



Continuing Education Credits

Can you believe the end of the year is almost here? That means if your last name begins with R – Z, your Private Applicator Certification will expire on December 31, 2008.

If you’ve had your certification for three years, you will need 6 hours of continuing education credit to renew your certification.

We will be hosting a Continuing Education Seminar at the San Martin Lions Club on Tuesday, December 9th from 8-12 pm. This class will be good for 2 hours of credit.

“But”, you think to yourself, “I need 4 hours to renew my certification!” If you need additional units, an easy solution would be to take a free online continuing education class.

There are 10 courses, available via links on the Western Farm Press website:

<http://www.westerfarmpress.com>

and the California Association of Pest Control Advisers (CAPCA) website:

<http://www.capca.com>

These classes are DPR-approved for a total of 24 continuing education units, six of which are laws and regulations, for Private Applicators, PCA, QAL, and QAC card holders.

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The Restricted Materials List has Two New Additions

November 20, 2008

The office of Administrative Law just approved a change to the regulations, designating phosphine gas and magnesium phosphide as restricted materials.

The regulation will become effective on December 20, 2008.

Santa Clara County Exotic Pest Update

Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)

To date, a total of 116 moths have been detected in Santa Clara County.

The quarantined area covers a large area in the northern portion of the County, including portions of Palo Alto, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Campbell and San Jose. Pheromone "twist-ties" were used to treat small areas of infestation in Cupertino, Sunnyvale and San Jose in 2008.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture are developing several strategies to eradicate LBAM from California. Both agencies are working on natural enemies to suppress population numbers and are developing a sterile insect technique to eradicate LBAM populations. Initial releases of sterile moths are scheduled for 2009, with full implementation in 2011.

LBAM is native to Australia and is found in New Zealand, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and Hawaii. LBAM can damage a wide range of crops and other plants by feeding on leaves, new shoots and fruit. Host crops include nursery stock, grapes, citrus, stone fruit and pome fruit.

For more information on LBAM, you can visit our website at: <http://www.sccagriculture.org>

Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Med Fly)

The California Department of Food and Agriculture found seven Mediterranean Fruit Flies in San Jose in October 2007. These finds resulted in an emergency eradication project.



We are pleased to report that on August 4, 2008 the State declared that the Med Fly infestation in Santa Clara County was eradicated!

Zebra Mussels in San Justo Reservoir

San Benito County



In January 2008, State Fish and Game officials discovered zebra mussels in San Justo Reservoir in San Benito County. This find escalated the risk of infestation for Santa Clara County. An infestation of these non-native nuisance species have the potential to clog agricultural water delivery and utility systems, dramatically increase water infrastructure repair and maintenance costs, and permanently alter the composition and functioning of freshwater ecosystems.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District and the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department are working cooperatively to develop a plan to keep this zebra mussel infestation from spreading to the waterways of Santa Clara County. They are asking for Federal and State funding to supplement local prevention efforts in mitigating this emerging threat. Congressman McNerney has been asked to help with this effort.

Preliminary estimates for the cost of public education and inspection efforts for Santa Clara County waterways alone are \$1 million dollars annually. This annual expense is predicted to increase tenfold if the invasive mussel finds its way into the County's water system. Significant efforts must be made to reduce the risk of spread of this nuisance species into fresh waters of the County and into the Central Valley.

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Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS)

New infestation area



On October 30, 2008, three adult glassy-winged sharpshooters were found in traps in San Jose near Capitol Expressway and Highway 87. A subsequent survey detected 118 additional live specimens on 44 properties. This new infestation is still being delimited, but the current boundaries are Capitol Expressway, Monterey Highway, Communications Hill and Highway 87.

Once the infestation is delimited, high density detection traps will be deployed in the area. County staff will release tiny beneficial wasps in the area as a biological control strategy against GWSS. Ground-based treatments of landscaping with imidacloprid insecticide are scheduled for early 2009.

In 2008, the Division of Agriculture continued efforts to eradicate three other infestations of GWSS in San Jose. Only one property was identified as infested with viable life stages of GWSS in those areas. The sole detection was in the Evergreen area and there were no finds in the Blossom Hill or Branham zones in 2008.

GWSS is an insect pest which threatens California agriculture due to its ability to spread bacterial diseases to a wide variety of commercial and ornamental plants, including grapes.

Chrysanthemum White Rust Disease (CWR)



In September, Chrysanthemum White Rust disease was discovered at two commercial production nurseries in Salinas. Trace-forwards of plant shipments indicated multiple sales to chain stores throughout the Bay Area, including Santa Clara County. County biologists inspected plants at retail outlets and found infected chrysanthemums. As a result, all chrysanthemum plants originating from the two Salinas nurseries were removed from sale and destroyed or returned to

origin. Santa Clara County rejected more than 4,600 plants. CWR is an exotic fungus disease of chrysanthemums which has been under active eradication efforts throughout the United States. In the 1990's, Santa Clara County chrysanthemum growers suffered devastating losses due to infestations of this disease.

USDA surveys just recently found CWR at a small growing location in Santa Clara County. The grower elected to destroy his outdoor production area and eradication efforts are currently underway on his greenhouse production.

Oriental Fruit Fly (OFF)



In August & September of this year, four Oriental Fruit Flies were discovered in Santa Clara County prompting an eradication program. Ground-based treatment in the 10.6 square mile eradication zone occur at two week intervals for at least six applications. Following the treatments, intensive trapping will continue through the end of 2008. For a map of the eradication zone and other information on OFF, you can visit our website at <http://www.sccagriculture.org>

In addition to the eradication area, three additional OFF have been trapped in Santa Clara County in 2008. One was found in Sunnyvale, a second in north San Jose, and the third in San Jose near the fairgrounds. The finds triggered an intensive trapping effort, and no additional OFF have been found in these areas to date.

Oriental Fruit Fly is an exotic insect pest found throughout much of southern Asia. Currently, the distribution of the pest in the United States is restricted to the Hawaiian Islands. OFF is a pest of over 230 kinds of fruits and vegetable including citrus, stone fruits, pome fruits, avocado and tomato.

Infestations of Oriental Fruit Fly typically result from contraband fruit smuggled into California.

Free Recycling Program For Empty Pesticide Containers



Open to Growers, PCO's, Municipalities, & Golf Courses

Santa Clara County Department of Agriculture and Environmental Management operates a recycling program for rigid, non-refillable, high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pesticide containers of 55 gallons or less. The program accepts rinsed containers for recycling on the first Friday (9 am - 11 am) and first Saturday (9 am – 1 pm) of every month at the San Martin Hazardous Waste Recycling Facility located at 13055 Murphy Avenue in San Martin. No appointments are needed.

Qualifying containers are made of HDPE plastic (recognized by the number 2 in its symbol) and have held EPA-registered pesticides, including adjuvants and surfactants.

Containers must be empty, triple-rinsed, and dry with caps, label books and plastic sleeves removed. The program will also accept 5-gallon buckets and lids, and 35-gallon or 55-gallon plastic barrels which have been properly prepared.

Empty containers are safely granulated and recycled into a range of industrial applications, including fence posts and plastic pallets.

Since March of this year we have accepted over 2,000 containers! Help us continue the success by bringing your containers to the recycling facility.

Upcoming Recycling Dates for 2009

January 9 th and 10 th	April 3 rd and 4 th
February 6 th and 7 th	June 5 th and 6 th
March 6 th and 7 th	May 1 st and 2 nd

If you have any questions about the recycling program, call the Santa Clara County Division of Agriculture in San Jose: (408) 918-4600 or Morgan Hill: (408) 465-2905.

Posting of Storage Areas

What is required?

If I only use category 3 pesticides, do I need to post my storage area?

No. California Code of Regulations Section 6674 requires storage areas to be posted if they hold category 1 or 2 materials (Danger or Warning). This code section does not apply to pesticides in category 3 (Caution). Even though it is not a requirement, our office recommends posting all storage areas, regardless of the categories of the pesticides stored.

What is required to be on the sign?

Each sign must be readable from 25 feet away and must have the following verbiage:

DANGER

POISON STORAGE AREA

**ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS KEEP OUT
KEEP DOOR LOCKED WHEN NOT IN USE**

In addition to these statements, the notice must "...be repeated in an appropriate language other than English when it may reasonably be anticipated that persons who do not understand the English language will come to the enclosure." This would mean that if you have workers that speak Spanish and not English, you would need to post your storage area with this same verbiage in Spanish. (Most storage signs already have English and Spanish on them.)



Pyrethroids & Water Invertebrates

Water Quality Studies



As the times change, so do the tools of the farmer. We have come a long way from the days of chlorinated hydrocarbons back in the 1950's & 1960's. When these products were phased out, organophosphates gained popularity. In today's toolbox, we see that many organophosphate products have been replaced by pyrethroids.

Today there are many pyrethroid products on the market that work great on the target pest and are much less toxic to mammals than their chemical predecessors. Scientists are learning, however, that pyrethroids have a profound effect upon the invertebrates in our rivers and streams. (Examples of pyrethroids are things like Asana, Cyfluthrin, Permethrin, Pounce.)

The State Department of Pesticide Regulation and water districts across the State have sampled California's waterways during storm events for a number of years. They found that organophosphates and pyrethroids were showing up in streams and were responsible for killing several different species of invertebrates.

Are there any solutions?

While there is no perfect solution, something that every applicator can do is evaluate each spray site before they spray. Applicators should always ask the question: "What is the potential for runoff from this site?"

Pyrethroids are hydrophobic and they really like organic material. Pyrethroids will readily bind to particles and will stay put in landscape situations (as long as they are not washed off.)

Water Sampling

Scientists are finding that not all pyrethroids are created equally. Their research shows that Cypermethrin is ex-

tremely toxic to invertebrates (Ammo, Cymbush, Mustang). They account for very few hits on the sampling radar, but these compounds are toxic to invertebrates in the parts per trillion! Another class of pyrethroids that are proving to be highly toxic to invertebrates are Bifenthrin pyrethroids (Brigade, Bifenthrin, Capture, Talstar)

The State Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) conducted a sediment toxicity study of urban creeks across the State in January, 2007. After conducting a preliminary test of over 90 sites, another sample set of 40 sites were chosen for additional tests. Three of these sites were in our backyard!

Coyote Creek, Stevens Creek, and Quimby Creek were sampled, and the toxicity tests are telling. The researchers used the amphipod *Hyaella azteca* for their bioassay sediment toxicity studies. The tests ran for 10 days and there was one group of samples kept at 23C° and the second at 15C°. (Pyrethroids have an unusual tendency of becoming more toxic at cooler water temperatures.)

Coyote Creek had a 55% survival rate at 23C° and that dropped to 33% at 15 C°. Stevens Creek had a 50% survival rate and it dropped to 19% survival at the 15C° temperature. Quimby Creek scored the worst rating of 0% survival at both temperatures.

What do these test results indicate? It takes an extremely small amount of some of these products to affect an entire stream and ultimately the Bay. Pyrethroids are an effective tool, but everyone must be extremely careful where they apply these materials. If invertebrates are wiped out of an ecosystem, the animals that feed and depend on them such as fish, birds, reptiles, and mammals will also disappear. Let's keep our waterways and Bay healthy!



Steven's Creek emptying into the Bay

New "Country of Origin Labeling" Law Requires Stores to Tell you Where your Food Comes From

29.sep.08, Mercury News, Paul Rogers

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_10593306?IADID=Search-www.mercurynews.com-www.mercurynews.com

Starting today, new federal rules take effect requiring all U.S. supermarkets and large food retailers provide labels telling consumers which country a wide variety of food came from. Covered by the new rules: ground beef, chicken, pork, veal, steak, lamb and goat, along with fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, macadamia nuts, pecans and peanuts.

Although there are some loopholes — for instance "processed foods" like bacon aren't covered — consumer groups say the labels will allow shoppers to bypass foods whose countries have poor hygiene records, or to deliberately help American farmers and ranchers.

Retailers can comply with labels on meat packages, twist ties on asparagus, stickers on apples — it doesn't matter. They simply must say where the food came from or face fines up to \$1,000.

"People really want to know 'What the heck am I eating?' " said Naomi Starkman, one of the organizers of the Slow Food Nation conference in San Francisco earlier this month, which, among other things, encouraged people to eat locally produced food. "If you know that peppers from Mexico might have salmonella, then maybe you would say 'I want to buy peppers from California.' Or maybe you would want to know that your food has a smaller carbon footprint. You can buy apples from Washington instead of New Zealand." Starkman, who also works as a spokeswoman for Consumers Union, a non-profit group that publishes Consumer Reports magazine, said that in some cases, people may want to buy foreign food if U.S. companies are having safety problems.

Labels will be another tool to help investigators quickly track down the source of tainted food during illness outbreaks."In the global economy, food comes from all over the world. So when we run into a problem with a food outbreak it is helpful to know where it came from," said Dr. Martin Fenstersheib, Santa Clara County's public health officer. "Even in a general sense, it gives the consumer an additional tool to avoid exposure."

Continuing Education Seminar

When: December 9, 2008

Where: San Martin Lions Club
12415 Murphy Avenue
San Martin

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

C.E. : 2 Hours for Certified Private Applicators, QAL, QAC, PCA (2 hours of "Other")

RSVP: Please call (408) 465-2900 to reserve your seat today!

Agenda: To see a copy of the agenda, you can visit our website and click on: "Pesticide Safety, Forms & Education"

For questions or comments about this newsletter, please contact:

Santa Clara County Division of
Agriculture: "Growing Times"
1553 Berger Drive
San Jose, CA 95112

Or, e-mail: scc.agriculture@aem.sccgov.org

This newsletter and all previous editions are available on our website at:

<http://www.sccagriculture.org>