



Pest Control Notes

Yolo-Solano-Sacramento Counties 70 Cottonwood Street, Woodland, CA 95695 Phone: (530) 666-8143 Fax: (530) 666-8736

Meeting Announcements:

Alfalfa and Small Grains Field Day

UC Davis, May 4, 2004. 4 CE hours (see page 3 for details).

Organic Agriculture for Ag Professionals

May 6 and 7, 2004 at the Farm and Nature Center in Winters

This workshop is intended to increase the capacity of ag professionals to provide appropriate technical assistance and services to farmers and ranchers who are certified organic, or are interested in transitioning to organic ag. Intended participants: Farmers, NRCS, FSA, RCD, UCCE, Ag Com., etc.. Topics include organic agriculture and USDA's National Organic Standards, transitioning to organic, organic certification, market incentives, steps to organic certification, small grants program for organic workshops. Cost is \$30. Contact Rex Dufor at the National Center for Appropriate Technology in Davis at (530) 792-7338.

And... don't forget the **Yolo County RCD Annual dinner** on May 6 at the Farm and Nature Center in Winters. Contact Sue McCloud at (530) 662-2037, ext 119 for more information.

Roundup Ready Alfalfa

Monsanto's Roundup Ready alfalfa should be released in 2005; it is among the most recent crops to be altered with Roundup Ready technology. Based on UC field trials by Farm Advisors and Specialists it is important to keep in mind the following if you're going to plant this seed:

- 1) Roundup is weak on some important alfalfa weeds, like malva, nettle, hairy fleabane and filaree, so it is important to accurately identify specific weed problems before treating. Tank mix Roundup with another herbicide to control weeds that are not controlled by Roundup.
- 2) A major worry is the development of herbicide-resistant weeds. Certain weeds, such as ryegrass, over the years have developed levels of resistance to glyphosate. To avoid resistance, one should not plant Roundup Ready crops successively (such as corn, soybeans, cotton, alfalfa) in the same fields from year to year.

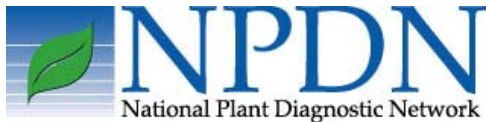
The economic feasibility of growing Roundup Ready alfalfa has not yet been studied because, to date, Monsanto has not announced the pricing formula for Roundup Ready alfalfa seed. Unlike most other Roundup Ready crops, alfalfa is perennial. An annual lease on the Roundup Ready trait or a price premium for the seed that takes into consideration multiple years of growth are being considered. UC field trials should assist growers in making an economic evaluation of the technology, since comparative yields, application rates and weed-control efficacy are being studied. To date, 40 percent of the corn and over 80 percent of the soybeans grown in the United States are genetically engineered.

Water Quality Waivers

By now I hope all of you that discharge irrigation or stormwater from irrigated ag lands have either joined a watershed group or have submitted your own water quality plan to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to request a waiver to discharge water from your farms. Farm Plans (for groups and individuals) were due April 1 and require that farms begin monitoring water quality on July 1, 2004

The Regional Water Quality Control Board would like to issue low threat waivers for crops that have low impact on water quality (probably safflower, wheat, corn, alfalfa, as well as other crops that have minimal inputs and/or little sediment moving offsite). This would mean that growers who produce these crops would not have to take costly water samples from their farms to comply with water quality regulations. However, what's missing is data; we need to characterize irrigation and stormwater runoff from different crops in order to receive low threat waivers from the RWQCB. Constituents that need to be measured for each crop include pesticides (only those used in the crop), sediments, dissolved oxygen, pH, EC, temperature, total organic carbon, and nutrients (specifically N, P, K).

I am in the process of applying for grants to obtain funding to characterize runoff from low impact crops (as described above). Please let me know if you have any thoughts or suggestions on this project and I'll keep in touch to let you know if and when I receive funding to set up collaborative projects.



National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN): Protecting America's Agriculture

The Agricultural and Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 resulted in the development of the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN). The purpose of the NPDN is to enhance national agricultural security by creating a system that will help to quickly identify introduced pests and pathogens for quick implementation of control strategies, when needed. The network includes 5 Universities that represent 5 regions across the United States. UC Davis is our center for the western region. Pests that are of serious threat to California include: Ralstonia (bacterial wilt disease of tomatoes and potatoes, but not yet found in the US), broomrape, fruit fly complex, potato tomato late blight, golden nematode complex, sudden oak death, and gypsy moth. If you see anything unusual or different in the field, be sure to pass it along to your UCCE or Ag Commissioner so that we can send it to the diagnostic lab for quick analysis. Our concern is either deliberate or accidental introduction of pests and pathogens that are of serious concern for agriculture in the US.

Publications

New Cost of Production Studies for 2004 for the Sacramento Valley

These include wheat, corn, beef (cow and calf), olives, and (very shortly) dry beans. Available at the Cooperative Extension office or on the internet at <http://coststudies.ucdavis.edu/>

Aquatic and Riparian Weeds of the West

This major new publication is the first comprehensive identification manual for aquatic and riparian weeds west of the Rocky Mountains. Publication has over 560 photographs and covers 171 aquatic plant species. Cost \$40.00 Available at the Cooperative Extension office or call 800-994-8849 or visit <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>

Establishing a Hedgerow Video

Hedgerows provide many benefits, including habitat and food for wildlife and beneficial insects, weed suppression, reduction in wind damage to crops and they can reduce soil and wind erosion. 13 minutes. Cost \$20.00 Available at the Cooperative Extension office or call 800-994-8849 or visit <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>

Win Fabulous Prizes—Learn Something New!

UC Davis Alfalfa/Grains Field Day

Tuesday, May 4, 2004 * 4 CE Hours

UC Davis Agronomy Field Headquarters, Hutchison Road, Davis, CA

Schedule & Topics:

8:30 Registration

8:45 a.m.-Noon Small Grains Field Day

California Small Grain Production, 2004 season; Seed production statistics; California Wheat Commission report; Use of fungicides to control wheat stripe rust; Wheat breeding and genetics; Wheat engineered for high N-use efficiency; Barley breeding and genetics, Oat breeding and genetics, Screening program for disease resistance -wheat and barley stripe rust; Evaluation of Seed Treatment Fungicides; Statewide germplasm development and evaluation - wheat & triticale, durum, and barley.

Noon—Barbeque Lunch (Sponsor—California Crop Improvement Association)

12:45 p.m. – 4 p.m. Alfalfa & Forage Field Day

12:45 California Alfalfa & Forage Association (CAFA) Update—Tom Ellis, Aaron Kiess

12:55 Agricultural Water Quality Waiver Update—Rachael Long, UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor, Yolo County

1:05 ‘California Recognized Labs—How to choose a High Quality Lab’—Dan Putnam, UC Davis

1:15 Alfalfa Weevil Control Studies—Larry Godfrey, CE Entomologist, UC Davis

Travel to Field Plots

1:45 CA Roundup-Ready Weed Control Studies—Ron Vargas & Dan Putnam

2:00 Controlling Problem Weeds in Alfalfa—Mick Canevari, UC Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor, San Joaquin County.

2:15 Varieties and Cutting Schedule Interactions—What is the Yield-Quality Tradeoff —Dan Putnam, CE Specialist, UC Davis

2:30 Comparing Roundup Ready Varieties with Conventional Varieties—Dan Putnam, UC Davis

2:45 Wheel Traffic Influence on Alfalfa Varieties, what can be done about it?—Dan Putnam, CE Specialist, UC Davis

3:00 Deficit Irrigation in alfalfa—What are the implications?—Steve Orloff, UC Farm Advisor

3:15 Rodent Management in Alfalfa—Terry Salmon, UC Cooperative Extension

3:30 Sudangrass tests at UC Davis—Dan Putnam, UC Davis

3:40 Alternative Perennial Grasses—Dan Putnam, UC Davis

4:00 End

Many Thanks to CCIA for sponsorship of the lunch

Rachael Long,
Pest Management – Farm Advisor

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