

# WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

## Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

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### VINE MEALYBUG FOUND IN SONOMA COUNTY

Vine mealybug (*Planococcus ficus*) was found for the first time in Sonoma County in August. The infestation was discovered in a non-bearing vineyard northwest of Santa Rosa.

Vine mealybug feeds on grape roots, stems, leaves, and fruit. It secretes honeydew when feeding and can cause sooty mold to grow on the sticky exudates. It has also been reported to transmit grape viruses and to adversely affect the vigor of vines.

A native of the Black Sea area and an established pest of grapes, date palms and figs in South Africa, Egypt, India and Israel, the vine mealybug is a separate, and much more damaging, species than the well-established grape mealybug (*Pseudococcus maritimus*). The vine mealybug has a short tail and is found on vine roots in infested vineyards all year long. Grape mealybug, rarely found on roots, has wax filaments forming a distinct V shape at the tail end.

The female vine mealybug cannot fly, so it needs help to move to infest new sites. The vine mealybug is carried to new sites by humans, birds, equipment, or vines at the time of planting. The movement of contaminated equipment, vines, or grapes is the primary source of new infestations.

Vine mealybug was first seen in California in 1994 in the Coachella Valley of southern California.

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is working with the University of California Cooperative Extension and the grower to delimit the infestation in the vineyard, with the hope of eradicating this insect.

### SUDDEN OAK DEATH QUARANTINES

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is currently working on enforcing two different quarantines in regard to Sudden Oak Death (SOD). These quarantines affect the 12 counties that have at least one confirmed *Phytophthora ramorum* site. These counties are: *Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Sonoma, and Solano.*

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) instituted regulations that prohibit the movement of all SOD host plants (whether they show symptoms or not) and unprocessed materials (leaves, branches, wood, etc.) out of infested areas. The state quarantine covers host material moved within the regulated (infested) counties. A Certificate of Quarantine Compliance must accompany host material moved within the regulated areas.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has put in place a quarantine that restricts movement of host material and soil associated with non-hosts. The federal quarantine covers host material moved from

within a regulated county to uninfested areas.

It also covers soil associated with non-host plants. A federal form must accompany host plants outside of the regulated area. Each shipment must be inspected. A federal form must also accompany non-host plants outside of the regulated area. Nurseries can self certify that the soil is not infested.

Each entity dealing with regulated articles (hosts, soil, etc.) must have a compliance agreement with our office. To date, we have issued over 30 compliance agreements. Negotiations are currently underway to reconcile the state and federal quarantines into a comprehensive regulation.

For further information you can call our office at (707) 565-2371.

## PLASTIC CONTAINER RECYCLE DAYS ARE COMING UP

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office will hold it's annual fall plastic pesticide container recycle days in October this year.

### Where and When?

**Sonoma** at the Corporation Yard located at 19722 Eighth Street East, **October 22, 2002**, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Healdsburg** at the Transfer Station on Alexander Valley Road, **October 23, 2002**, from 9:30a.m. – 3:00p.m.

This event is open to growers, nurseries, pest control businesses, golf courses, parks, and government agencies. Plastic containers ranging in size from 1 pint to 55 gallons will be accepted.

Containers must be:

- Triple rinsed, punctured and dry
- The plastic lids must be removed
- All label booklets and plastic sleeves must be removed from containers before recycling, all glued labels are ok
- If possible; No cardboard boxes
- **PLEASE- No PVC pipe, plastic tubing, or containers that have held motor oil**
- For up-to-date information on container recycling go to [www.acrecycle.org](http://www.acrecycle.org)

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, the Sonoma County Integrated Waste Division and Western Ag Plastic Recycle sponsor this event. For additional information call Pete Albers at 565-2371.

## PEST CONTROL MANAGEMENT UPDATE CLASS

Ag 282 Pest Control Management Update will be offered at Santa Rosa Junior College on October 18 and 19. The instructor for this class is Lisa Correia, Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner for the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. This class includes lectures on pesticide laws and Regulations, current pest management issues, plant physiology, calibration and other related subjects. This is a 10-hour class and is generally approved by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation for 10 hours of continuing education for pesticide license or certificate holders (approval has been applied for and is pending). The class meets on October 18 from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. and October 19 from 8:00 a.m. - 4: 00 p.m. You need to register with the Santa Rosa Junior College to attend this class, for information on registration call 527-4011. For information on class content call the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.