Phenology of the Fig Tree

Merced County 2005-2006

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Phenology is the study of the seasonal timing of life cycle events.
Why do we do phenology studies?

• Better understand the growth of the tree for pruning
• Better understand the growth of the fruit for quality and harvest management
• Better direct pest management (IPM)
• Be able to predict events like harvest.
2005 Activities

• Three cultivars: Mission, Kadota and Calimyrna
• Tagged shoots and figs and measured shoot length and fig diameter on a weekly basis throughout the growing season
• Sampled shoots weekly throughout the growing season and recorded bud development, fresh weights, oven-dry weights and fruit ripeness
• Took lots of pictures
2005 Mission Breba Fruit Growth

Fig diameter (cm)

8-Apr 18-Apr 28-Apr 8-May 18-May 28-May 7-Jun 17-Jun 27-Jun
2006 Activities

- Continue measurements and observations (Need at least 3 year’s data)
- Try to identify factors that affect quality