

Mendocino County Agricultural Newsletter

Fall 2012



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Continuing Education Courses Grower Courses

**Mendocino County Agriculture Department
December 5, 2012
6-8pm**

**December 11, 2012
10-12am**

**Pear & Grower Meeting
December 19, 2012
1-4pm**

**Please RSVP in advance to
463-4208**

Happy Holidays!

**Our office will be
closed December
24th through
December 28th and
New Years Day**

Welcome to the first annual Mendocino County Department of Agriculture Newsletter. It is our goal to keep growers informed of regulation changes as well as assist in meeting the requirements listed in those regulations. In this newsletter, we will cover various topics of interest to our agricultural community and summarize our program activities to date in 2012.

In this issue, you will find our continuing education opportunities, summaries of the Pesticide Use, the Pest Exclusion and the High Risk programs, an update on European Grape Vine Moth, and other important pest and programmatic information.

Private Applicator Certification (Tan Card)

| Last name | Certification Expires |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| A-H | 2012 |
| I-Q | 2013 |
| R-Z | 2014 |

Ag Commissioner's Update

I am very happy to present our first Mendocino County Department of Agriculture "Ag. Newsletter," developed and published to better inform our Ag. Community on the activities and developments of our Department.

As 2012 comes to a close, the agricultural community has many things to be thankful for as well as continued challenges to address in the coming year. First on the "thankful" list is the lifting of the European Grapevine Moth quarantine in Mendocino County, effective March 8th. This marked the culmination of a cooperative effort among affected stakeholders to eradicate EGVM from Mendocino. Our dedicated pest detection trappers working in the EGVM, Med Fly, and Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter programs perform the critical role of monitoring for the introduction of destructive agricultural insect pests.

The 2012 growing season and harvests were generally very good, with cooperating weather, good quality and reasonable returns for most commodities. The 2011 Crop Report was presented to the Board of Supervisors in early August and can be viewed at <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/agriculture> under "Crop Statistics" on the left-hand side of the page.

The CalAg Permits program continues to evolve and get better. Our office will assist growers with entering Pesticide Use Reports electronically and will be hosting a training session in Feb/March of 2013 to help growers submit use reports on-line through CalAg Permits. Details on this training will become available after the first of the year.

I have been working with the Farm Bureau and other stakeholders as the Irrigated Agricultural Lands Discharge program is being developed, through the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. I commend the work that the Farm Bureau and other local stakeholders are doing to work with the water board to try to get some common sense and reason included in the program. I'm also monitoring the Cal. Air

Resources Board (CARB) plans to implement "In-Use Diesel Ag Vehicle" regulations and will attempt to get our concerns with this proposed program heard by the CARB.

I look forward to seeing you at our 2012 Grower Training classes and I hope you enjoy this newsletter.

Continuing Education Update

The annual grower training courses are scheduled for December 5th, 11th and 19th. All courses have two hours of laws and regulations good towards renewing your private or qualified applicator cards. Class size is limited and we have to prepare certificates of attendance in advance, so please RSVP to **463-4208**. All classes will be held in the large conference room at the Agricultural Center on Bush and Low Gap in Ukiah.

Pesticide Use Update: Permit Renewal

In 2012 we began issuing permits through Cal Ag Permits. This new system has been implemented statewide and allows for pesticide use reports to be submitted electronically. We encourage growers to try this new feature and appreciate your patience as the program continues to improve. Due to this change in permit issuance, our office is requiring Restricted Materials permits and Operator ID numbers to be issued by appointment only. This will allow our biologists time to prepare the permit, associated maps and review the file prior to issuance. Please call ahead to schedule an appointment. We will begin issuing permits the second week of December.

Notice of Intent

We have a new phone line for submitting a notice of intent. Please call 463-4207 at least 24 hours prior to the application and include the following information:

- Name, Permit number, Site ID
- Pesticide/Dilution
- Rate per acre
- Commodity

- Target Pest
- Number of acres to be treated
- Date of application
- Time of application

Guthion uses cancelled

The Environmental Protection Agency has completed the final risk assessment regarding the remaining uses of azinphos-methyl (AZM), also known as Guthion, on apples, blueberries, cherries, parsley and pears. On September 30, 2012, AZM was taken off sale in California. Growers must use all remaining stocks of Guthion prior to September 30, 2013. After this date, all remaining AZM must be disposed of at a hazardous materials facility.

Pesticide Use Program

We would like to acknowledge the hard work and comprehensive safety programs that many growers have in Mendocino County. We recognize that there are numerous aspects to having a successful agriculture operation and appreciate the effort that many of you put forth to be in compliance with state laws and regulations, providing safety training to your employees and staying current with record keeping.

The table on page 3 summarizes some problems we found in 2012 while conducting Pesticide Use Monitoring, Headquarters Record Inspections and other activities. One of the most common violations we encounter today is the lack of appropriate safety glasses as required by the worker protection regulations. All eye protection worn by employees must have front and supplemental brow and temple protection.

Another common violation is the location of decontamination supplies or lack thereof. Decontamination supplies are required at the mix/load site **and** no further than an quarter mile from the application site for production agriculture. The supplies consist of soap, water, paper towels and an extra set of clean coveralls. While a decontamination facility is often available, it is frequently further than a ¼ mile from the applicator or is not located at the

Mix/Load site. An important aspect of decontamination is eyewash immediately available. This is required when employee applicators use a product that requires eye protection on the label. In this case **one pint** of emergency eyewash must be immediately available. Handlers must have one pint of water on their person or the application vehicle.

Lastly, a common problem is the lack of a respiratory protection program. *Title 3, California Code of Regulations (3CCR) Section 6739* has been a regulation since 2008 and applies to all employees who wear respirators (although *everyone* must still comply with the requirements of the label if a respirator is specified.)

The respiratory requirement can be a bit confusing. There are two types of respiratory programs: **Full and Voluntary.**

Full Respiratory Program: (Participation is required when respirators are required by product label, permit conditions or the employer.)

- Written Respiratory Program with a designated Respirator Program Administrator (RPA). (A template is available at: <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/pdf/hs1513.pdf>)
- Medical Evaluation with questionnaire filled out and subsequent physician recommendation kept on file. (Once only or repeat if health condition arises)
- Annual Fit Testing. (The Mendocino County Farm Bureau conducts annual fit tests at a charge.)
- *Annual* documented training

Voluntary Program: (Employees who want to wear a respirator.) Two scenarios possible.

EMPLOYER provided respirator:

- Requires a Minimum Written Respiratory Protection Program that addresses medical evaluations and recommendations, and provisions for

respirator cleaning, storage, and maintenance.

- **Exemption:** When employee only uses a simple filtering face piece respirator (e.g., **N-95 dust mask**,) the employer is only required to provide the information specified in the Voluntary Respirator Provision.
- Posting of subsection (r) next to PSIS A-8 is required.

EMPLOYEE provided respirator:

- Written Respiratory Protection Program **NOT REQUIRED**
- Posting of subsection (r) next to PSIS A-8 is required

Compliance Assistance

We want to encourage growers to take advantage of compliance assistance inspections offered **without enforcement consequences** by our department. At your request, we will conduct a compliance inspection to identify deficiencies in your safety program. These inspections afford us the opportunity to discuss your safety program, answer questions or discuss scenarios without consequence or change in your operation’s compliance history. These inspections are offered with the understanding

that identified problems will be resolved in a timely manner. It is critical to maintain training records, postings and current paperwork in the event there is an accident, investigation or complaint. Our primary goals are safety and compliance. We want to encourage growers to ask questions, maintain safety in the field as well to keep the appropriate records. The winter months may afford the best time and opportunity to review your operation with us. If you are interested please call Diane or Tashina at 463-4208 to set-up an appointment.

Synopsis Sheets available

The Department of Agriculture recently developed a set of grower synopsis sheets, which can be viewed at <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/agriculture/pue.htm>. These synopsis sheets detail, in straightforward wording, the inspection points and requirements for each type of pesticide use inspection this office conducts. This information can be used as a guide to assist growers in meeting the requirements of any given inspection.

| Section Violated | Number of Violations | Section Violated | Number of Violations |
|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Handler Training CCR 6724 | 1 | Pesticide Storage CCR 6674 | 1 |
| Personal Protective Equipment CCR6738 | 4 | Backflow Prevention CCR 6610 | 1 |
| Pesticide Use Reports CCR 6626 | 15 | Decontamination CCR 6734 | 3 |
| Operator ID Number CCR 6622 | 9 | Emergency Eyewash Immediately Available CCR 6734(c) | 1 |
| Respiratory Protection Program CCR 6739 | 2 | Label FAC 12973 | 6 |
| Service Container Label CCR 6678 | 2 | Emergency Medical Care Posting CCR 6726 | 1 |
| Fieldworker Training | 1 | Hazard Communication | 2 |
| Application Specific Information | 2 | Containers Labeled/Closures CCR 6676 | 2 |

European Grapevine Moth

With the lifting of the European Grape Vine Moth quarantine in Mendocino County, effective March 8th the production and hauling restrictions put in place during the quarantine were lifted as well. The combined efforts of our grower community, our winery and industry representatives, our local PCAs, the Winery and Wine Grape Commission and Destination Hopland were critical to this success. The EGVM trapping program covered all commercial production vineyards in 2012 at State-set protocol levels, with a reduction in trap numbers for the third generation this year. EGVM was not detected in Mendocino County this year.

For 2012, the movement of grapes from the remaining quarantined areas *into* Mendocino became a primary concern. We started conducting inspections on incoming quarantine-area fruit at the start of crush and continued through to the beginning of November. Local wineries that receive quarantined fruit are under Compliance Agreement and we greatly appreciate their efforts at contacting our office about arriving shipments and holding up their commitment to keeping Mendocino EGVM free.

We can expect season-long EGVM trapping to continue in 2013 as well as incoming quarantine shipment inspections, as all of Napa and a small portion of Sonoma counties will apparently remain under quarantine (in addition to a few small quarantine areas in other counties).

The Department of Agriculture will also be trapping around wineries that have received quarantine area fruit in the past, to confirm we do not have an incipient population of EGVM that may have been inadvertently brought into the county. The effort expended to stay vigilant and perform due diligence in regards to EGVM is the main weapon we have to stay EGVM free and the Ag. Department is committed to doing everything we can in this regard.

2012 Pest Exclusion News

Throughout 2012, the Mendocino County Department of Agriculture has made several notable interceptions in the High Risk, Nursery and Weed Management programs. Below is a summary of all A, B and Q rated pests found thus far during 2012 program activities.

Pest Exclusion & Nursery Program

| Pest | Rating | Location |
|---|--------|------------------|
| Magnolia White Scale- <i>Pseudalacaspis cockerelli</i> | A | Fed Ex |
| Coconut Scale- <i>Aspidiotus destructor</i> | A | Fed Ex |
| Mining Scale- <i>Howardia biclavis</i> | A | UPS |
| Sudden Oak Death- <i>Phytophthora ramourum</i> | Q | Coast Nursery |
| Sudden Oak Death- <i>Phytophthora ramourum</i> | Q | Coast Nursery |
| Thrips- <i>Thripidae</i> | Q | Fed Ex |
| Aphid- <i>Aphididae</i> | Q | Fed Ex |
| Leafhopper- <i>Cicadellidae</i> | Q | Fed Ex |
| Mealybug- <i>Pseudococcidae</i> | Q | Fed Ex |
| Yellow Orchid Aphid- <i>Sitobion luteum</i> | Q | Fed Ex |

An “A” rated pest is “an organism of known economic importance subject to state enforced action involving: eradication, quarantine regulation, containment, rejection, or other holding action.”

A “B” rated pest is “an organism of known economic importance subject to: eradication, containment, control or other holding action at the discretion of the individual county agricultural commissioner.”

A “Q” rated pest is “an organism or disorder requiring a temporary “A” action pending determination of a permanent rating. The organism is suspected to be of economic importance but its status is uncertain because of incomplete identification or inadequate information. We annually inspect our production nurseries to ensure freedom from invasive pests as well as daily inspections at the parcel carriers to maintain the High Risk and Pest Exclusion Programs.

Sudden Oak Death Update

We regularly inspect all nurseries that ship host material out of the quarantine area. In addition to annual samples taken for lab analysis, we also conduct monthly inspections in these nurseries to monitor for symptoms of *Phytophthora ramorum*. Two nurseries tested positive for the disease this year. There is also a new infestation of SOD in the Inglenook area, north of Fort Bragg on the coast. Cal Fire is working with landowners to minimize the spread of the disease, remove infected trees and trees that may promote the further spread of the pathogen. If you would like more information regarding Sudden Oak Death, contact our office for assistance. You can also visit the California Oak Mortality Task force website at <http://www.suddenoakdeath.org/>.

Weed Management Program



We regularly survey areas of the county where documented invasive weed problems exist. It is the goal of the Department to detect and treat for invasive, exotic weeds, within our means, that suppress our native species and negatively impact the dominant plant communities in our environment. Below is a list of rated weeds the Department is continuing to work on.

Be on the lookout for Stinkwort in your Vineyards and Orchards. Stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) is an erect, fall flowering annual that can reach from 12-36”, with foliage somewhat similar in appearance to tumble weed. This weed germinates in the spring to mid-summer, and flowers in late September. Stinkwort is a prolific seed producer in the Asteraceae family, with sticky surfaces on all plant parts. Flowering produces numerous small yellow flowers and mature seeds that stick to anything that brushes against the plant after seed production. Airborne seed dispersal occurs as well. These characteristics make it a prolific and rapidly invasive weed of concern. This plant will grow up to 3ft tall with irrigation, emits a pungent odor and will transmit the odor and bitter taste to anything it touches (such as low-hanging grape clusters in an irrigated vineyard setting).

| Plant Pest | Rating | Location |
|--|--------|---|
| Rush Skeleton Weed- <i>Chondrilla juncea</i> | A | Potter Valley |
| Spotted Knapweed <i>Centaurea maculosa</i> | A | Branscomb |
| Purple Loose Strife- <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> | B | Redwood Valley |
| Gorse- <i>Ulex europaeus</i> | B | Caspar |
| Dyers Wode- <i>Isatis tinctoria</i> | B | Ukiah, Potter Valley |
| Woolly Distaff Thistle <i>Carthamus lanatus</i> | B | Hopland, Yorkville, Latytonville, Willits |

New Leafhopper Found in Mendocino and Lake County Vineyards



Submitted by Glenn McGourty, UCCE Viticulture Advisor.

The Virginia Creeper Leafhopper (VCLH) *Erythroneura ziczac* has been found fairly widely distributed in both Lake and Mendocino County this summer by UC Cooperative Farm Advisor Glenn McGourty and Area IPM Advisor Lucia Varela. The pest is found in vineyards in the Pacific Northwest and Canada. It has also been found in multiple locations in California including the Sacramento Valley and the Sierra Foothills. It is a pest of ornamental plants, and has a broad host range.

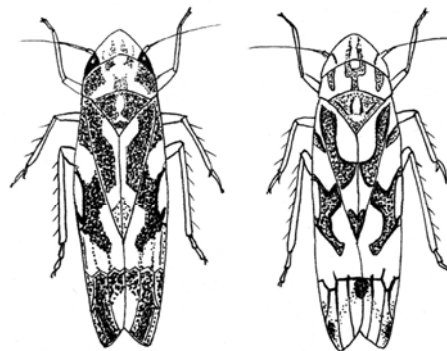
VCLH is very similar in size and life cycle compared to the more common Western Grape Leafhopper (WGLH) *Erythroneura elegantula*. They are easy to tell apart. You will find them in the spring on the lower leaves of elongating grape vine shoots. The nymphs of VCLH have red eyes and reddish brown spots on their yellowish colored bodies, whereas the WGLH nymphs have white eyes, yellow spots on their more whitish colored bodies. The VCLH adults are darker colored than WGLH and have brown zig zag markings on their wings. Nymphs of both species are fairly active and move around quickly on leaves. The adults also will fly when foliage is disturbed. Both have two or three generations per year. The adults overwinter on weeds and leaf litter in and around the vineyard. Adults emerge on warm spring days to feed on a wide variety of plants including grapes. The overwintered females lay eggs on young vine

leaves which hatch in late April and early May. The nymphs feed on young leaves and second generations of adults appear and lay eggs about 6 weeks later. They are very active and feed heavily. Left uncontrolled, their populations can become very large and defoliate a vineyard.

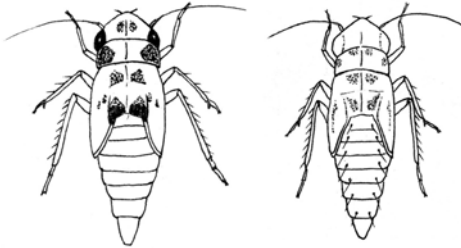
VCLH is easily controlled with most conventional pesticides used for controlling leafhoppers in vineyards. In fact, many conventional growers this year probably sprayed their vineyards infested with VCLH thinking they were just having a troublesome WGLH outbreak. VCLH is potentially a big problem in organic vineyards, which usually rely on biocontrol by small wasps in the genus *Anagrus* which parasitize their eggs. VCLH lays its eggs together and then deposits a thin film over the eggs, which our local *Anagrus* parasite can't penetrate to parasitize the egg. In the Pacific Northwest, there are biocontrol agents, but evidently they are not present locally.

For organic growers, Pyganic, neem oil, stylet oil and Surround (kaolinitic clay) all are partially effective. The key is to spray fairly early in the season at the 5th instar nymphs. This would normally occur around the time that leaf pulling happens, when the fruit has just formed and is bb sized.

More experimentation on control of this pest will be done in the near future, especially with pesticides registered for use in organically certified vineyards.



VCLH adult (left) and WGLH adult (right)



VCLH nymph (left) and WGLH nymph (right)

Miscellaneous Information

We will be holding a class to assist growers with online pesticide use reporting sometime in February or March. The vendor is continuing to improve the Cal Ag Permits program and we will continue to share new and handy tips to help submit your monthly PURs electronically through Cal Ag Permits.

Our Weights and Measures division will conduct our annual fruit frost thermometer testing in late February. More information on the drop-off and pick-up dates will be forthcoming in January.

The Department of Agriculture’s annual fieldworker training sessions are being planned for early March, so stay tuned for additional information about these as well.

Helpful Links

Mendocino Agriculture Department site - -
<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/agriculture/>

Pesticide Use Reports online - -
<http://www.countyofnapa.org/AgCommissioner/CAP/>

Mendo. Grower Synopsis sheets -
<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/agriculture/pue.htm>

DPR/Compliance help -
<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/quicklinks/compliance.htm>

Pesticide Regulations - -
<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/calcode/chafter.htm>

Food and Ag. Code - -
<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=fac>

Labels - - - - -
<http://www.agrian.com/labelcenter/results.cfm>

Integrated Pest Management - - - - -
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/>

Sudden Oak Death - - - - -
<http://www.suddenoakdeath.org/>

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