



Plant Science Press

UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Humboldt County



January, 2008

From the Farm Advisor

Happy Holidays! Several workshops have occurred this fall and several more are coming up. The rural lands stewardship workshop was well attended and the weather cooperated for our field trip.

The landscape stormwater and water quality workshop went very well, we had guest speakers from Davis and the bay area.

Myself and some Master Gardeners have had a bit of fun taking the orange juice machine to some schools, teaching about Vitamin C and citrus orchards. Part of our farm to school activities, it is always great to turn kids on to fresh food. We teach them to read the labels and avoid sugary drinks, look for 100% juice. Enjoy the down time in this wet season!



Deborah Giraud, Farm and Community Development Advisor

www.redwoodag.com

Web Sales Tool for Farmers and Local Ag Products

The web site is ready for your listings. Melanie Patrick (CAFF) and I will be scheduling training sessions around the county, call me if you want to arrange a meeting, or come by the office! 707-445-7351. Go to www.redwoodag.com You will first register, then you can add your products. We will be showing it to restaurants and institutional buyers, and you will need to spread the word as well.

We will develop a flyer for you to take around to buyers. Delivery and shipping will be arranged seller to buyer. Be sure to think ahead how you will deliver or ship your products. This information plus your own web site link should be put in the seller profile and repeated in the product descriptions. No invoicing will be done presently, make those arrangements yourself. Some of you are

already using the internet for sales, please list here as well, and you can link to your existing site.

If you want your products listed and can't use the internet, you can call Deborah at 707-445-7351 and I will help you get set up, then there is a phone message line 707-441-5290 that you can leave your products on weekly, and I will post them. Any locally produced agricultural product can be listed, so all food, and some non-food items are welcome (wreaths, lotions etc.) This is a tri-county project so Trinity and Del Norte County producers will be joining us as well.

I got the grant for this project from UC Sustainable Ag Research and Education program at UC Davis. Thank you !

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Holistic Financial Planning Workshop Series



Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, UC Cooperative Extension and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service are hosting a four session workshop series January 15, 22, 29 and March 11, 2008 “How to Create Profit and Keep Your Farm, Ranch or Dairy Profitable”.

Participants will learn a step by step planning process, how to plan finances for the coming year, how to effectively monitor and control their financial plans, link planning to the environment and people critical for success, along with learning the importance of estate planning and be able to practice these new skills between workshop sessions.

Instructors will include Richard King (USDA-NRCS) and Dr. Lee Altier (CSU, Chico) . In addition, a local attorney, Butch Poovey, will teach about wills, trusts and probate.

Deborah Giraud, Farm Advisor, will address Farm and Ranch Succession.

The classes will be held in the Humboldt County Agriculture Center and is focused on the “holistic” approach to planning your business. As of January 7 the class is full and we are taking names for a wait list.

Cherry Red: A Rhubarb Variety

Farm Advisor Oleg Daugovish, Ventura County



We've looked at rhubarb variety performance for three years at Santa Paula , CA. Cherry Red, and all other red types were consistently later in maturing than green/speckled Victoria, had lesser number of stalks, shorter (but often heavier) stalks and greater disease incidence.

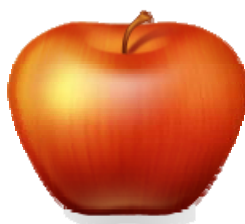
Cherry Red will slow down in production by November and stop with onset of cooler nights (approaching 35-45 F in winter) and shorter days.

Overall Victoria was 6- 10 times more productive than red types and is more succulent, juicy and flavorful throughout the season (we did weekly tasting tests).

The rhizomes will push out new stalks when May temperatures warm up soil to 50 F +.

Apple Russetting

Doug Gubler, UCCE Plant Pathologist and his lab conducted an apple scab trial this year. They always include an organic treatment, usually copper (Champion) followed by Sulfur (Kumulus) which does provide excellent scab control. This year they also included oil in the organic rotation (it was Champion at 12 lbs./ac followed by Kumulus at 15 lbs./ac followed by JMS stylet oil at 0.5% ad then 2%). This was on Red Delicious. They saw a good amount of russetting phytotoxicity from this treatment.



You can get russetting from copper and maybe also oil if temperatures are high. Oil is used for organic codling moth control.

Doug's website gives more details and pictures on the scab study:

<http://plantpathology.ucdavis.edu/ext/index.htm>

Organic Strawberry Production



I recently posed a question about rotations and how long to leave strawberries in a field. Annual planting gives the best results, due to soil pathogens and insect damage to roots.

Strawberry

Cost of Production and planting information can be found at <http://www.coststudies.ucdavis.edu/> look for the organic strawberry study.

“Organic strawberries are about 4% of the total planted acreage of strawberries in 2007. Production of organic strawberries is about half of what is produced in a conventionally managed field. There are some pests above ground, especially mites, that are limiting,

but the real loss is occurring in the soil. There are very few growers who carry organic strawberries over to the second year. The pest buildup in this scenario is horrendous, and organic growers have very few effective tools to deal with them. So, most organic growers do not go into a second year. Cover crops are used by most organic strawberry growers. Most do not return for several years to ground which has been in strawberry production. Growers that insist on going back to back in organic strawberries lose about 10% in production per year, and that in soil which does not have problems with Verticillium. The losses are much larger where this pathogen is present.” By Mark Bolda, Farm Advisor in Santa Cruz County.

Cornucopia's Challenge

Alison Van Eenennaam, Peggy Lemaux, UC Berkeley and UC Davis.

This 30-minute peer-reviewed documentary follows the journey of three crops — corn, rice, and cotton — from seed to market. It looks at the variety of methods used by farmers to meet the challenges of growing, segregating, and marketing these crops to meet differing market requirements and consumer preferences. 6587D \$35.00

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/InOrder/Shop/ItemDetails.asp?ItemNo=6587D>

This program can be viewed via streaming video at <http://stream.ucanr.org/cornucopia/cornucopia.html>

You must have Adobe's Flash Player installed on your computer to view this file. If the video does not launch, click on the Adobe logo link at the top of the web page, to download the free Flash Player.

Orders for copies can be placed by calling

1-800-994-8849

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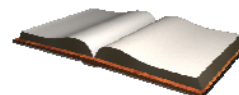
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You can always find out what's new by pointing your browser to

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>

clicking on "New Additions"



Sacramento Trees

Urban forestry is a topic that has been of interest to me for many years. City streets are a difficult environment for trees. Planting wells that are too small are detrimental to trees and they can never reach their full potential. They often succumb to pests and diseases.

Recently Sacramento has developed Best Management Practices for their urban forest. The many English Elms in Sacramento parks and streets will be gone over the next decade; age, improper pruning and lack of space for roots and large canopies will be the reasons. While

the climate is different from the coast, our inland valleys could utilize this tree list developed for the future plantings. Large canopied trees include Turkey oak, Bur oak, Willow oak, Persian oak, and Water oak. Medium canopied trees include saw tooth oak, Legacy maple, redwood linden, and small trees include Chitalpa, Ivory silk and Turkish hazel.

There are some native trees that are appropriate for Humboldt cities landscapes. Vine Maple, Oregon Ash, Tan oak, Beach pine, Black cottonwood and Willows.

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Deborah Giraud
Farm and Community Development Advisor

We are on the web:
<http://cehumboldt.ucdavis.edu>

University of California Cooperative Extension
Humboldt County Agriculture Center
5630 South Broadway
Eureka, California 95503-6999

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