IN THIS ISSUE:

- Walnut Orchards Planted in 2014 - What to Do Now?

- Walnut Year-Round IPM Plan and Winter Orchard Pest Management Activities

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tehama Walnut Day—February 6, 2015 - 8:00am to 1:30 pm
Red Bluff Elks Lodge—Gilmore Road Red Bluff, CA 96080 — Registrations Due January 29th

Tehama Prune Day—February 20, 2015 - 8:00am to 1:30 pm
Red Bluff Elks Lodge—Gilmore Road Red Bluff, CA 96080 — Registrations Due February 12th

Young Almond & Walnut Orchards Workshop -January 16th, 8:30am-12pm.
Glenn-Butte Walnut Day—February 6th, 1-5pm.
Sutter-Yuba-Colusa-Yolo-Solano-Sacramento Walnut Day - February 25th, 12:30-4:45pm.
Walnut (7 year olds) No Pruning / Pruning Comparison Field Meeting - March 3rd - morning.
Many walnut orchards that were planted in 2014 grew well and attained ten feet or more of trunk growth. As of December 18, many of these orchards still have green leaves. The temperatures are predicted to finally drop which should hasten defoliation. With wet soils, trees will be less sensitive to damage if temperatures drop below freezing. Growers have questions about what to do with new orchards now and through the winter. There are steps that can be taken to alleviate freeze damage, winter kill, and uneven leafing in the spring.

**I’m concerned about wind breakage. Should I prune my trees now?**
If you’re planning to prune your young walnut trees, wait to make any heading or thinning cuts until March when the threat of winter freezing temperatures has passed. Otherwise, freeze damage could occur lower on the trunk than if they were not pruned. If there is some breakage during strong winds, then a few trees get an early heading cut; this is far better than subjecting all trees to possibly more severe lower trunk freeze damage. If trees were tied loosely but securely to the stake so they can move and develop a stronger trunk during the growing season, they are less likely to break during high winds than trees tied tightly to the stake.

**My young trees last year had uneven leafing – southwest buds broke later than north side buds. How can I prevent this?**
Bud temperatures were measured last winter in a mature orchard and found to have greater fluctuation from day to night on the south and west sides versus the north and east sides. The winter was relatively warm, with little fog but many sunny days. This larger temperature change likely led to lower chill on the southwest side of the shoot causing uneven leafing (photo 1). Uneven bud break was overcome where limbs were painted with white interior latex paint diluted 50 percent with water (photo 2). For more information, see the May 2014 “Walnut news”, walnuts.org/walnut-industry/announcements/industry-newsletter-may-2014.

We are recommending that growers paint or whitewash the southwest side of the trunk (as high up as possible) to minimize this problem. This will also protect tissue from being damaged in a freeze or from subsequent winter sunburn of affected limbs. It can be done before defoliation. Side shoots that will be thinned next spring do not need to be painted. Photos 3 through 5 describe this technique.

**Photo 1.** Uneven growth on second leaf Howard walnut. South buds (to left) are just beginning to swell whereas north shoots have extensive growth. Photo taken by Bruce Lampinen, spring 2014.

**Photo 2.** Unheaded Chandler on Vlach showing the south buds (to left) emerging up to where trees were painted but not above where unpainted. Also note freeze damage on unpainted top. Photo taken by Bruce Lampinen, spring 2014.
Photo 3. 15 gallon spray tank with electric pump mounted on an ATV to deliver 50/50 interior latex paint/water mix quickly.

Photo 4. Only the main trunk was painted on the southwest side to top of tree. The side shoot to the left will be thinned next March so is left unpainted.

Photo 5. Close-up showing only the southwest side (to the right) is painted on main trunk.

Photos 3-5 taken by Janine Hasey on December 14, 2014.
As we enter 2015, it is important to reflect on last season’s crop and plan for the upcoming year. The Walnut Year-Round IPM Program (www.ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/C881/m881yi01.html) is a valuable resource for timing monitoring and pest management activities throughout the year.

Looking back at 2014 issues:

*Botryosphaeria* (Bot) canker and blight continue to be a major concern for walnut growers.

Scale populations have been on the rise in many orchards in recent years. The reported association of scale with Bot has resulted in increased management inputs for these pests.

Higher than usual levels of navel orangeworm (NOW) were detected at harvest in many areas because of early season warm conditions that led to a larger fourth generation flight late in the season and an extended harvest period in fall.

UC research is ongoing into these issues, and the results of 2014 studies will be made available in the coming months at UCCE walnut meetings and upcoming newsletter issues. The latest information can be obtained by contacting your local UCCE farm advisor.

Activities looking ahead: Critical pest management activities during the dormant period (January through early March).

**Insect and Management:**

Sanitation and harvest timing are the two best methods to control NOW in walnuts. For NOW sanitation, assess mummy nut levels on the ground and in trees by the end of February. If mummy nuts remain in the orchard, remove and destroy them using a flail mower prior to mid-March. Removal of huller waste materials and cleaning out harvest equipment are also important to limit overwintering sites for NOW.

Monitor for scale pests during the dormant period to determine the need for delayed-dormant or spring treatment. Examine scaffolds, limbs, branches, and prunings for walnut scale, frosted scale, European fruit lecanium, San Jose scale, and Italian pear scale. Look for emergence holes in scales to assess levels of parasitism. Map out areas of concern for possible treatments and spring monitoring. More information on delayed-dormant scale treatments will be available in the next issue (March 2015).

**Weed Management:**

Continue weed assessment in January or February to identify any newly emerging weeds or those that were not controlled by earlier treatments.

Additional information for walnut winter weed surveys and link to a sample survey form can be found at www.ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/C881/m881dcweeds.html.
Save the Date
Upcoming 2015 UCCE Meetings

Young Almond & Walnut Orchards Workshop
January 16th, 8:30am-12pm.
Community & Senior Center, Woodland.
Topics: Weeds, pruning, nutrition, irrigation for orchard’s first 5 years.

Tehama Walnut Day
February 6th, 8am-12pm.
Elks Lodge, Red Bluff. Topics: Bot, scale, husk fly, pruning, nutrition

Glenn-Butte Walnut Day
February 6th, 1-5pm.
Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, Chico.
Topics: Bot, scale, husk fly, pruning, nutrition (repeat of Tehama agenda)

Tehama Prune Day
February 20th, 8am-12pm.
Elks Lodge, Red Bluff. Topics: canker, rootstock choices, replant issues, chilling effects

Sutter-Yuba-Colusa-Yolo-Solano-Sacramento Walnut Day
February 25th, 12:30-4:45pm.
Veteran’s Hall, Yuba City.
Topics include latest on Bot, walnut scale spray study, nutrition and more.

Walnut (7 year olds) No Pruning / Pruning Comparison Field Meeting
March 3rd -morning.
Nickels Soil Lab, Arbuckle
(In case of rain, backup day will be March 5th)

Walnut (2 year olds) No Pruning / Pruning Grower Comparison Field Meeting
March 3rd, afternoon. Wheatland
(In case of rain, backup day will be March 5th)
21st Annual Tehama County Walnut Day

Friday – February 6, 2015
8:00 AM - 1:30 PM
Red Bluff Elks Lodge, 355 Gilmore Road, Red Bluff, CA 96080

Co-sponsored by UC Cooperative Extension - Tehama County
AG Commissioner’s Office
Chuck Crain - Crain of California
And Soil Basics

AGENDA

8:00 AM --- REGISTRATION - Pick up lunch tickets - PCA & Private Applicator sign-ups
8:30 AM --- California Walnut Marketing and Research Update
- presented by the California Walnut Board - Jennifer Olmstead, Marketing Director
9:00 AM --- Managing Botryosphaeria and Phomopsis in Walnut
- by Themis Michailides - Plant Pathology, Kearney Ag Center
9:30 AM --- Walnut Scale Management
- by Dani Lightle - UC Farm Advisor - Glenn, Butte and Tehama Counties
10:00 AM --- Walnut Canopy Management
- by Bruce Lampinen - Walnut Specialist, UC Davis
10:30 - 10:40 AM -- Break
10:40 AM --- Walnut Husk Fly Research
- by Nick Mills, Entomology, UC Berkeley
11:10 AM --- Assembly Bill 109 in Tehama County
- by Richard Muench - Chief Probation Officer - Tehama County
11:40 AM --- Tehama Co. Ag Commissioner Presentation and Regulatory Update
- by Doug Compton - Assistant Ag Commissioner - Tehama County

Buffet Lunch – Only by Prepaid Reservation of $15.00 per person

12:30 PM --- Discussion Period / Questions & Answers

Register on-line at http://cetehama.ucanr.edu
Click on “Orchard Crops”, click on “Upcoming Meetings”

Meeting Registration Cost $15.00 per person

--- Or --- Detach and mail this form with a check made payable to “UC Regents”.

Mail to: UC Cooperative Extension - Walnut Day
1754 Walnut Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Name: ___________________________ Amount Enclosed: $ __________________

Company: ____________________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________ City: __________ State: __________ Zip: __________

Day Phone: ________________________ Email: ________________________________

If Reservation is for more than one person, please list names of others attending below:

______________________________________________________________________________

For Questions or more information, contact:
Richard Buchner or Cindy McClain
530-527-3101

*** Registrations need to be received by Thursday - January 29, 2015 ***
12th Annual
2015 Tehama Prune Day
Friday - February 20, 2015
8:00 am to 1:30 pm
Red Bluff Elks Lodge
355 Gilmore Road, Red Bluff, CA

AGENDA

8:00 –8:30 am - Registration, Coffee & Donuts
Canker Diseases of Prune—Themis Michailides
Rootstock Choices for Prune—Richard Buchner
Prune Replant Issues—Greg Browne
Plum Pox Virus—Joe Turkovich
Chilling Effects on Prune—Katherine Pope
Ag Commissioner Update—Doug Compton
California Prune Board Update—Donn Zea

12:30 pm - Lunch & Closing Questions & Discussion

2.00 hours of PCA credit (1.5 hours other & .5 hours laws) are pending

Register on-line at  http://cetehama.ucanr.edu
Click on “Orchard Crops”, click on “Upcoming Meetings”

*** Registrations need to be received by Thursday-February 13, 2014 ***

Meeting Registration Cost $15.00 per person

—-Or——Detach and mail this form with a check made payable to “UC Regents”
Mail to: UC Cooperative Extension - Walnut Day
1754 Walnut Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Name:________________________________________  Amount Enclosed:  $__________________

Company:_______________________________________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________ City:_____________ State:____ Zip:_________

Day Phone: ______________________________     Email: ____________________________________

If Reservation is for more than one person, please list names of others attending below:
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(530) 527-3101