

Orchard Replant Preparation

Roger Duncan, Pomology Farm Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Stanislaus County

Much of our replant problem can be traced back to old roots left in the soil after an orchard is removed. These roots harbor nematodes and fungi which attack the roots of newly planted trees. By killing roots at the time of orchard removal and leaving the land fallow for at least one year we will alleviate much of the replant problem.

The following steps are recommended by UC nematologist Dr. Mike McKenry when preparing to remove an old almond or stonefruit orchard in preparation of replanting a new one. For more information, you can go to Mike's web site at www.uckac.edu/nematode.

- 1) After the final harvest, irrigate orchard and then cut off old trees at the trunk. Immediately apply about 200 ml (6-7 oz.) of a 1:3 solution of undiluted glyphosate herbicide (i.e. Round Up[®]) and MorAct[®] to the cut cambium surface. A penetrant similar to MorAct[®] may work but has not been tested.
- 2) Wait at least 60 days before pushing out trees.
- 3) Backhoe or rip soil, level as needed. Plant Sudan grass x sorghum into moistened soil before June 15 of the next year.
- 4) Mow and re-mow as Sudan grass reaches a height of four feet.
- 5) Determine if ring or root lesion (*P. vulnus*) nematodes are present in the orchard site.
- 6) In the fall before two inches of rainfall has occurred, fumigate soil (by November 1).
- 7) Replant trees early the following spring applying diverse macro and micronutrients.