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VISIT THE
UCNFA
(UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA
NURSERY
FLORICULTURE
ALLIANCE)
NEW WEB SITE.
THERE ARE A
LOT OF
PROGRAMS
AVAILABLE AND
MORE
INFORMATION
LIKE
ANNOUNCEMEN
TS, ALERTS
AND
NEWSLETTERS.

[HTTP://GROUP
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UCCE SAN DIEGO COUNTY, FLORICULTURE & NURSERY FARM ADVISOR 951-775-7172



ETHYLENE: A QUICK SUCCESS STORY FOR UCCE

BROMELIAD GROWERS HAVE USED ETHYLENE TO INDUCE SYNCHRONOUS FLOWERING FOR MANY YEARS, AND SYNCHRONOUS FLOWERING IS KEY TO THE MARKETING OF BROMELIADS. HOWEVER, THE EPA CONSIDERS USING THE GAS IN THIS MANNER A PESTICIDE, AND THERE WERE NO REGISTERED USES OF ETHYLENE AS A PESTICIDE. GROWERS WERE SOMEWHAT SHOCKED TO FIND OUT THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO STOP USING ETHYLENE GAS UNTIL A LEGAL REGISTRATION WAS PRODUCED. THIS WOULD HAVE CAUSED SEVERE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SOME OF THE LARGEST BROMELIAD GROWERS IN THE COUNTRY LOCATED LOCALLY IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY. THERE ARE SYNTHETIC CHEMICALS THAT ARE REGISTERED TO INDUCE FLOWERING IN BROMELIADS, BUT THEY ARE TOXIC, CAN CAUSE PHYTOTOXICITY, AND CAUSE ASYNCHRONOUS FLOWERING. ETHYLENE IS A COMMON GAS FOUND EVERYWHERE IN NATURE, IS COMMONLY USED TO RIPEN BANANAS AND OTHER FRUIT, AND WHEN USED PROPERLY CAN UNIFORMLY INITIATE SYNCHRONOUS FLOWERING IN BROMELIADS.

RESEARCH WAS CONDUCTED BY KAREN ROBB AND VALERIE MELLANO OF UCCE SAN DIEGO TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE OF THE EFFICACY OF ETHYLENE IN COMPARISON TO THE TOXIC CHEMICALS PRESENTLY REGISTERED FOR BROMELIAD FLOWER INDUCTION. I COLLECTED EVIDENCE OF THE INNOCUOUS NATURE OF ETHYLENE GAS, ALL RELEVANT RESEARCH, ALL OTHER

RELEVANT DATA AND INFORMATION AND COMPILED IT INTO A FULL REGISTRATION PACKET. IN ADDITION, I COLLECTED DATA FROM LOCAL GROWERS ON THE BEST METHOD OF APPLICATION OF ETHYLENE. I USED THIS INFORMATION TO WRITE A FORMAL LABEL FOR ETHYLENE USE THAT COULD BE INCLUDED WITH THE TANKS OF ETHYLENE-COMPRESSED GAS. ALL OF THIS INFORMATION WAS GIVEN TO AIRGAS WHO COOPERATED FULLY AND FILED THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION REQUEST.

THE WRITTEN LABEL, THE FULL PACKET PRESENTED TO AIRGAS, AND SUPPORT LETTERS QUICKENED THE REGISTRATION PROCESS. THE CA DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION APPROVED THE REGISTRATION AND OFFICIAL LABEL, AND LETTERS SIGNIFYING THE LEGAL USE OF ETHYLENE IN BROMELIAD FLOWER INDUCTION WENT TO ALL ORNAMENTAL PLANT PRODUCERS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY. BY INTERCEDING, UCCE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR LITTLE ECONOMIC IMPACT TO THE GROWERS DURING THE REGISTRATION PROCESS. ORNAMENTAL PRODUCERS ACROSS THE COUNTY NOW HAVE A REGISTERED LABEL FOR ETHYLENE USE TO FALL BACK ON, ESPECIALLY IN FLORIDA WHERE SOME LARGE PRODUCTION ALSO EXISTS.

**UCCE SAN
DIEGO COUNTY,
FLORICULTURE
FARM ADVISOR**

NEW PEST ALERT: PARACOCCLUS AND PSEUDOCOCCLUS SPP. MEALYBUGS

TWO UNDESCRIBED SPECIES OF MEALYBUGS IN THE GENERA PARACOCCLUS AND PSEUDOCOCCLUS (HOMOPTERA: PSEUDOCOCCIDAE) ARE INFESTING AGAVE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. THEY ARE CURRENTLY RATED "Q" BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA) AND ARE UNDER TAXONOMIC REVIEW BY THE STATE. THEY WILL USE THE REVIEW TO ASSESS THE RISK THESE TWO SPECIES POSE TO AGRICULTURE IN CALIFORNIA AND ELSEWHERE. AGAVE APPEARS TO

BE THEIR PRIMARY HOST, BUT THE COMPLETE HOST RANGE IS UNKNOWN. COUNTY INSPECTORS ARE BEING ENCOURAGED TO THOROUGHLY INSPECT AGAVE AND OTHER SUCCULENTS FOR THESE TWO NEW MEALYBUGS. NUMEROUS INFESTATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN FOUND, AND INFESTED PLANTS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON HOLD. DILIGENCE IS NECESSARY TO CONTROL MEALYBUGS, AND THESE TWO PESTS WILL REQUIRE CONSISTENT CONTROL MEASURES WITH EFFECTIVE MEALYBUG PRODUCTS.

UPCOMING UCNFA PROGRAMS 2012— DON'T MISS OUT

**SCOUTING AND SPRAY EVALUATION
MAY 2012, CENTRAL VALLEY**

**EFFECTIVE USE OF PESTICIDES IN
ORNAMENTAL PLANT PRODUCTION
(1/2 DAY ENGLISH, 1/2 DAY
SPANISH)
JUNE 5, 2012 VENTURA**

**NURSERY RISK MANAGEMENT
JUNE 2012, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
JUNE 26, 2012 WATSONVILLE**

**ABCs OF HORTICULTURE
JULY 11 ENGLISH VERSION, JULY 12,
SPANISH VERSION, SAN MARCOS
CFAHR**

**WATER ALLIANCE CONFERENCE
AUGUST 21, 2012 NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA**

**EROSION AND PESTICIDE RUNOFF
MANAGEMENT IN NURSERIES
SEPTEMBER 2012, MONTEREY Co.**

**DISEASE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM
OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER 2012,
WATSONVILLE**

**SEE THE UCNFA WEB SITE FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTIONS OF
THE PROGRAMS:
[HTTP://UCANR.ORG/SITES/UCNFA/](http://ucanr.org/sites/ucnfa/)**

ANR PUBLICATIONS

I HAVE BEEN ASKED BY SOME GROWERS TO HELP THEM WITH BIOLOGICAL CONTROL. IT APPEARS IT IS TIME TO BRING A PROGRAM THAT UPDATES THE INDUSTRY ON THE SUCCESSES IN BIOLOGICAL CONTROL IN ORNAMENTAL PLANT PRODUCTION. DR. MICHAEL PARRELLA (UC DAVIS) AND I ARE OUTLINING SUCH A PROGRAM, AND WE ARE GOING TO ALIGN IT WITH THE UCNFA. WATCH FOR THIS PROGRAM LATER THIS FALL. I WILL NOTIFY YOU OF THE EXACT DATES ETC. WHEN WE GET A LITTLE CLOSER.

WE ARE GOING TO BRING ANN CHASE BACK FOR ANOTHER "SIT DOWN WITH ANN". THIS PROGRAM WAS VERY POPULAR A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO AND WE HOPE TO DO A VERY SIMILAR PROGRAM WITH HER. IT WAS BASED AROUND NEW CHEMICAL OPTIONS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND AROUND DIAGNOSIS OF BIOTIC AND ABIOTIC DISORDERS. ABOUT 20 GROWERS BROUGHT SAMPLES WITH PROBLEMS FOR US TO DIAGNOSE DURING THAT WORKSHOP. YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO THE SAME.

ANOTHER PROGRAM THAT YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO IS THE "ENTOMOLOGY FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN SPANISH". THIS IS A HANDS ON WORKSHOP THAT TEACHES ENTOMOLOGY, PEST MONITORING

AND DAMAGE DIAGNOSIS, AND IT'S ALL DONE IN SPANISH. DR. LUCIA VILLAVICENCIO (CENTER FOR APPLIED HORTICULTURE RESEARCH) AND IRMA DEBONIS (UCCE) WILL PERSONALLY TRAIN WORKERS AND I WILL BE THERE TO ASSIST WITH QUESTIONS. WE PERFORMED ONE OF THESE TRAININGS AS A PROTOTYPE AND IT WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED.

VALERIE MELLANO HAS BEEN SABBATICAL THE LAST YEAR, BUT SHE IS RETURNING THIS MARCH AND IS WILLING TO HELP EDUCATE YOU ON THE NEW WATER WAIVER RULES AND REGS AND PROVIDE WATER WAIVER CREDITS. THE CREDITS ARE REQUIRED IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE A PART OF THE AG WATER WAIVER. WATCH FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THERE WILL BE A GIANT PALM WEEVIL MEETING FOR BOTH THE LANDSCAPERS AND THE PRODUCTION INDUSTRY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I WILL INFORM YOU OF THE MEETINGS BY EMAIL THROUGH THE UCCE SYSTEM.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A CERTAIN TYPE OF PROGRAM OR WORKSHOP, YOU CAN CONTACT ME AND WE WILL SEE WHAT WE CAN COME UP WITH.

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