

2024 CALIFORNIA PRUNE RESEARCH CONFERENCE
(Hosted by the California Prune Board)

Monday, December 16, 2024, 7:30 am – 5:00pm, CPB Hosted Reception & Dinner to Follow
and
Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 7:30am – Noon

MEETING LOCATION: California Farm Bureau Federation
2600 River Plaza Drive, Centennial Room
Sacramento, CA 95833

HOTEL INFORMATION: Hilton Garden Inn
2540 Venture Oaks Way
Sacramento, CA 95833

If you need lodging, the Hilton Garden Inn offers us a discounted rate. Follow the booking link here: [Hilton Garden Inn Reservations](#). All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card. This is also the location of the Board-sponsored reception and dinner on Day 1. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

MEETING RSVPs: RSVP at this link: [RSVP HERE](#). If you have any questions, reach out to Becky Poland at bpoland@californiaprunes.org.

AGENDA – DAY ONE
Monday, December 16, 2024

7:30-8:00 Coffee and pastries served.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome and Introductory Comments from UCANR and the California Prune Board. Jaime Ott, UCCE Farm Advisor, and Zach Bagley, Production Research & Partnerships at the California Prune Board.

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Get to Know the Newest UCANR Orchard Crop Staff Research Associates (REPORT).

Commodity Boards' Support for Farm Advisors (REPORT & PROPOSAL). Franz Niederholzer, UCCE Farm Advisor.

HORTICULTURE RESEARCH

Field Evaluation of Prune Rootstocks (REPORT & PROPOSAL). Jaime Ott, UCCE Farm Advisor.

Introducing the Nitrogen & Potassium Prediction Model to Prunes, and other Updates from the FNRIC (REPORT & PROPOSAL). Julia Stover-Blackburn, Executive Director, Research and Information Center Coalition, UCD Plant Sciences.

Potassium Fertilization, Revisiting Management Recommendations (REPORT & PROPOSAL). Dr. Richard Rosecrance, California State University, Chico and UCCE Farm Advisors.

-----BREAK-----

Measuring Heat Risk at Bloom...AND What Do We Not Know about Bud Breaking? (REPORT & PROPOSAL). Franz Niederholzer, UCCE Farm Advisor.

Effects of Mechanical Hedging and Topping on Yield, Fruit Quality, and Labor Costs (UPDATE). Dr. Richard Rosecrance, California State University, Chico.

Discussion of Prune Horticulture Research Priorities. Jaime Ott, UCCE Farm Advisor.

WEED MANAGEMENT

NAA Trialing through the IR-4 Process AND the EPA's Herbicide Strategy for ESA. Brad Hanson, UC Extension Weed Specialist.

-----LUNCH-----

SPECIAL SESSION: LESSONS FROM OTHER PRUNE PRODUCING REGIONS

A Summer in California Prune Orchards – What can we Learn from Each Other? (INFO SESSION). Nathan Mathieu, Orchard Technical Services, BiP France.

Using Green Atlas Technology to Improve Thinning Practices in Australian Prune Orchards (INFO SESSION).

High Density Prunes – Perspectives and Review (INFO SESSION).

Discussion: What practices can CA prune production use from other production regions? Jaime Ott, UCCE Farm Advisor.

PRUNE VARIETAL PROGRAM

Update on the Varietals Program: 2023 Decisions and 2024 Movement, CPB Production Research Advisor, Zach Bagley, Production Research & Partnerships at the California Prune Board and Sarah Castro, UC Davis Plant Sciences

Prune Cultivar Evaluation and Development (REPORT & PROPOSAL). Sarah Castro, UC Davis Plant Sciences.

-----BREAK-----

PRUNE VARIETAL PROGRAM (continued)

Prune Tasting and Evaluation. Sarah Castro, UC Davis Plant Sciences.

Upsetting the Prune Cart – What Goes into the Decision to Plant New Varieties and What Does Success Look Like for a New Variety on YOUR Operation? Industry Panel. Moderator – Zach Bagley, Production Research & Partnerships at the California Prune Board.

Call to Action: Variety Program Metric Development - Establishment through Handling & Storage. Zach Bagley, CPB Production Research Advisor.

5:30 PM

Join us for a reception and dinner, hosted by the California Prune Board! All are welcome.

Dinner will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, which is located at 2540 Venture Oaks Way, Sacramento, CA 95833.

AGENDA – DAY TWO
Tuesday, December 17, 2024

7:30 – 8:00 Coffee and pastries served.

DEHYDRATION COSTS & EFFICIENCY

Reduction of Energy Consumption During Prune Drying: Modeling and Super Absorbent Polymers (REPORT & PROPOSAL) Dr. Nitin Nitin & Dr. Fidele Abedo, UC Davis.

DISEASE MANAGEMENT

TASC project on Sulfuryl Fluoride (REPORT). Dr. Spencer Walse, USDA-ARS.

Phellinus Wood Rot Management Update AND Report from Travel in Chile (REPORT & PROPOSAL). Laurel Hoffman, UC Davis Plant Pathology.

Epidemiology and Management of Blossom, Leaf, And Fruit Diseases of Prune (REPORT & PROPOSAL). Dr. Jim Adaskaveg, UC Riverside Plant Pathology.

Early Detection of Cytospora and Other Canker Diseases of Prune AND Updates on Russett Scab in California Prunes (REPORT & INFO SESSION). Dr. Themis Michailides, Plant Pathology UC Kearney Ag Center Parlier.

-----BREAK-----

Discussion: disease, weed, and pest management priorities. Jaime Ott, UCCE Farm Advisor

INSIGHTS FROM ORCHARD CROP FARM ADVISORS: OBSERVATIONS FROM THE FIELD & EXPLORATORY PROJECTS

Early Fruit Thinning (INFO SESSION). Becky Wheeler-Dykes and Jaime Ott, UCCE Farm Advisors.

Tracking Weekly Fruit Size (INFO SESSION). Jaime Ott, UCCE Farm Advisor.

Prune Extension Highlights (INFO SESSION). Luke Milliron, UCCE Farm Advisor.

Merced/Madera Counties Prune Update (INFO SESSION). Cameron Zuber, UCCE Farm Advisor.

-----ADJOURN-----

(Lunch on your own)

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