

WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

John Westoby
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

2604 Ventura Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Phone (707) 565-2371

November 2001

Marilyn Vernon

PESTICIDE PERMIT AND IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS RENEWAL

Growers can make an appointment to renew their permit or identification number starting the week of November 12. Appointment times will be available at the Santa Rosa, Sonoma, and Petaluma offices. Growers can call the Agricultural Commissioner's Office at (707) 565-2371 to schedule their appointments. Appointments will begin on December 10.

All growers' identification numbers expire at the end of the year. Permit holders whose last names begin with I – Q, also expire at the end of the year. The expiration date for permit and identification numbers can be found in the upper right corner on the document. Permits and identification numbers must be renewed before any spraying can be done in 2002.

Growers whose last names begin with I – Q, holding Private Applicator Certificates (tan paper card issued by our office) will need six hours of continuing education. Two of the six hours need to be in the Laws and Regulations category. Growers who have completed the required class hours are asked to bring their completed continuing education forms with them to their appointment. Forms for tracking of continuing education are available at our office.

Growers who do not have the required hours will need to take the Private Applicator Certification Exam, if they apply restricted

materials, or have employees that apply

pesticides. The study guide for the exam, "Pesticide Safety – A Reference Manual for Growers" is available from the University of California Cooperative Extension. New growers with employees who apply pesticides or plan to apply restricted materials will need to take the exam.

VINEYARD EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL INSPECTIONS

Gail Davis, Cree Morgan, and Mark Hanson have begun site visits for Level II and III vineyard development projects. The inspections are done to check that engineering plans have been followed, and winterization has been completed. Erosion and sediment control must be in place by November 1 for new vineyards. Replanted vineyard erosion control must be in place by November 15.

Level I notifications are for new sites with less than a 10 – 15% slope and replants that have a slope less than 30%. Ninety-nine Level I notifications were approved for new vineyards and 110 notifications were approved for replant in the current fiscal year. There are 1164 new vineyard acres, with 1,035 acres being replanted.

There have been 40 Level II and III site plans submitted. These projects have slopes greater than 15%. There are 569 acres being planted that are Level II or III. There are two Level II or III replant notifications submitted with 21 acres.

November 2001

Marilyn Vernon

Vineyard Erosion And Sedimentation Control Cont.

There are around 50 Level II projects that will be inspected. Our office is requesting that the engineers examine the sites for compliance prior to our final inspections.

EXCLUSION UPDATE

With the arrival of the Fall planting season, the volume of agricultural packages coming into Sonoma County through United Parcel Service, Federal Express, and the Post Office has begun to increase after a summer lull. The types of plant material coming through include boxes of "plugs", small transplants, to wholesale nurseries, bulbs to retailers, and mail-order bulbs and landscape plants to homeowners. Two holiday season balsam fir wreaths arrived early in October from the East. Upon inspection, they were found to be infested with Balsam Fir Gall Midge and were rejected.

Exclusion Biologist, Ron Inman, has recently found a number of A and Q-rated pests, during terminal inspections. Magnolia White Scale, rated A, was found on Protea from Hawaii. Q-rated pests found included Croton Whitely, a Pentatomid (stinkbug), Camphor Scale, and a Woolly Bear Caterpillar on plant shipments coming in from out-of-state. Deputy, Alexis Ramey, found Green Garden Loopers on cut flowers from Hawaii.

A-rated pests are organisms of known economic importance not known to be established in the state. Q-rated pests are organisms suspected of being detrimental to agriculture and are not known to occur in the state and found in a quarantine shipment.

Mr. Inman and Ms. Ramey are to be congratulated on their finds.

HARVEST FAIR BOOTH

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office sponsored a booth at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair. Agricultural Biologist, Cree Morgan, was coordinator for the display.

The booth featured hands-on demonstrations of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, and our Weights and Measures division. The featured display was a soil erosion demonstration. The demonstration showed how soil erosion would occur in soil that was not properly protected for winter. One side of the display had soil that was properly protected with cover crop, and the water remained clear. The other side displayed soil that was not properly protected, and the water became muddy.



Our Weights and Measures division showed their various weighing and measuring devices. A scale was on display, and Weights and Measures Inspector, Cliff Caporale, was guessing the weights of the school children.

A live lime tree was used to display our various insect traps used in our exotic insect detection-trapping program. Traps for Japanese Beetle, Gypsy Moth, Oriental Fruit Fly, Mediterranean Fruit Fly, and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter were hung from the tree.

A video on Glassy-winged Sharpshooter was continuously shown. Literature on all of the exotic insect pests was available for visitors to take.

