

Ant Management Workshop

September 19, 2023

Lindcove Research and Extension Center, 22963 Carson Ave, Exeter, CA 93221

Meeting Registration Link: <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=41086>



Ants are serious agricultural pests because they protect hemipteran pests from natural enemies

Workshop Overview: Ants, especially the invasive Argentine ant and the native grey field ant, are serious pests because they protect sap sucking pests infesting citrus, grapes, and other perennial tree and vine crops, from their natural enemies. In return for protection, hemipteran pests like Asian citrus psyllid mealybugs, softscales, aphids, and whiteflies reward ants with honeydew, a sticky sugar-rich waste product that ants imbibe and return to nests to feed nest mates. This is an example of food-for-protection mutualism that is highly disruptive to biological control and IPM programs. This workshop will cover the latest developments in ant monitoring and management and

will provide overviews on the benefits of ant control and how reductions in ant densities results in very high levels of biological control of important hemipteran pests.

Workshop Agenda:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Topic</u>
8:30am		Registration
9:00am	Mark Hoddle, UC Riverside	Overview of the Asian citrus psyllid biological control program and the need to control pest ants
9:30am	Mark Hoddle, UC Riverside	Use of biodegradable hydrogel beads and bait stations for controlling pest ants in citrus
10:00am	Mike Lewis, UC Riverside	Infrared sensors and the Internet of Things to automate ant counts in orchards
10:30am		Coffee Break
10:45am	David Haviland, UCCE Farm Advisor, Kern County	Ant management research and applications in the San Joaquin Valley
11:15am	Soon Il Kwon, UC Riverside	Cultural control of ants in orchards
11:45am	Nicola Irvin, UC Riverside	Flowering cover crops to promote natural enemy ecosystem services
12:15pm		Lunch
1:00pm	Sandipa Gautam, UCCE Area Citrus IPM Advisor	Hemipteran pests and their management in SJV citrus
1:30pm	All presenters	Table visits and posters to observe technologies that were discussed and to interact with presenters and ask questions
2:00pm	David Haviland/Hoddle Lab	Field demonstration of hydrogel applications for ant control
3:00pm		Workshop Ends