

# Summary – PCA Breakfast

Mendocino & Lake Counties

15. August. 2024

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## Topics for Discussion

1. Pre-Discussion
2. Current Pest Issues
3. DPR Announcement – DCPA Health Risks
4. Pesticide Usage
5. Invasive Pests

## Other topics

1. a
2. b
3. c

**7:30am – 7:40am = Introductions**

**7:40am – 9:00 am = Discussions**

## 1. Pre-Discussion

- a. None today

## 2. Current Pest Issues

- a. Worms and Coddling Moth (Pears)

- i. Observations this year

1. Pears ripening early
    2. Some of the worst populations this year
    3. Missing materials that used to be available
      - a. Intrepid is now limited to 55 days before harvest; used to be  $\approx$  35 days before

- ii. Sterile releases of Coddling Moth

1. Releasing sterile moths by drone
    2. In orchards with mating disruption
    3. Can mating disruption and sterile releases work together
    4. Works in Canada but they have 1 generation of CM, we have 2.5 generations per year

- iii. Before Mating Disruption

1. Coddling Moth did significant damage
    2. Many different treatments were applied instead
      - a. Three different treatments were standard

- iv. Using Mating Disruption

1. Puffers and mister applications
    2. Applied on the windward edges to increase impact of mating disruptions
    3. Some orchards stopped applying mating disruptions (likely due to cost)
    4. Maybe some “resistance” or aversion to mating disruption hormones we use
      - a. Might be more than one compound or mechanism they use when finding a mate

v. Abandoned blocks

1. Lake County has an ordinance against abandoning trees, but won't act unless a complaint is filed by the neighbor
  - a. Doesn't seem to apply to vineyards yet
2. Pest management isn't taken care of in these abandoned blocks
3. Grapes that are abandoned fall subject to some Code of Regulations

b. Flatheaded Borer

- i. Found in Pear fruit for the first time recently
  1. Suggested to check the genetics of this population for similarities with wood-eating Flatheaded Borer
  2. Found in a small geographic area currently
  3. Maybe start looking at abandoned blocks for presence of this population too
    - a. Places like Scotts Valley where there are abandoned blocks
    - b. Could enter abandoned blocks after normal harvest since they won't be harvested
- ii. Timing
  1. Later blocks more affected
  2. Irrigation helps reduce Borer presence
  3. Weaker vigor and fruit production areas are also more affected
  4. Flatheaded borer phenology
    - a. Maybe lifecycle (e.g., egg laying timing) influences the type of tree or area of orchard where they like to lay eggs

b. Maybe this area has trees with more sugars, more starch, or denser canopies or wood

c. Katydid

- i. Create holes in grape berries
- ii. Other animals then feed on the holes and expand them

d. Leafhoppers

- i. Not too bad this year
- ii. Heat might have slowed egg laying
  - 1. Metabolism can slow down at high temps
  - 2. Mostly active during the day
  - 3. Might have only been active at dawn and dusk
- iii. Nymph count was high before July heatwaves
  - 1.  $\approx 100$  / trap / week
- iv. Now nymph count is low
  - 1.  $\approx 6-10$  / trap / week
- v. Starting populations next year will depend on the survival of adults overwintering
  - 1. Next year, early populations will depend on how cold the winter is between 2024-2025

e. Blue-Green Sharpshooters

- i. Currently, same number trapped in Sonoma County in 2024 as in entirety of 2023
- ii. Mostly near riparian areas

### **3. DPR Announcement – DCPA Health Risks**

- a. Dimethyl tetrachloroterephthalate (DCPA)
  - i. Trade name Dacthal

- ii. Used for control of weeds in crops like Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Garlic, Kale, etc.
- iii. Officially banned for use by DPR
- iv. Should be surrendered if any stocks exist
  - 1. Pesticide recycling event run by Dept. of Ag.
  - 2. Possibly in January or February
  - 3. Commercial focus
  - 4. Homeowners will be considered if it is for **pesticides** and no other toxic compounds

#### **4. Pesticide usage**

- a. Lack of replacements for banned chemicals
  - i. Neonicotinoids are being phased out or restricted for use during different times of the year
    - 1. Might affect cover crop if applied in vineyards, but pollinators don't fertilize grapes directly
  - ii. Pyrethroids might be used, but undesirable by growers
  - iii. Some pests don't have a direct chemical solution
- b. Long-term risk factors
  - i. 1,3-D long-term risk factors might be based on unrealistic work conditions
  - ii. Chronic exposure is an ongoing concern
- c. Regulations
  - i. Statewide notification might be required for applications in any part of the state

#### **5. Invasive Pests**

- a. European Grapevine Moths
  - i. Still being trapped for in Napa and Sonoma
  - ii. Been considered "eradicated" from California since 2016

b. Spotted Lanternfly

- i. Many checks along the way, but it still got here
- ii. Master Gardener's will get a statewide presentation by Cindy Kron to help train for identifying SLF
- iii. Pheromones for trapping are available but not for mating disruption
- iv. Different life stages might require/prefer different host plants