

San Joaquin Valley Prune Day

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Tulare County Civic Center, Agricultural Building
2500 W. Burrel Avenue, Visalia

7:00 a.m. **Coffee and Prune Danish**

Courtesy: Tule River Cooperative Dryers

Moderator: Brent Holtz, UCCE Farm Advisor, Madera County

8:00 **Special Panel on Energy Issues**

Electricity: The California Energy Situation B the Problem, How We Got There, What's the Prognosis, What Are the Solutions

Mike Chrisman, Regional Manager, Southern California Edison Co.

Natural Gas: The Problem, Ramifications for Prune Growers, Are There Solutions

Eric Heitmann, Head, Field Dept., Stapleton and Spence Packing Co.; Member, California League of Food Processors Energy Committee

Dehydrating Prunes: Cost Factors B How Can You Save Money?

Bruce Norton, Plant Manager, Sunsweet Dryers, Madera

Questions of the Panel

9:00 **Prune Marketing: Current Situation and Long-Term Outlook**

Gus Collin, Chairman, Sunsweet, and Chairman, California Prune Board Marketing Committee

9:30 **Plum Pox B a Serious Virus Threat to the Prune Industry**

Maxwell Norton, UC Cooperative Extension, Merced County

10:15 **Break**

10:45 **Managing Aphids in Prunes**

Walt Bentley, UC Cooperative Extension Area IPM Advisor

11:30 **Review of Pesticide Regulatory Issues and Procedures**

Regina Sarracino, Pesticide Registration Ombudsman, California Department of Pesticide Regulation

12:00 **Progress Report on the Statewide Integrated Prune Farming Systems (IPFP) Project and What You Can Do Now**

Bill Olson, UC Cooperative Extension, Butte County

PRUNECFUNGICIDE EFFICACY

| Material | Resistance risk | CC Brown rot Blossom | CC Fruit | Russet scab | Rust |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|
| Benlate ^a + oil ^b | high | ++++ | ++++ | ---- | ---- |
| Break EC | high | ++++ | ++++ | ---- | ? |
| Rovra ^f + oil ^b | low | ++++ | ++++ | ---- | +++ |
| Topsin ^a + oil ^b | high | ++++ | ++++ | ---- | ---- |
| Vanguard | high | ++++ | ---- | ---- | ? |
| Benlate | high | +++ | +/- | ---- | ---- |
| Rovral | low | +++ | +/- | ---- | ---- |
| Topsin | high | +++ | +/- | ---- | ---- |
| Abound | high | ++ | ---- | ---- | +++ |
| Bravo ^{d,e} | low | ++ | ++ | ++ | ---- ^f |
| Captan ^d | low | ++ | ++ | +++ | ---- |
| Rally | high | ++ | ++ | ---- | ---- |
| Sulfur | low | +/- | +/- | ---- | ++ |

Rating: +++++ = excellent and consistent, +++ = good and reliable, ++ = moderate and variable, + = limited and erratic, +/- = minimal and often ineffective, ---- = ineffective, and ? = insufficient data or unknown

- a. Strains of *Monilinia fructicola* and *M. laxa* resistant to Benlate and Topsin have been reported in some California prune orchards. No more than two applications of Benlate and Topsin should be made each year.
- b. The oil is "light" summer oil, 1-2% volume/volume. If applied in summer causes fruit to lose bloom and look red. They dry to normal color.
- c. Blossom blight only; not registered for preharvest use.
- d. Do not use in combination with or shortly before or after oil treatment.
- e. Do not use after shuck split.
- f. Effective but cannot use at proper timing (summer).

PRUNECTREATMENT TIMING

Note: Timings listed are effective but not all may be required for disease control.

| Disease | Green bud | White bud | Full bloom | May | June | July |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------|------|------|
| Brown rot | +++ | +++ | ++++ | ---- | + | ++ |
| Russet scab | ---- | ---- | +++ | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| Rust | ---- | ---- | ---- | + | ++ | +++ |

Timings used will depend upon orchard history of disease, length of bloom, and weather conditions each year.

Brown rot: Flowers are susceptible beginning with the emergence of the sepals (green bud) until the petals fall.

Russet scab: A physiological disorder; no pathogens involved.

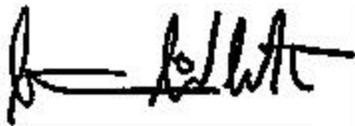
Rust: More severe when late spring rains occur.



Sibbett Retires 1 February 2001

Yep, after 35+ years with UC Cooperative Extension in Tulare County (beginning in 1965 when our office was in the basement of the downtown post office) it's time to concentrate on those activities I enjoy most including finishing up several projects and continuing to work privately in agriculture, particularly nut crops, prunes, and olives.

It's been a "good run" fun too. I've truly enjoyed the prune growers, especially those that have cooperated in our local research projects that have produced the advancements improving prune production and quality (and hopefully profit too) statewide. The best research cooperators in the state reside in Tulare County. The rest of the state benefits from their commitment to improve prune production and quality. It has also been gratifying to see our local industry implement profitable cultural changes brought about via the educational efforts UC Cooperative Extension in Tulare County has developed over the years. We still don't know all of the answers, but certainly we have found and implemented a few during my tenure here.



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