UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION COUNTY OF LAKE

your Lake County HORTICULTURAL NOTES

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KIWIFRUIT UPDATE

OCTOBER 1988

SCHEDULING KIWIFRUIT HARVEST

(Thanks to Bill Olson, Farm Advisor, Butte County)

As a refresher, here are the main criteria to be aware of:

-THE GOAL IS TO HARVEST AS NEAR TO 14 PSI AND 6.5% OR MORE SOLUBLE SOLIDS AS POSSIBLE.

-MINIMUM SOLUBLE SOLIDS IS 6.5%. To sample, pick 10 typical, good quality fruit from each of 5 vines in a block. Do this at the same time each day. Within one hour measure sugar with a refractometer. Cut 3/4" from both the stem and blossom and test 1-2 drops from each side. Calculate the average sugar. Discard a fruit if it is way out of line. The fruits should be within 2% of each other.

-BEGIN HARVEST ABOVE 14 PSI AND END BY 13 PSI

Use a small-tipped pressure tester, removing skin before punching. If a block is at or above 16 psi and 6.5% SS, harvest can be delayed until the pressure comes down closer to 14. Aim to maximize sugars while maintaining firmness and uniform pressure.

NEW U.C. KIWIFRUIT SPECIALIST

On August 1, Dr. Scott Johnson, Extension Pomologist at the Kearney Agricultural Center in Parlier was appointed statewide Kiwifruit Specialist, replacing Jim Beutel.

Scott is also specialist for fresh shipping peaches, nectarines and plums, so he is familiar with the concerns of producing for the shipping sector. He is also U.C. liaison officer to California Tree Fruit Agreement, coordinating research and extension activities for stone fruit. He will act in a similar capacity with the California Kiwifruit Commission.

In stone fruits, Scott's research has focused on improving the efficiency of cultural practices. Projects include reduction of tree size with growth retardants and rootstocks, determining optimum nitrogen levels for good fruit size and quality, irrigation scheduling to conserve water while optimizing fruit size and yield, and size/yield response by peaches to fruit thinning levels and timing. Most of the above is also relevant to kiwifruit growing, so Scott will no doubt make valuable contributions to the industry.

I hope to have Scott come visit Lake County next year to learn about our unique growing area.

I CAME ACROSS THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IN THE GARDENING COLUMN OF THE SACRAMENTO BEE.

Questions and Answers
Edited by Dick Tracy, UC Master Gardener, Sacramento, CA

COLD-COUNTRY KIWIS

For many years, foothill gardeners wanting to grow kiwi have been unable to because cold winters kill the vines. Now, however, there's the "Arctic Beauty" kiwi which is said to be hardy to minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit, has an ornamental vine with pink, white and green variegated leaves and produces smooth lime-green tasty fruit.

It is smaller than the fuzzy kiwis most people are familiar with, but often sweeter. With its tiny edible seeds, it is, according to growers, "as easy to eat as a grape."

The vines are marketed through Northwoods Nursery, 28696 South Cramer Road, Molalla, OR 97038.

KOCIDE 101 TO CONTROL ICE NUCLEATING BACTERIA

The Special Local Need (24C) registration for use of Kocide 101 copper fungicide on kiwifruit is valid for this year. The goal of application is to kill ice-nucleating bacteria and hence depress the freezing point to protect vulnerable wood from frost damage; in our case, to protect wood that has not hardened off yet in the fall.

Dr. Steve Lindow, UC Berkeley plant pathologist, has successfully protected other crops such as pears from spring frost damage. He stresses that protection will occur down to 23 F ONLY.

Attached is a copy of the SLN. Note particularly -

-A use authorization must be obtained from the Ag Commissioner before each application.

-DO NOT USE AFTER BUDBREAK.

Contact me if you'd like more information on the SLN.

KIWIFRUIT DISEASES - A BRIEF UPDATE

OAK ROOT FUNGUS - Greenhouse studies done by Dr. Robert Raabe and Janine Hasey, Farm Advisor, Sutter-Yuba County, showed kiwifruit to be relatively resistant to oakroot fungus. However, under field conditions, infection has occured under stressful growing conditions; e.g. as heavy, poorly drained soils or when overwatered.

BOTRYTIS FRUIT ROT - Control of storage rot is best achieved by proper handling and fruit storage. Experimentally, it took 4 sprays of Ronilan (2 at bloom, 2 pre-harvest) with excellent coverage to get significant rot reduction. This is both expensive and resistance-inducing.

HAVE A GOOD HARVEST!

Sincerely,

Rachel

Rachel Elkins
Farm Advisor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
1220 N Street, P.O. Box 942871
Sacramento, California 94271-0001

SLN #CA 870082
*AMENDED

March 8, 1988

REGISTRATION FOR SPECIAL LOCAL NEED
FOR DISTRIBUTION AND USE ONLY WITHIN CALIFORNIA

Trade Name: Kocide 101 EPA Reg. No. 1812-288-AA
Firm Name: Griffin Corporation

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

It is a violation of federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.

Location: Statewide

Crop/Site/Commodity: Kiwifruit vineyards

Target Pest/Problem: Ice nucleating bacteria (Pseudomonas syringae, Erwinia herbicola, Pseudomonas fluorescens)

Dosage: Apply 8 pounds of product (6 lbs. a.i.) per acre.

Dilution Rate: Apply in 200 gallons of water per acre.

Method of Application: Ground

Frequency/Timing of Application: Apply just prior to anticipated frost conditions. Make applications on a monthly basis. A maximum of 3 applications may be made.

Field Reentry After Application: Do not enter treated areas until spray residue has dried, need not exceed 24 hours.

Preharvest Interval: N/A

Other Requirements: Do not apply after bud break.

Valid until withdrawn, suspended or cancelled by the EPA, the manufacturer, the 24(c) registrant, or the Department of Food and Agriculture.

All applicable directions, restrictions, and precautions on the EPA-registered label(s) are to be followed.

This labeling must be in the possession of the user at the time of pesticide application.

Authorization must be obtained from the county agricultural commissioner prior to this use. This does not constitute a recommendation of the Department of Food and Agriculture and will not prevent quarantine action if illegal residues are found on or in the crop.

*This supersedes the SLN issued December 11, 1987.

Neither the Department nor the county agricultural commissioner, the manufacturer or formulator makes any warranty of merchantability, fitness of purpose, or otherwise, expressed or implied, concerning the use of a pesticide in accordance with these provisions. The user and/or grower acknowledges the preceding disclaimer and accepts liability for any possible damage resulting from this use. Do not use in mixture with other pesticides unless provided for in the labeling. Trial on a small area to check out unanticipated problems is suggested.

24(c) Registrant: Lake County Department of Agriculture

EPA SLN No.: CA 870082

Regina Sarracino

Regina Sarracino, Supervisor of Registration
Pesticide Registration Branch
(916) 322-3685

USE AUTHORIZED BY _____ Date _____

USER'S SIGNATURE _____