

CALIFORNIA DRIED PLUM RESEARCH REPORTS DATABASE

Louise Ferguson, Janet Zalom, Gary Obenauf and Karl Krist

Objective

The Fruit & Nut Research and Information Center has provided support for the California agricultural community since its establishment by the University of California in 1995. The Center maintains a website (<http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu>) to make UC research-based information in fruit and nut production publicly available. This website, which receives ca. 40,000 page views per month, provides specific guidelines on a per crop basis, in addition to weather-related interactive models, links to Farm Advisor's newsletters, and websites developed by Center staff focused on current UC research projects. The Center developed and maintains the Walnut Research Reports Database (<http://walnutresearch.ucdavis.edu>).

The objective of the current project is to develop a database of Dried Plum Research Reports, spanning the period from 1961 to the present, and to develop a website to provide public access to these reports.

Procedures

Initially, paper and digital files were obtained from the California Dried Plum Board archives: there were 751 individual research reports, spanning the period 1961 to 2009. Research categories were reviewed (as defined in the Annual Index of Prune Research) and finalized. Naming criteria were established.

A spreadsheet of file information was prepared to facilitate upload. Information for each file included: title, authorship, date, funding source, key words, research category and filename.

Reports in paper form were scanned by personnel at UC Davis Repro Graphics and saved individually in pdf format. Digital files were visually reviewed for accuracy. Headers, unique to every year, were added to each digital file, and page numbers were added, where missing.

Digital directories were created in the UC ANR Repository. A unique directory was created for each of 55 research categories and 48 years. Digital files and spreadsheet information were uploaded into the Repository directories. A sampling of files was visually reviewed for accuracy.

The website, <http://ucanr.org/sites/driedplum>, was created with a Repository interface. The website pages include: Home/Search function, Report Access by Category, Report Access by Year, and Acknowledgements. The website contains 107 individual pages, a custom banner and photos by Farm Advisor Carolyn DeBuse. The website is linked to the Fruit & Nut Research and Information Center website.

Results

The Dried Plum Research Reports website/database was given public access in November 2010. During the coming months, review of the database content and functionality will be pursued, and annual updates will be undertaken. Statistics on website visitation will be collected.

Conclusions

It is hoped that this database, spanning 50 years of dried plum production research, will be of value to all in the industry, research community and Extension Service.