted low chill for the winter of 2014-2015. In Davis, leaf-out was eight days later than average in 2014 and 11 days later than average in 2015, indicating that walnut buds responded to both winters as low chill.

Because Chill Portions is much newer than the Chill Hours model, researchers don't have exact estimates for the chilling requirements of all California's important tree crops and cultivars. While researchers work on that, it may be valuable to watch chill accumulation with both models to see if, as occurred in 2013-14, one indicates normal winter conditions while the other indicates leafing and bloom is likely to be more sporadic.

Chill accumulation for both models using CIMIS weather station data, along with additional information on the models, how to calculate accumulation with your own weather data, and estimates of chilling requirements for some crops in Chill Portions is available at http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu/Weather_Services/chilling_accumulation_models. Because there is not a CIMIS station close to Yuba City, Janine Hasey calculates chill based on a temperature recorder at the UCCE office in Yuba City. We will be posting regular updates of that chill accumulation on the Sac Valley Orchard Source blog at <http://www.sacvalleyorchards.com/blog/>. To receive those updates via email, subscribe to the blog at <http://www.sacvalleyorchards.com/subscribe/> and select walnut updates in addition to any other categories of interest.


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Help Wanted: Join the Dialogue on Herbicide Resistant Weeds

Are you planning on attending the World Ag Expo? As part of a national effort on developing research and regulatory priorities related to the challenging problems of herbicide-resistant weeds, the Weed Science Society of America is sponsoring a half-day regional workshop to discuss the issues, potential solutions, and technical and economic barriers related to resistant weeds.


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Upcoming Events

Jan
19

[Butte & Glenn County Almond and Walnut Day in conjunction with North Valley Nut Conference](#)
January 19, 2017

Jan
20

[Tehama County Walnut Meeting](#)
January 20, 2017

Feb
02

[22nd Annual Sacramento Valley Cling Peach Day](#)
February 02, 2017

[VIEW FULL EVENTS LIST](#)

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Featuring:

- Event calendar with all orchard related CE meetings throughout the Sacramento Valley
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Full agenda inside!



Persons with special needs wishing to attend a program should contact the cooperative extension office in advance, 538-7201. Efforts will be made to accommodate your specific need.

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