



# Pest Control Notes

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

## ALFALFA PRODUCTION

**Variety Trial Information:** Statewide Alfalfa Variety Trial information can be found on the UC Davis Alfalfa Production Website at: <http://alfalfa.ucdavis.edu>. On the UCD alfalfa home page select '2005 Alfalfa Variety Data'. The number in front of the trial location is the year the trial was planted; the last number is the year the trial was harvested. Fall dormancy and pest ratings can be found under 'Quick Links' on the left margin of the home page in 'Alfalfa Variety Selection'. If you have any questions, please call or stop by our office.

**Overseeding forages in alfalfa:** If you're interested in overseeding forages into alfalfa, a good source of information is UC publication, "21594, Overseeding and Companion Cropping in Alfalfa", available through our office. Overseeding is recommended for older or weakened stands to help boost production, especially when forage prices are high. Mixed stands will result, changing the forage quality, so be sure you know your market for your hay.

**Ground mealybug:** Recently, I've been noticing more ground mealybug problems in alfalfa in Yolo County. These insects live underground and feed on alfalfa roots, causing plants to become stunted. Infestation spots tend to be localized, but gradually enlarge, with distinct margins of healthy and unhealthy plants. To sample for mealybugs, dig up plants at these margins and look for tiny white insects along with a fine powdery waxy secretion. Control strategies involve rotation to less susceptible crops (wheat, beans, corn, sugarbeets) and applying soil amendments to the infested site to stimulate plant growth. Anything that reduces stress on the alfalfa will reduce the impact of the mealybug. There are no known resistant alfalfa plant varieties and chemical control is difficult since these insects are typically found 6-18 inches deep in the soil. Prior to planting alfalfa, be sure to check the previous crop for mealybug infestations, mark these sites with GPS, and try incorporating insecticides where infestations occur for mealybug control.

## GARBANZO PRODUCTION

Ascochyta blight, a fungal disease that infects garbanzos, was a serious problem last year due to the six weeks of persistent rains we had. The good news is that garbanzos are the only known host and the disease is primarily seed born, so this disease can be controlled. If you're planning to grow garbanzos this fall, plant an ascochyta resistant variety such as Sierra, treat the seed with Mertect LSP (thiabendazole) prior to planting, and use either Quadris or Headline for disease control when symptoms are found. Last year, Sierra held up fairly well against ascochyta, but I noticed the resistance started breaking down when the plants got root rot as a result of standing water in the fields.

## Starthistle control

Milestone (aminopyralid) should be available this fall for starthistle control. It is used at slightly lower rates than Transline (3 to 5 oz per acre for yellow starthistle) and has a longer residual, so early winter applications, e.g. December, should be effective through spring. It also controls coast fiddleneck. Dow is planning to sell it cheaper than Transline, as well.

## **SURFACE WATER QUALITY WORKSHOPS**

We have two upcoming field meetings in August at the UC Davis and Chico State farms that will focus on ways to minimize offsite movement of sediments and potential sediment associated pesticides in irrigation tail-water from row crops. These field meetings will focus on the use of grass vegetated filter strips, sediment traps, and the polyacrylamide (PAM) for sediment reduction.

Speakers to include: D. Weston, UC Berkeley Research Scientist; B. Hanson, UC Davis Irrigation Specialist; A. Fulton, Farm Advisor, Tehama Co.; R. Long, Farm Advisor, Yolo Co.; and L. Wu, Professor and Water Quality Specialist, UC Riverside.

### ❖ **UC Davis Surface Water Quality Workshop**

**When:** Thursday August 17, 2006, 9:00 am-11:30 am

**Where:** UC Davis Farm, Hutchison Drive about ¼-mile west of Hwy 113 on the south side of the road. After Hutchison makes an 'S' turn, immediately turn south on a dirt road that borders an orchard to the east. The trial will be behind the orchard on the Land, Air, and Water Research Farm.

**Why:** Topics to be addressed will include:

- Vegetated Filter Strips
- Sediment Traps
- Use of the Polyacrylamide (PAM)
- Toxicity testing in sediments

### ❖ **Chico State Surface Water Quality Workshop**

**When:** Friday, August 18, 2006, 9:00 am-11:30 am

**Where:** Chico State Farm (see directions below)

**Why:** Topics to be addressed will include:

- Vegetated Filter Strips
- Sediment Traps
- Use of the Polyacrylamide (PAM)
- Toxicity testing in sediments

*Directions to the Chico University Farm:*

From Hwy 99 (both north or south)

- Take Chico exit – Park Avenue
- Travel west to the third stoplight. Turn left on Midway.
- Take the first right off Midway – Hegan Lane, by a cemetery
- Go approximately 1 mile, over railroad tracks. Farm begins on left.
- Follow signs to Pavilion.

From I-5

- Take the Hwy 32 exit in Orland
- Follow Hwy 32 through Hamilton City and into Chico
- Hwy 32 will curve around to the left; stay to the right which becomes Dayton Road
- Hegan Lane will be on the left, across from Almond Tree Farms
- Go a couple of miles and the farm is on the right.

# UC Davis Dry Bean Field Production Meeting

Thursday, August 24, 2006

*Field meeting followed by a barbecue lunch at noon!*

**Directions:** UC Davis Farm, on Olive Lane, about 1.5 miles west of Hwy 113 on the south side of the road. Turn south on Olive Lane and park along the fence.

*\*The field location is across from the Bee Biology Center\**

- 8:30 Sign-in
- 8:45 Genetic diversity of brazilian beans: *UCD Prof. P. Gepts and M. Burle*
- 8:55 Black eye breeding and yield trial: *UCR Researcher J Ehlers*
- 9:10 *walk to next venue*
- 9:15 Lima bean Lygus breeding trials: *UCD Specialist S. Temple*
- 9:35 Baby lima Lygus IPM trials: *UCD Specialist L. Godfrey*
- 9:50 Baby lima spider mite trial: *Farm Advisor M. Canevari*
- 10:00 *walk to next venue*
- 10:05 Baby lima plant growth regulator (PGR) study: *Farm Advisor M. Canevari*
- 10:15 New herbicide screening trial: *Farm Advisor M. Canevari*
- 10:25 Ascochyta control in garbanzos: *Farm Advisor, R. Long*
- 10:35 Common bean breeding trials (Light red kidney & Miscellaneous): *UCD Specialist S. Temple*
- 10:50 *return walk to starting location*
- 11:00 Invited guest presentations
- 11:30 Group questions and discussion
- 12:00 BBQ Lunch  
(Sponsored by Colusa Produce, UC Davis Plant Sciences, Dry Bean Advisory Board)

*\*Applying for 2 Continuing Education credits.*

## **Meeting Announcements**

- **UC Davis Surface Water Quality Workshop, Aug. 17, 2006**
- **Chico State Surface Water Quality Workshop, Aug. 18, 2006**
- **UC Davis Dry Bean Field Production Meeting, Aug. 24, 2006**

