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The Kings Crack Out
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Grapes, Tree Fruits and Nut Crops



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Navel Orangeworm Alert

Communication with Dr. Joel Siegel, USDA/ARS researcher for navel orangeworm, supports field scout reports that the second generation of NOW began between June 28 and July 1 in many locations throughout the southern San Joaquin Valley. Cool spring weather has slowed almond and pistachio and development by 10-14 days, respectively, and also extended the emergence of NOW from the overwintering generation. NOW populations are highly dependent upon the degree of orchard sanitation (especially in almond, where research CLEARLY SUPPORTS the value of mummy destruction), cultivar, orchard proximity to other NOW hosts, and past damage history.

Research by Dr. Siegel and Dr. Brad Higbee, Paramount Farms, both show that the newer insect growth regulator (IGR) insecticides are best applied to almonds at the onset of SUTURE CRACK, NOT 1-5% HULL SPLIT! Suture crack is defined by a 1 mm or greater separation of the almond hull the length of the nut. Orchard observations by Todd Fukuda (Weinberger Associates) and Don Thomas Enterprises suggest that many Nonpareil orchards are now ready for treatment. Stressed orchards may have reached the treatment stage late last week. I believe it is best to delay treatment of other varieties until suture crack also makes them susceptible to egg laying.

Peach Twig Borer, another worm pest of almond, began its second generation around June 23 in the Fresno, Kings, and Tulare county area. Optimal treatment timing of 300-400 degree days was from July 5-9. By July 13, 500 degree days are estimated to have been accumulated. Like NOW, PTB can feed on the hulls, between the hull and the shell, or directly on the nutmeats. Distinguish PTB from NOW by the brown circular “stripes” separating each body segment, as well as the shallow grooves it creates from feeding on the nutmeat. If you have orchards with multiple shoot strikes, some of the NOW damage recorded at harvest could very possibly be secondary from PTB in July.

Be on the lookout for another NOW wave about 700-750 D⁰ from July 1.

