

The logo features a stylized 'C' composed of two overlapping curved lines, one orange and one blue. To the right of the 'C', the word 'Extension' is written in a blue, sans-serif font, and the word 'Connection' is written in an orange, sans-serif font below it.

Extension Connection

INTEGRATED PEST
MANAGEMENT

4-H PROGRAM

UC MASTER
GARDENERS

EFNEP

MARCH 2026
ISSUE 015

SAN DIEGO



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources | UC Cooperative Extension

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MARCH 2026

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INTRODUCTION FROM OUR COUNTY DIRECTOR

Dear Readers:

We are off to an incredibly productive year, marked by stronger partnerships, innovation and deeper engagement with our agricultural community! Our collective progress as UCCE San Diego reflects a quarter defined by resilience, collaboration, extension, and an unwavering commitment to supporting growers across the region. In this issue, explore fresh insights into water use within urban agricultural settings, an exciting pawisitive 4-H partnership, innovative pest management strategies for winegrapes, and adaptive irrigation methods for avocados.

In February, Eric Middleton and Heidi Holmquist, along with UC ANR colleagues and local partners, co-led an all-day workshop on Small-Scale Urban Agriculture, culminating their three-year project at the Carlsbad Flower Fields. The event featured practical project findings as well as discussions on land access, policy, food safety, crop selection, and agricultural technologies. We look forward to creating more meaningful spaces like this to learn, connect, and strengthen our regional food system.

In March, I provided a public comment to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors on the County of San Diego's Local Food Procurement Program. My remarks highlighted our longstanding partnership and shared efforts to support regional agriculture, food systems, and community-driven solutions. We are proud to continue working closely with the County as they advance the B-75 initiative and other local programs that cultivate sustainable, equitable pathways rooted in community participation.

Wishing you a happy Earth Day this month as we continue to grow together! You can find us in our natural habitats at workshops, nurseries, and urban agriculture sites throughout San Diego County or at one of the many garden workshops featured by our UC Master Gardeners.

We remain energized by the new growth, fresh ideas, and renewed momentum ahead for our UCCE team ahead. We appreciate you for being a part of our community and for planting seeds of curiosity, creativity, and collaboration as we enter another productive season. Thank you for staying connected!

Chandra Richards

UC Cooperative Extension
San Diego and Imperial Counties

How California Avocado Growers Adapt Irrigation Under Variable Water Conditions

Ali Montazar, UCCE Irrigation and Water Management Advisor in San Diego, Riverside, and Imperial Counties

Ben Faber, UCCE Subtropical Crops Advisor in UCCE Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties

1. Introduction

Efficient irrigation management is essential for sustaining avocado production in California, where orchards are often located on sloping terrain with variable soils and rely on a combination of district or surface water and groundwater supplies. Because avocado trees are sensitive to both water stress and salinity, irrigation decisions related to water source, scheduling, and root-zone management play a critical role in long-term orchard health. Increasing water costs, variable district allocations, and greater reliance on groundwater have intensified the need for practical, scalable irrigation strategies, particularly for small and mid-sized operations. To better understand how growers are responding to these challenges, a survey of 85 avocado farms in San Diego, Ventura, Riverside, and Orange counties was conducted between 2023 and 2025.

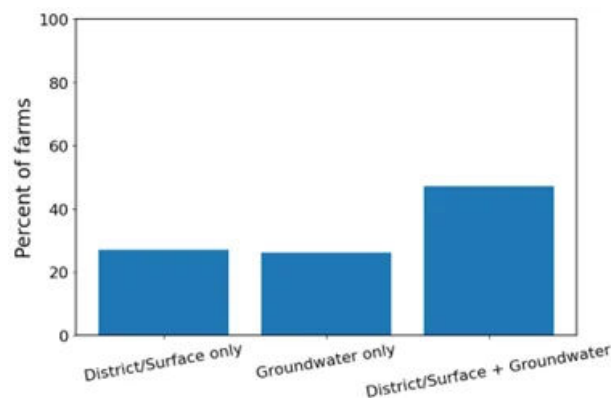


Figure 1. Irrigation water source strategies used by surveyed avocado growers.

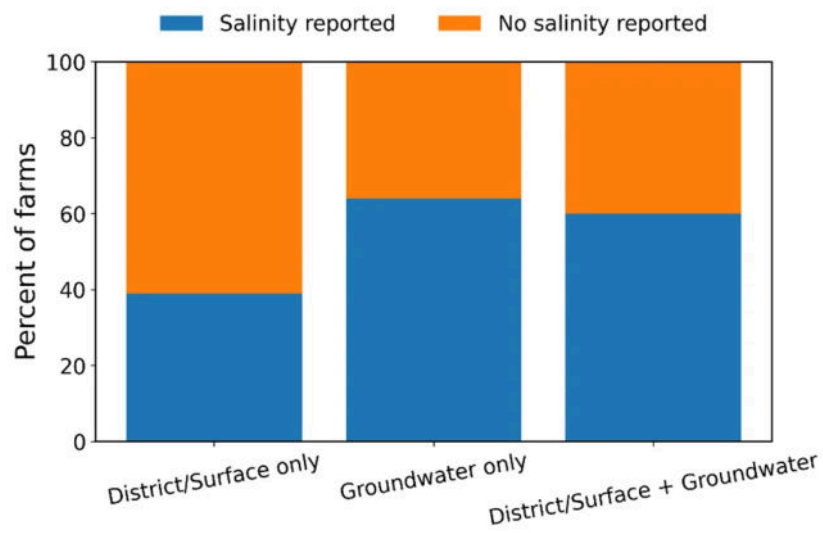


Figure 2. Reported salinity concern by irrigation water source strategy.

The survey gathered information on irrigation water sources, orchard size and soil conditions, irrigation systems and scheduling practices, water measurement, salinity concerns, and root-zone health. Findings reflect grower-reported practices and observations and are intended to inform and guide irrigation management decisions rather than prescribe specific practices.

2. Irrigation Water Sources and Salinity Context

Survey results show that many avocado growers rely on more than one irrigation water source. Forty-seven percent of surveyed farms reported using both district or surface water and groundwater, while 27 percent relied only on district or surface water and 26 percent relied only on groundwater (Figure 1). This blended sourcing strategy improves supply reliability but introduces variability in water quality.

Salinity was reported as a concern by approximately 55 percent of surveyed farms, while 45 percent did not report salinity problems, underscoring the importance of site-specific evaluation. Salinity concerns were reported more frequently among farms using groundwater alone or in combination with district or surface water (Figure 2).

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Grower comments also noted chloride-related concerns, reinforcing that water quality considerations extend beyond total salinity alone. These findings highlight the need to incorporate water source and water quality awareness into irrigation planning, particularly where groundwater is part of the

3. Orchard Size and Soil Conditions

Most surveyed avocado orchards were small to mid-sized. About 40 percent of farms operated 1–5 acres, and nearly three-quarters operated fewer than 25 acres (Table 1). This distribution emphasizes the importance of irrigation strategies that are practical, flexible, and economically feasible.

Table 1. Distribution of orchard size and predominant soil texture among surveyed avocado farms. Values summarize grower-reported characteristics relevant to irrigation management.

Characteristic	Category	Percent of farms (%)
Orchard size	1-5 acres	40
	5 - 25 acres	34
	More than 25 acres	26
Soil texture	Coarse textured soils (decomposed granite, sandy loam)	~55
	Finer textured soils (clay, clay loam, loam)	~25
	Mixed or not specified	~20

Soil conditions varied widely, with coarse-textured soils such as decomposed granite and sandy loam being most common. These soils drain rapidly and require careful attention to irrigation timing and frequency. Approximately 80 percent of surveyed farms reported low or no incidence of root rot, suggesting that irrigation practices are often effective at avoiding excessive soil saturation. However, a subset of orchards reported higher root-rot pressure, reinforcing the need to match irrigation practices to soil drainage characteristics.

4. Irrigation Systems and Scheduling Practices

Micro-sprinkler irrigation was the dominant system, used by approximately 92 percent of surveyed farms. Drip irrigation was reported by about 13 percent, typically in specific blocks or younger plantings.

Several growers used more than one irrigation system across different orchard areas.

Irrigation scheduling approaches varied widely. Growers commonly relied on plant observation (49 percent), soil moisture sensors (42 percent), and calendar-based scheduling (41 percent), often using multiple methods rather than a single approach (Figure 3). Weather-based tools such as CIMIS (California Irrigation Management Information System) and scheduling software were used by a smaller proportion of farms.

Grower responses indicated that irrigation frequency and run time are adjusted adaptively over the season. During periods of high evaporative demand, many growers irrigated more frequently, particularly on coarse-textured soils. Outside peak demand periods, irrigation was modified based on tree condition, soil moisture observations, and recent weather rather than following a fixed schedule. Irrigation practices also differed between young and mature trees. Younger trees were typically managed with more frequent, shorter irrigations to maintain moisture in a shallow developing root zone, while mature trees were managed with deeper and less frequent irrigation sets reflecting greater rooting depth and canopy demand.

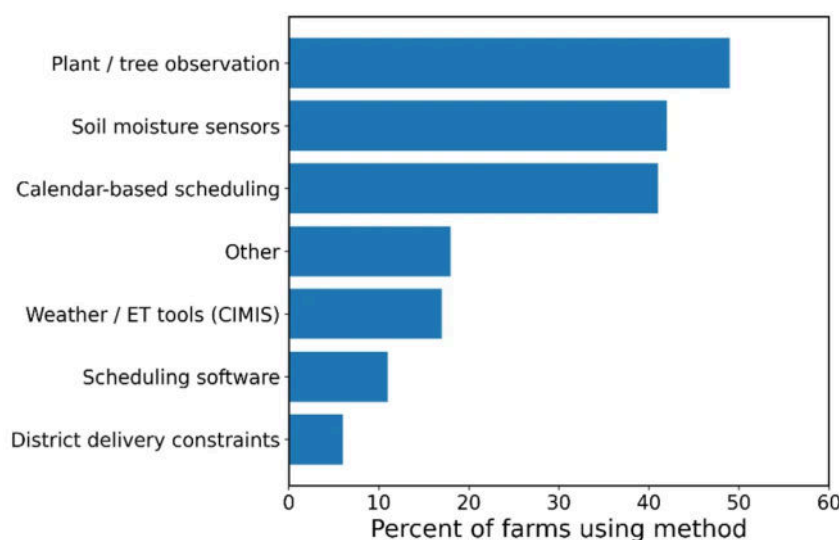


Figure 3. Irrigation scheduling methods reported by surveyed avocado farms.

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5. Measurement, System Evaluation, and Automation

Only about 44 percent of surveyed farms reported directly measuring applied irrigation water using flow meters or similar tools (Figure 4). The lack of direct measurement limits the ability to evaluate irrigation efficiency and document changes in water management over time. A subset of growers reported conducting irrigation system evaluations through Resource Conservation Districts or similar programs, with evaluation frequency varying across operations. These evaluations were often conducted in response to system issues or management changes rather than on a routine schedule.

Where orchard conditions are complex, such as variable slopes, mixed tree ages, or multiple irrigation blocks, selective use of automation can support more precise irrigation timing and duration. Given the prevalence of small to mid-sized orchards, automation approaches that are simple, modular, and scalable are most appropriate.

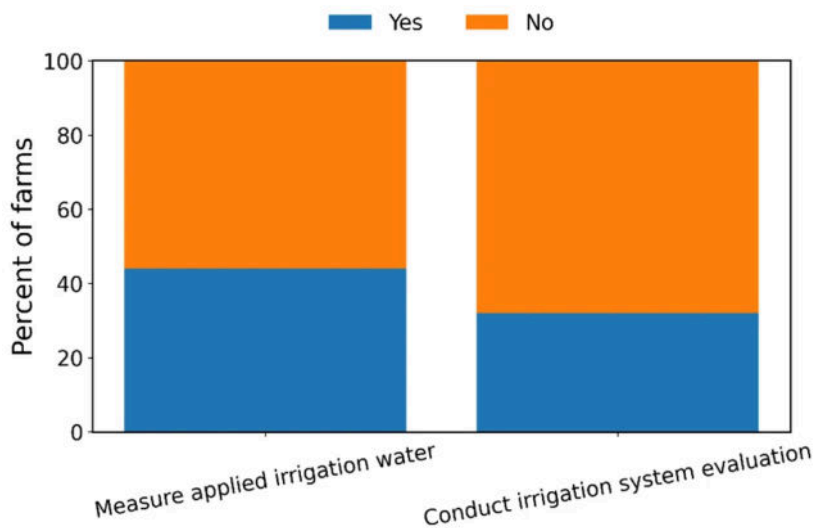


Figure 4. Use of flow measurement and system evaluation among surveyed avocado farms

6. Salinity, Chloride, and Nutrient Considerations

Growers reported managing salinity primarily through leaching or flushing irrigations, often in response to observed tree symptoms or known water-quality issues. The effectiveness of these practices depends on appropriate timing, sufficient water volumes, and adequate drainage.

Growers reported managing salinity primarily through leaching or flushing irrigations, often in response to observed tree symptoms or known water-quality issues. The effectiveness of these practices depends on appropriate timing, sufficient water volumes, and adequate drainage.

In addition to salinity, growers emphasized the importance of coordinating nitrogen management with irrigation practices. Several respondents indicated that fertilizer timing is adjusted based on soil and tissue test results and synchronized with irrigation events to support uptake while minimizing nutrient movement below the root zone. These observations highlight the interconnected nature of irrigation, water quality, and nutrient management in avocado orchards.

7. Key Takeaways

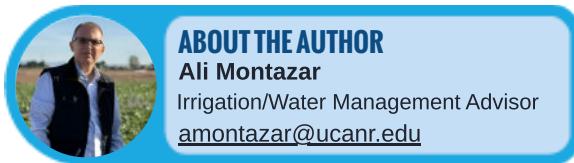
- Blended use of district or surface water and groundwater is common and improves supply flexibility, but increases the importance of understanding water quality, including salinity and chloride.
- Salinity concerns vary across orchards, reinforcing the need for site-specific evaluation rather than uniform assumptions.
- Most avocado orchards are small to mid-sized and often located on coarse-textured soils, favoring irrigation strategies that are practical and economically feasible.
- Irrigation scheduling is commonly adjusted in response to seasonal demand, tree condition, soil moisture, and weather rather than fixed schedules.
- Irrigation practices often differ between young and mature trees due to differences in rooting depth and water demand.
- Limited measurement of applied water constrains the ability to evaluate irrigation efficiency, although some growers use system evaluations and targeted automation where appropriate.

Continued Pg. 6

- Where orchard conditions are complex, such as variable slopes, mixed tree ages, or multiple irrigation blocks, selective use of simple and scalable automation can support more precise irrigation timing and duration when it is economically feasible.

Acknowledgments

The authors thank the avocado growers who participated in this survey and shared their time and management insights. Their contributions were essential to documenting current irrigation practices and challenges.



Controlling Powdery Mildew in Winegrapes:

2025 Trial Results and Management Recommendations

Written By: Ana Maria Pastrana Leon, UCCE Plant Pathology Advisor, Imperial, Riverside, and San Diego Counties

Powdery mildew, caused by the fungus *Erysiphe necator*, remains one of the most economically important diseases affecting vineyards worldwide. Under favorable environmental conditions and without adequate management, powdery mildew can result in substantial yield and quality losses.

In California's diverse grape-growing regions, effective powdery mildew management is essential for maintaining both yield quality and quantity. This article presents results from our 2025 field trials in Valley Center, San Diego County, along with practical management recommendations based on current research.

The Disease Triangle

Plant disease occurs when three essential components converge: a susceptible host plant, a viable pathogen, and favorable environmental conditions (Figure 1). Disease management strategies target one or more of these components. For powdery mildew in grapes, the host (*Vitis* species) is inherently susceptible, making pathogen suppression and environmental modification our primary control strategies.

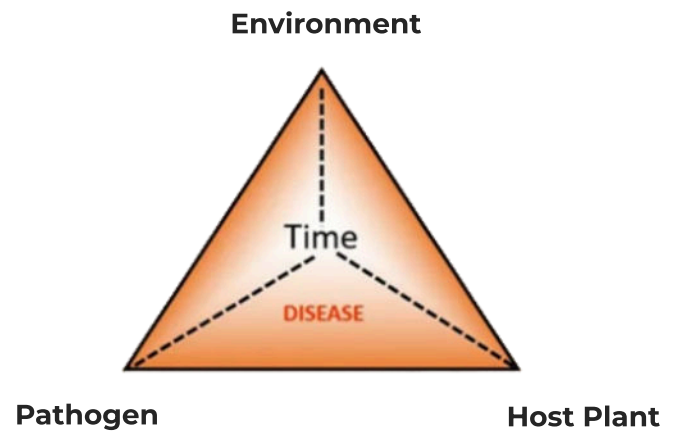


Figure 1. Disease Triangle Diagram

Host Specificity

While over 700 species of powdery mildew fungi affect more than 7,600 plant species globally, *E. necator* is highly specialized, infecting only grapevines. This strict host specificity means grape powdery mildew will not spread to other crops, and conversely, powdery mildew from cucurbits, roses, or other hosts poses no threat to vineyards.

Pathogen Biology

E. necator is an obligate parasitic fungus, meaning it can only survive and reproduce on living plant tissue. The fungus exhibits both asexual and sexual reproductive cycles. During the growing season, asexual reproduction produces abundant conidia (spores) on specialized structures called conidiophores, which appear as the characteristic white, powdery growth on infected plant surfaces. These conidia are easily dispersed by wind and can initiate new infections within hours under favorable conditions (Figure 2 on Pg. 7).

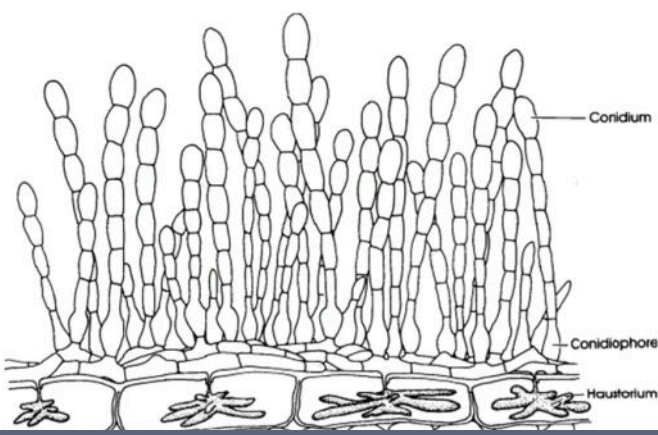


Figure 2. Fungal structures showing conidiophores and haustoria



Figure 3a. Leaf with chlorotic spots

The sexual cycle produces chasmothecia—small, dark, overwintering structures containing ascospores. These survival structures form on infected tissues and persist through winter, releasing ascospores during spring rains when temperatures exceed 50°F (10°C). This primary inoculum initiates the disease cycle each season, making sanitation and early-season control critical components of effective management programs.

Disease Recognition and Impact

Symptoms of Foliage

Early foliar symptoms appear as chlorotic (yellowish) spots on the upper leaf surface, often most visible on young, expanding leaves (Figure 3a). As infection progresses, white, web-like mycelial growth develops on both upper and lower leaf surfaces (Figure 3b). Heavily infected leaves may become distorted, cease growth prematurely, and in severe cases, develop necrotic areas. Reduced photosynthetic capacity from infected foliage can significantly impact vine vigor and fruit maturation.

These scarred berries are unsuitable for the fresh market and may contribute off-flavors to wine, particularly musty or moldy characteristics that persist through fermentation.



Figure 3b. Leaf with white mycelium

Fruit Infections

Berry susceptibility varies with the development stage. Young berries are highly susceptible, with infections appearing as white, powdery masses that can colonize the entire berry surface (Figure 4a). As berries mature, their resistance increases, but early infections leave permanent damage. On mature fruit, previous infections manifest as distinctive black-to-brown, web-like scarring patterns (Figure 4b).

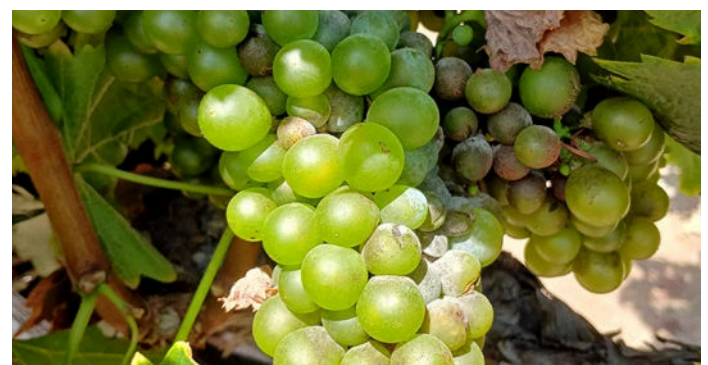


Figure 4a. Clusters showing progressive infection stages



Figure 4b. Grape with web-like scarring.

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Cane and Shoot Symptoms

On dormant canes, powdery mildew appears as diffuse, red-to-brown blotchy areas where the fungus overwinters. These marks indicate the presence of chasmothecia and serve as important sources of primary inoculum for the following season. Identifying and removing heavily infected canes during dormant pruning can significantly reduce disease pressure in the subsequent growing season.



Figure 5. Red-to-brown blotchy areas on dormant canes.

Environmental Requirements and Cultural Control

Critical Environmental Factors

Powdery mildew development is influenced by several key environmental factors:

- **Temperature:** The disease cycle initiates when temperatures exceed 50°F (10°C), with optimal growth occurring between 68-77°F (20-25°C). High temperatures above 95°F (35°C) can suppress disease development.
- **Moisture:** While free water is not required for infection, the disease cycle begins with ascospore release triggered by rainfall exceeding 0.1 inch. Relative humidity above 40% favors conidial germination and mycelial growth.
- **Light:** Ultraviolet radiation is highly suppressive to powdery mildew. Shaded vine portions consistently exhibit higher disease pressure than well-exposed areas, underscoring the importance of canopy management as a critical cultural control strategy.

- **Air circulation:** Dense canopies with poor air movement create humid microclimates that favor disease development, while also hindering fungicide penetration and coverage.

Cultural Management Strategies

Effective cultural practices can significantly reduce powdery mildew pressure:

- **Canopy Management:** Maintain an open canopy architecture that allows sunlight penetration and air movement. Shoot positioning, leaf removal, and hedging should aim to minimize shaded areas within the fruiting zone.
- **Basal Leaf Removal:** Removing leaves in the cluster zone improves both UV exposure to fruit and fungicide coverage. Timing is critical; remove leaves shortly after fruit set to maximize benefits while avoiding sunburn.
- **Sanitation:** Remove and destroy heavily infected canes during dormant pruning to reduce overwintering inoculum. Early-season sulfur or oil applications can further suppress chasmothecia germination.
- **Varietal Selection:** While rarely practical for established vineyards, consider disease resistance when planning new plantings. Some cultivars show moderate resistance, though none are immune.

Critical Timing for Disease Management

Critical Environmental Factors

The period from pre-bloom through approximately two weeks post-bloom represents the most critical window powdery mildew management. During these six weeks, berries are at most susceptible stage, and infections established during this period will persist throughout fruit development, regardless of subsequent control efforts.

Research consistently shows that effective early-season control simplifies late-season management.

Continued Pg. 9

During these six weeks, berries are at their most susceptible stage, and infections established during this period will persist throughout fruit development, regardless of subsequent control efforts.

Research consistently shows that effective early-season control simplifies late-season management. Conversely, poor control during the critical window is often irreversible, even with intensive later applications. This underscores the importance of:

- Beginning fungicide applications before bloom, especially in vineyards with historical disease pressure
- Maintaining consistent 7–14-day spray intervals during the critical period
- Using high-efficacy materials during peak susceptibility
- Ensuring thorough coverage, particularly of developing clusters

After fruit reaches approximately 12° Brix and remains clean, powdery mildew-specific applications can typically be discontinued, though monitoring should continue. At this stage, management priorities often shift toward bunch rot pathogens such as *Botrytis cinerea*.

Fungicide Options and Resistance Management

Understanding Fungicide Categories

Fungicides can be classified by both their timing of application and their mode of action:

By Application Timing

- **Protectant fungicides** must be applied before disease appears. They prevent spore germination and infection but cannot cure existing infections. Sulfur and many contact fungicides fall into this category.
- **Eradicant fungicides** can halt disease progression after infection has occurred, though efficacy decreases as infection age increases. Some systemic fungicides possess eradicant activity.

By Mobility

- **Contact fungicides** remain on plant surfaces and require thorough coverage, including leaf undersides. They are susceptible to weathering but generally pose a lower risk of resistance failure.
- **Systemic fungicides** are absorbed and translocated within plant tissues, providing protection to new growth and better resistance to wash-off. However, their site-specific modes of action make them more prone to resistance development.

Sulfur: The Organic Mainstay

Sulfur has been used for powdery mildew control for over a century and remains the foundation of organic management programs. Three primary formulations are available:

- **Wettable sulfur** is mixed with water and applied as a spray. It provides good preventive protection but can cause phytotoxicity when applied above 85°F (29°C) or within two weeks of oil applications.
- **Sulfur dust** is applied directly as a powder. While inexpensive and effective, dust applications carry a higher risk of phytotoxicity (particularly at 85–90°F), can irritate applicators, and are prone to drift.



Figure 6. Phenological timeline showing critical control period.

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- **Micronized or flowable sulfur** features finer particles suspended in liquid, providing superior coverage and adhesion with reduced phytotoxicity risk compared to dust formulations, though at a higher cost.

Oils: Effective but Requiring Caution

Petroleum-based oils (such as JMS Stylet Oil) and plant-based oils (such as neem and jojoba) can help suppress powdery mildew. However, their use requires strict adherence to safety guidelines:

- Never apply oil sprays within two weeks of sulfur applications—this combination can cause severe phytotoxicity.
- Do not apply when temperatures exceed 90°F (32°C).
- Avoid applications when vines are water-stressed or drought-stressed.

Alternative Organic Materials

Several other Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI)-listed materials are available, though generally with more limited efficacy:

- **Bicarbonates** (potassium bicarbonate, sodium bicarbonate) raise leaf surface pH, creating unfavorable conditions for fungal growth
- **Biological fungicides** contain beneficial microorganisms that compete with or parasitize the pathogen
- **Plant extracts** induce plant defense responses
- **Silicon-based products** strengthen cell walls, creating physical barriers to infection

Conventional Fungicides and Resistance Management

Synthetic fungicides offer excellent efficacy but require careful stewardship to preserve effectiveness. *Erysiphe necator* has demonstrated a remarkable capacity to develop resistance; many once-effective materials now provide little to no control. Critical resistance management practices include:

- Rotating fungicides with different FRAC (Fungicide Resistance Action Committee) codes
- Never applying the same fungicide (or fungicides with the same FRAC code) more than twice consecutively
- Tank-mixing or alternating with protectant fungicides (particularly sulfur) to reduce selection pressure
- Staying current with resistance monitoring and University recommendations, as the resistance landscape continues to evolve

2025 Valley Center Trial Results

Trial Design and Methods

During the 2025 growing season, we conducted field trials at a commercial vineyard in Valley Center, San Diego County, to evaluate the efficacy of nine treatments against powdery mildew. The trial utilized a randomized complete block design with four replications, encompassing both high-density (3'x8') and standard-density (6'x8') planting configurations.

Applications were made according to the following schedule:

- **June 9:** Luna Experience applied to the entire vineyard as a commercial standard
- **June 24:** Cevya (4 fl oz/acre) applied to trial plots only
- **July 8:** All trial treatments applied (except plasma-activated water)
- **July 22:** All trial treatments applied
- **August 7:** All trial treatments applied

Disease assessment was conducted in 25 randomly selected clusters per treatment, measuring both incidence (the percentage of clusters showing any symptoms) and severity (the percentage of cluster surface area affected).

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Products Evaluated

The trial included both conventional and organic-approved materials representing diverse modes of action:

- **Vivando** (15.4 fl oz/ac, FRAC 50, metrafenone)
- **Torino** (3.4 fl oz/ac, FRAC U6, cyflufenamid)
- **Quintec** (4 fl oz/ac, FRAC 13, quinoxifen)
- **Cevya** (4 fl oz/ac, FRAC 3, mefentrifluconazole)
- **Kaligreen** (5 lb/ac, FRAC M2, potassium bicarbonate, organic)
- **Regalia** (4 qt/ac, FRAC P5, Reynoutria extract, organic)
- **JMS Stylet Oil** (2 gal/ac, paraffinic mineral oil, organic)
- **Erysichrona** (27.4 + 12.8 fl oz/ac, RNA interference (**RNAi**) technology)
- **Plasma-activated water** (experimental technology, **PAW**)

Key Results

Statistical analysis revealed significant differences among treatments for both disease incidence and severity (Figure 7). Results are summarized below, with treatments grouped by similar performance levels:

Excellent Control: **Vivando** demonstrated superior performance, with 32% disease incidence (68% reduction compared to the untreated control) and only 6% severity. This product consistently provided the best control across all evaluation metrics.

Good Control: **Torino** and **Quintec** provided commercially acceptable control with 56% and 62% incidence, respectively, and both achieved approximately 12% severity. These materials represent viable alternatives for rotation programs, though with reduced efficacy compared to Vivando.

Good to Limited Control: The remaining treatments—**Cevya**, **JMS Stylet Oil**, **Regalia**, **RNAi**, **plasma-activated water**, and **Kaligreen**—showed moderate efficacy under the high disease pressure conditions of this trial. Disease incidence ranged from 76-84%, statistically similar to each other, though significantly better than the untreated control (100% incidence). Under lower disease pressure conditions, these products may prove more useful for disease management.

Practical Recommendations for Growers

Integrated Management Program

Based on current research and trial results, an effective powdery mildew management program should integrate multiple tactics:

- **Early-season sanitation:** Apply sulfur or oil before bud breaks to suppress overwintering inoculum in vineyards with previous disease history.
- **Critical period protection:** Maintain 7-14-day spray intervals from pre-bloom through two weeks post-bloom using high-efficacy materials.
- **Canopy management:** Maintain open canopy architecture and perform timely basal leaf removal.
- **Regular monitoring:** Scout weekly during the critical period, paying particular attention to shaded areas where disease typically appears first.

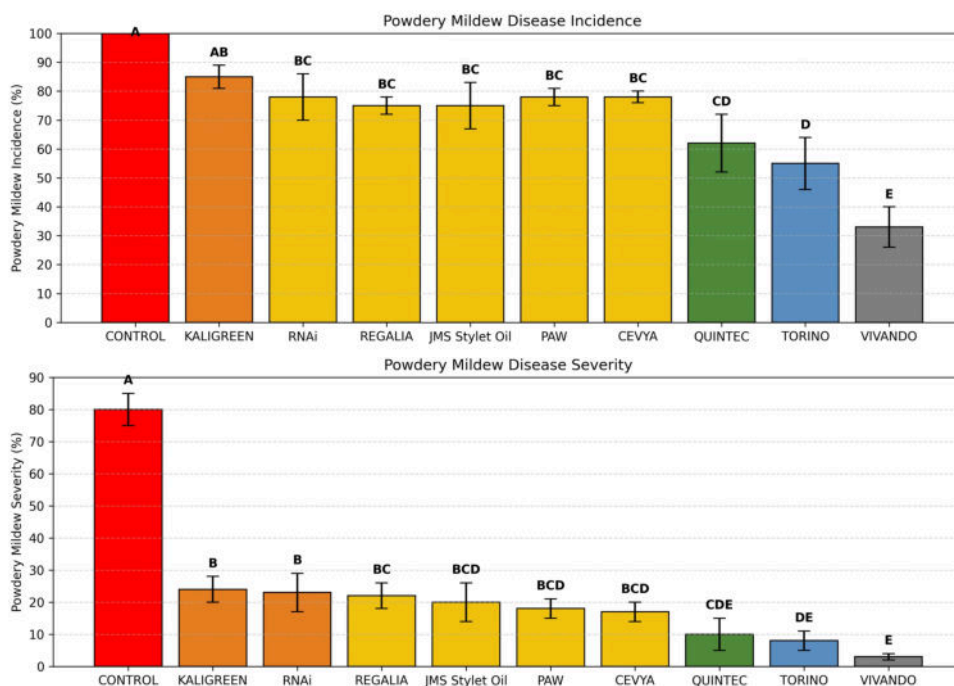
Looking Forward

Powdery mildew management continues to evolve as resistance develops and new technologies emerge. In all production systems, success ultimately depends on integrating multiple management tactics rather than relying solely on chemical control.

Growers should stay current with university recommendations, monitor their own vineyards carefully, and maintain detailed records of product efficacy. What works in one vineyard may not perform equally well in another due to differences in microclimate, variety, and pathogen populations. Adaptive management—adjusting programs based on observed results—remains essential for long-term success.

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Figure 7. Bar graphs showing disease incidence (up) and severity (down) by treatment.



Acknowledgments

The author gratefully acknowledges the Eskalen Lab at UC Davis for providing guidelines and protocols for trial implementation, and the cooperating growers Alysha and Al Stehly for generously providing the trial site. Special thanks to Ubaldo and Juan for their excellent work in fungicide application and vineyard management throughout the growing season.



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2026 CFA San Diego Cat Fanciers Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds

A Purr-fect Partnership: 4-H Youth at the CFA San Diego Cat Show

*Written By: Rebeca Manzo, 4-H Program
Coordinator, UCCE San Diego County*

This was 4-H's second year partnering with Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. (CFA) at the CFA Cat Show held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. The event is considered the largest cat show in the western United States, and this year our 4-H members were more involved than ever! From delivering presentations and enrolling cats in judging competitions to volunteering in key roles throughout the event, our youth truly made an impact.

About the Cat Fanciers' Association

The Cat Fanciers' Association is a nonprofit organization that sponsors over 400 cat shows worldwide, helping raise funds that benefit feline companions everywhere. The CFA Cat Show in San Diego County attracts approximately 12,000 visitors over the two days it is held. Beyond hosting shows, CFA supports animal welfare efforts including shelter assistance, food support, breeder assistance, rescue initiatives, adoption programs, and much more.

4-H Members in Competition

This year, two clubs Sagebrush 4-H and San Dieguito-Olivenhain 4-H entered their cats into the judging competition. Their cats competed in the Household Pets category, which notably has no written breed standards, making it a fun and unique opportunity for participants.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Theresa from the San Dieguito-Olivenhain 4-H Club about her family's first experience entering their adorable cat, Churro, into competition. Her daughter, Celeste, encouraged her mom to participate this year. Although Theresa felt a little nervous about the process, she was paired with a mentor who guided her throughout the event.

Churro placed in almost every category entered and even earned third place in one judging competition. Amazing job to both Celeste and Theresa and of course, to Churro!

If you have ever considered entering your cat, this is your sign to think about participating next year!

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4-H Volunteer Efforts

Our 4-H volunteers played a vital role in keeping the event running smoothly. The primary volunteer role was serving as Ring Stewards. This position gave parents and youth front row seats during judging competitions. After each judge finished evaluating a cat, volunteers lightly sanitized the cages and wiped them down to prepare for the next feline competitor.

There were eight independent judges and four classes of judging results, making it a very busy day for our members.

Other volunteer roles included:

- Greeting and stamping guests at entry.
- Distributing brochures and flyers.
- Supporting outreach and enrollment efforts at the county 4-H information table.

At our table, we handed out flyers to increase enrollment and hosted a coloring station where children could draw while we spoke with their parents about 4-H opportunities. We also offered a “make-and-take” cat toy activity, which was a big hit! I had the opportunity to present an educational segment about 4-H, and several of our members actively participated. It was a fun and engaging experience for everyone involved.



A Special Note of Appreciation

I would also like to share feedback from Lynette following the event:

“Thank you for coordinating our volunteer efforts to support the Cat Show! Avalon learned so much and enjoyed all of her jobs! We also came home with not one, but two kittens 1,000% unplanned (but greatly wanted for the past year or so). Photos of Valka (our 7-month-old calico girl) and Loki (our 5-month-old black and white boy).”

Stories like this highlight how meaningful and memorable this event was for our families.

We want to sincerely thank all of our volunteers for your time, energy, and enthusiasm at the CFA San Diego Cat Fancier Show. We truly appreciate everything you did to help make this event a success. We hope to see even more of you volunteering next January!



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CALENDAR

Stay up-to-date with seminars, webinars, trainings, events, and more!

APRIL


GROW A SALSA GARDEN WORKSHOP


 April 17, 11:15 AM to 12:45 PM

 Location: Ramona County Library

<https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=48875>

TRIBAL RESOURCE WEBINAR

 April 21, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

 Location: Virtual

<https://bit.ly/ucceregister>

2026 SPRING GSOB BLITZ


 April 22 - May 22

 Location: Tbd


<https://gsob.org>

SAN DIEGO COUNTY 4-H ART AND DESIGN DAY

 April 25

 Farm Bureau Conference Room

GRAZE AT THE FIELDS (UC ADVISORS IN ATTENDANCE)


 April 30, 6:00 AM to 8:30 PM

 The Carlsbad Flower Fields

<https://www.theflowerfields.com/activities/graze-at-the-fields/>

MAY

GARDEN IRRIGATION WORKSHOP

 May 15, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

 Location: Lakeside County Library

<https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=46919>





We hope you have enjoyed this issue of the Extension Connection!

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