

September 2018 PIT Group Report – Project PS17002

Pistachio Information and Technology Groups.

THEME – TREE STRUCTURE & MAINTENANCE

September 2018 - Meeting Dates and Venues

Thursday 13th September 2018

CMV Farms and then the Robinvale Golf Club, ROBINVALE, VIC.

This symposium will:

- Update current research in Australia on Pistachios.
- Present the various methods to tree pruning
- Provide a forum for questions and answers in relation to establishing new orchards and other orchard management.
- Update members on PGAI activities.

KEYNOTE PRESENTER:

Bruce Lampinen, PhD

UC Cooperative Extension Presidential Chair for Tree Nut Soil Science and Plant Water Relations Integrated Orchard Management Specialist

Department of Plant Sciences, University of California



DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT RESEARCH/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Bruce has worked on canopy management in fruit and nut trees, influence of training systems on canopy structure and productivity, influence of water relations on tree development, influence of canopy size on soil temperature and food safety risk, remote and proximal sensing for estimating canopy cover, and development of an iPhone app for assessing canopy growth.

Bruce is responsible for overseeing almond and walnut research and extension programs statewide. This includes coordinating research activities among UC campus-based faculty, UC Cooperative Extension Specialists and county-based farm advisors. Bruce has also participated in educational outreach in China, Chile, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Australia, and New Zealand.

CURRENT RESEARCH

- a. Developing the relationship between canopy light interception and yield potential in nut tree crops including almond, walnut and pistachio.
- b. Developed an iPhone app for estimating canopy cover and productive potential in almond and walnut
- c. Developing the relationship between irrigation practices, tree growth and nut yield and quality in almond, walnut and more recently pistachio
- d. Improving pruning and training systems in almond, walnut and pistachio
- e. Assessing impacts of painting and particle clay films on tree winter chilling and carbohydrate dynamics in nut tree crops

This round of PIT Groups was held in conjunction with the PGAI Annual Symposium in Robinvale, Victoria. There were 49 Pistachio growers and presenters attended the day. Dr Bruce Lampinen gave a very detailed description of his pistachio research work and findings in California.

PIT Group Presentations were:

Bruce Lampinen: Assessing impacts of painting and particle clay films on tree winter chilling and carbohydrate dynamics in nut tree crops

Stuart Pettigrew: Insects in Pistachios – update of research project

Dr Belinda (Brandy) Rawnsley: Dark Stain in Pistachios – update of research project

Dr Shane Phillips: Spray applied polymer temperature trials to offset chill deficiency.

Ryan Norton CMV Farms: The use of fixed wing drones in the Pistachio orchard

After the presentations, there was a very well attended field walk through CMV farms orchards looking at the growth of several years of central modified leader pruned trees as well as the success of moving mature trees from a section of the orchard to be re-developed. Bruce described the USA experience and Andrew Bowring (Kyalite Farms) and Phil Hewett (CMV Farms) talked the attendees through their experiences with the new pruning technique.

Photos



Bruce Lampinen demonstrates central leader pruning.



Andrew Bowring and Bruce Lampinen



Chris Joyce updates growers on the season.



Dr Shane Phillips talks on the polymer trials

**Hort
Innovation**
Strategic levy investment

**PISTACHIO
FUND**

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