



P.I. News



PISTACHIO INDUSTRY

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**Pistachio Growers
Association Inc.**

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SPRING SYMPOSIUM

Pistachio Growers' Association Inc will be presenting the Spring Symposium

ON: Tuesday 3rd September 2013.

AT: Euston Club, EUSTON, NSW.

AT: 9:00 am

TOPICS: Review of Research work including mechanical pruning, winter oil and chill data.

Nutritional update

Fungal disease update

Orchard Sanitation

Comparative yield data

Overview of the past year

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd September 2013 at 12:30 pm at the Euston Club, EUSTON, NSW.

More details on both events and booking forms will be distributed in August 2013.

ALL GROWERS/MEMBERS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

If you need to stay overnight then accommodation is available at the Euston Motel and Euston Club and the motel in Robinvale.



Know-how for Horticulture™



Pistachio Growers Association Inc.



Cooperative Extension



ORCHARD SANITATION

The International Pistachio Research Conference was recently held in Spain for the leading pistachio researchers around the world. Jianlu Zhang presented a paper on pruning techniques. The PGA newsletter will report on several topics discussed at the conference over the coming months.

One theme ran across the three days of research on pests and diseases – the critical importance of orchard sanitation in managing pests and diseases.

Papers were presented covering the major pistachio producing areas – California, Iran and Turkey. Each detailed the damage done by insect and fungal pests. One worldwide survey listed 65 different insect pests that cause commercial damage to pistachios.

Two insects, Psyllids in Iran and Navel Orange Worm in California cause tens of millions of dollars of damage and costs annually. Fungal disease such as *botryosphaeria*, anthracnose and *alternaria* all cause significant damage and cost.

In the discussion on these diseases there was one common management strategy in addition to chemical control methods – **orchard sanitation**. In all cases, low level of pests can be largely eliminated by sanitation. If sanitation is ignored the pest gains a major foothold in the orchard.

Sanitation is essential regardless of whether the pest is an insect or a fungal pathogen. This involves:

- The removals of mummies after harvest
- Discing or the other removal of prunings and mummies that harbour the pests

Australian pistachio growers have largely enjoyed freedom from most pests and diseases. The long established pistachio growing areas of California, Iran and Turkey show that over time pests will find that pistachios are a tasty host.

Carob Moth is a potential threat to Australian pistachios. It is now well established in almond orchards and most pistachio growers have almonds nearby. Carob Moth will infest and damage early split nuts and late harvested nuts with broken hulls. It can cause the same havoc as Navel Orange Worm does in California. It needs to overwinter in mummies either in the tree or on the ground. If these are removed, its life cycle can be broken.

To date, commercial damage by Carob Moth has not been detected in Australian pistachios but is already doing very serious commercial damage to Australian almonds.

Despite the 2012/13 season being extremely dry, growers who did not follow the recommended fungal management program had higher levels of fungal damage showing as **dark stain** pick outs in their crops. These growers received lower returns and higher sorting charges.

A critical management ingredient of fungal disease is also orchard sanitation.

It is almost inevitable that if not Carob Moth, then another insect pest will emerge to damage Australian pistachios. Orchard sanitation will then be a compulsory essential management tool. Australian pistachios will also lose the “insecticide free” status.

It is probably better to ensure orchard sanitation to prevent the insects gaining a home in the orchard in the first place and to keep the existing fungal diseases under control.

Pistachios one of the top ten foods under 100 calories for blokes

Pistachios suppress hunger and won't cost you a huge chunk of your daily calorie budget..

A handful of dry-roasted pistachio nuts (around 25-30 nuts) - just 95 calories (399 kilojoules). Or, you could have thirteen almonds. Pistachios are the clear winner here in terms of quantity. Also they're more fun to eat!

NINEMSN 12.6.13

Iran and US battle it out on pistachio market

The US and Iran are jockeying for top spot as the world's largest producer of pistachio nuts.

The US will continue to be the major supplier to global markets. In February 2013, the Iranian government had announced a ban on exporting pistachios until the new crop begins to arrive in August, in order to try and boost domestic availability and lower domestic prices. However, due to a backlash by producers, this ban was lifted after a short time. Even though the ban had been lifted there was concern in the international marketplace over the stability of supply.

This caused some buyers to switch to the US for security.

Both countries, though, experienced a poor crop in 2011/2012. Many buyers held off from purchases, expecting a better crop in Summer 2012. This caused prices to drop. The situation was rectified once harvesting began in September, from which point prices continued to rise until the end of year when, with a glut of US produce on the market, prices again dropped.

The reason global pistachio prices have been falling since the start of the year as is that all the world's largest producers have moved into the high yielding year of the biennial pistachio cycle. The US, Iran, and Turkey are all currently experiencing good crops, and global production for the 2012/13 season is estimated to be up by 33% year on year. Production in the US is estimated to be 0.25m tonnes, up 24% on 2011/12, whilst Iran is expected to reach 0.20m tonnes and Turkey 0.13m tonnes, up 25% and 150% year on year respectively.

This means the US will be the second largest exported for the second year on the run. Estimates place US exports at 0.18m tonnes, up 15% year on year and reaching 53% of global exports. Initial estimates for the 2013/14 US crop show a production of 0.22m tonnes. Whilst this is a 12% year on year fall, it is still a very high figure for a low yielding year in the biennial cycle, as more orchards will enter full production. In past low years, US production has struggled to reach 0.2m tonnes.

As Iran and Turkey are anticipating a return to the off year part of the cycle, it seems probable that the US will retain its position, for the time being, as the world's largest producer.

Source: spendmatters.com

Publication date: 2/7/2013

India: Pistachio prices up as demand rises

Pistachio prices rose by Rs 5 per kg in the national capital this week, mostly on the back of increased buying by retailers and stockists amid low stocks.

A fall in supplies from overseas markets also supported the rise in prices.

Pistachio hairati and peshwari rose by Rs 5 each to conclude at Rs 835-865 and Rs 965-995 per kg, respectively.

Marketmen said fresh buying by retailers and stockists against fall in supplies from overseas markets, mainly pushed up pistachio prices on the dry fruit market here.

Source: economictimes.indiatimes.com

Publication Date 14/6/13



Horticulture Australia

NON- EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Your opportunity to contribute to one of the largest, and growing, agricultural industries in Australia

Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) is a national research, development and marketing organisation that works in partnership with the horticulture sector to invest in programs that provide benefit to Australian horticulture industries. HAL is an industry owned company that invests more than \$100 million annually in a wide range of areas including production, marketing, quality assurance, food safety, biotechnology, sustainability and industry communication.

HAL is funded by statutory levies in Marketing and Research & Development from its member industries and also voluntary contributions received from grower associations, commercial enterprises and individuals. The Australian Government also contributes funds on a dollar for dollar basis for expenditure on Research & Development.

The Board is responsible for HAL's strategic direction, investment framework and performance outcomes.

HAL is seeking expressions of interest from qualified candidates for three board positions. While previous board experience would be highly regarded, it is not essential. This year, the successful candidates ideally will have knowledge of, and experience in, the horticulture or broader agribusiness sectors as well as skills and experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Horticultural production
- Environmental management; and
- Public policy and administration

For further information about HAL, please visit www.horticulture.com.au
Applications addressing the relevant criteria above, plus a brief CV should be sent to the consultant assisting HAL: Fiona Lavan, Director, Stanton Chase International. Tel: 02 9251 7188 Email: f.lavan@stantonchase.com. Information packages will be forwarded by Stanton Chase by email upon request.

Applications close Friday 16 August, 2013

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Heat, withering winds challenge Arizona pistachio grower

Greg Northcutt - 2 July 2013

It's been a very dry year in southeastern Arizona where Steve Seplak grows 20 acres of pistachios near Willcox.

"Precipitation? What's that?" responds the Cochise County grower, when asked about the last time it rained.

Seplak can be forgiven for the memory lapse, given the meager .55 of an inch of rainfall he has measured for the first six months of this year.

"I don't remember the last time it's been so dry here," says Seplak, a director of American Pistachio Growers and president of the Arizona Pistachio Association.

Strong winds and high temperatures have compounded the parching effect of the rainless weather.

Winds of up to 35 miles per hours have begun blowing shortly after noon each day, continuing until 10 in the evening since Mid-May, he notes. What's more, daytime temperatures have peaked well above 100 degrees for the past month. Seplak compares conditions to a blast furnace.

He usually starts irrigating in mid-April. "This year our micro-sprinklers have been running 24/7 since the first of March," he says. "With less than 10 percent humidity, the water disappears real fast. We're running about 100 gallons of water a minute and can just barely keep up with the needs of the trees."

However, with a stable water table in his wells pumping from 390 feet, he's not concerned about running out water, at least for now.

Like his fellow growers, he's hoping the upcoming monsoon season brings some relief. Between mid-July and mid-September these storms typically provide about two-thirds of the region's annual total rainfall of about 9 inches. Last year monsoons totaled 6.25 inches of moisture, Seplak reports.

Fortunately, 18- to 19-year old trees are faring well. "For all the drought, the trees look good, with a nice color to the leaves," he says. "And, the nut set indicates a pretty good crop, even for an off year like this one."

Last season, except for four acres of production he lost to frost, his pistachio yields averaged about 3,000 pounds per acre. Seplak hopes to bring in about 2,500 pounds from his 2013 crop in late September.

This report is from *Tree Nut Farm Press*, a twice-monthly electronic newsletter published by Western Farm Press during the growing season.



Ask the Expert: Plan now for good late-season NOW control in pistachios

By Joel Siegel, USDA San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center, Parlier, Calif.

Q: If I plan to double shake my pistachio orchard this season to maximize yields, do I have to be more concerned about navel orangeworm (NOW) control? If so, how should I alter my control strategy?

A: The addition of a second shake is extending pistachio harvest into mid-October. It helps growers capture more harvest but also brings increased threat of navel orangeworm (NOW) damage as multiple generations have more time to develop.

This year's weather conditions have pushed NOW populations to extremely high levels in many areas. Growers need a NOW control strategy that provides sufficient protection longer into the fall. Consider a three-spray insecticide strategy with alternating modes of action to protect your valuable crop in a high pressure orchard.

Under a three-spray program, the first application is made in mid-July to knock down the population early in the season and prevent buildup of NOW populations. The second spray is applied in early August and the third spray follows in early September.

Activity from late applications with pyrethroid insecticides may not provide enough protection for a late harvest. You need to rotate to alternative chemistries, such as a diamide, for longer-lasting protection, but also consider preharvest interval when planning applications.

The key is to avoid treating successive NOW generations with the same insecticide or insecticides that have the same IRAC group number. Sole reliance on inexpensive pyrethroids is going to backfire in the long run. Last season, farmers who used some pyrethroids back to back didn't get the necessary control, which cost them at processing.

Consider using one of the newer products (diamide) for the first spray, a pyrethroid for the second spray, and another change in chemistry for the third spray, so you're not using any single chemistry back to back.

- DuPont™ Altacor® insect control powered by Rynaxypyr®, is an effective anthranilic diamide (Group 28) insecticide that provides long residual control and ovicidal¹, ovi-larvicidal, larvicidal and adult activity^{2,3} on NOW. It is an important part of an effective control program. For resistance management purposes, avoid treating successive NOW generations with the same insecticide or insecticides with the same group number.

¹Significant ovicidal activity is observed at varying levels depending on pest species. Activity is maximized when eggs are laid onto treated surfaces.

²Disruption of adult insect behaviors in some pest species (e.g. CM, OFM) such as mate finding, mating, oviposition, feeding, locomotion and orientation.

³Adult mortality is species, application rate, exposure level, and time dependent for NOW (based on lab and field studies).

Always read and follow all label directions and precautions for use when using any pesticide alone or in tank-mix combinations. The DuPont Oval Logo, DuPont™ The miracles of science™ Altacor® and Rynaxypyr® are trademarks or registered trademarks of DuPont or its affiliates.