



Colusa Orchard Newsletter

Tree Crops and Nickels Soils Lab

University of California
Cooperative Extension

Colusa County



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**University of California,
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For special assistance regarding our programs, please contact us.

ALMOND PRUNING DEMOS

Pruning and training of young almond trees will be demonstrated by John Edstrom, UCCE Farm Advisor, Colusa County and Bill Krueger, UCCE Farm Advisor, Glenn County.

Wednesday, October 26th 2005
(2 locations offered!)

“Long”, “short”, “minimum”, and “multiple scaffold” pruning methods will be shown, discussed, and debated at these field meetings. Also featured is Rob Fanno, Fanno Saw Works, who will discuss the “selection, maintenance and repair of pruning tools”.

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➔Two Locations: Same program at each-Wednesday- Oct 26th◀

- 9:00 am David Alves orchard- Hillgate & Cortina Rds, Arbuckle
Take Arbuckle/College City exit -go west on Hillgate
4.2 miles- turn right at 1st yr almonds, go ¾ mile N on
gravel road
- 2:00 pm Marty Baileys orchard, 3626 Co. Rd P –5 miles S of
Orland, (2/10 mile S of Rd 27 on E side of Rd P)

DORMANT OIL STILL IMPORTANT!

Skipping the dormant spray in almonds for economic or environmental reasons seemed reasonable in recent times but many have overlooked the great value of the oil portion of the dormant tank mix.

A long list of pests are controlled by 4-6 gal/acre of oil alone when applied in late winter. Key examples are; Brown almond mite, European red mite, San Jose scale, European fruit lecanium (soft brown scale) but, also a new one, an **Eriophyid mite**. Formerly mis-identified as the Peach Silver Mite, this mite has caused serious leaf burn all over the Sacramento Valley in recent years. Many involved in pest management have mistaken this leaf damage for salt burn, potassium deficiency and other problems, when often it is due to the feeding of the this very tiny mite. Eriophyid mites first emerge from beneath bud scales in early spring and feed on new foliage. Heavy populations cause the leaf symptoms shown in the photos and ultimately result in leaf burn. By the time the burn is seen, these mites have completed their life cycle and cannot be easily found. Thus, the difficulty in connecting the symptom with the mite. Early season mite feeding but late season mite symptom.



Teardrop shaped mites with 4 legs at the wide, front



Leaf burn from mite feeding



Spring symptoms—darkened water spots



Bronze spots—early summer before leaves burn

Diagnosis is also hampered by mite size, which is extremely small, about the size of a single leg of a 2-spot mite. You need at least a 15x hand lens to see them on the undersides of succulent leaves. (See photo above)

Fortunately, eriophyid mite feeding damage can easily be avoided by a dormant oil spray. Most all miticides are also effective, but, must be applied early in April or May to be effective. Unfortunately, this timing will probably miss the effective spray period for web spinning mites often in need of control. My advice, then, is to use the dormant oil for the Eriophyid mite and the numerous other pests listed above and then wait to determine the need and timing for any summer miticide for 2-spotted mites.

ALMOND INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

The Almond Conference will be **December 7-8, 2005** in Modesto at the Convention Center adjacent to the Double Tree Hotel.

A wide assortment of almond industry topics will be presented alongside a trade show featuring suppliers and services. Industry news, marketing programs, nutritional research, and production research project summaries will be presented. Projects include; benefits of chipping brush, harvest dust reduction, evaluations of new varieties and rootstocks, pest and disease management, pruning trials and environmental stewardship.

This annual, two-day event is the largest almond-specific conference of its kind, attracting more than 1000 growers, handlers and others from throughout the world. I encourage everyone to attend this valuable event.

More info can be found at: www.AlmondBoard.com

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