

WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

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Marilyn Vernon and Suzanne Ostrom

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, **Tuesday, October 21, 2003**, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Healdsburg at the Transfer Station on Alexander Valley Road, **Wednesday, October 22, 2003**, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.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, 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

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.

VINE MEALYBUG (VMB) UPDATE



Vine Mealybug (VMB) was first detected in Sonoma County in August 2002. There is currently a survey being conducted to determine how widespread VMB is in Sonoma County. In February 150 traps were given out to growers to be deployed in 80 vineyards. The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) and Bayer Chemical supplied the traps. Dr. Lucia Varela of UCCE received a grant to supply traps and screen them for VMB. When Dr. Varela finds a suspected VMB in a trap, the sample is sent to the state entomology lab for confirmation.

Biologist Jim Raisner is screening traps that were deployed independently by growers. If Mr. Raisner finds a suspected VMB the trap is sent to the state entomology lab for confirmation.

Growers are currently returning the VMB traps to our office. When the traps are brought into our office the person returning the trap is asked to fill out a log sheet with information about the trap site.

VINE MEALYBUG (VMB) UPDATE CONTINUED

There are currently two new sites that have been confirmed to have VMB. 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.

The female VMB 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.

EXOTIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE (END) PROGRAM UPDATE

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is currently working under a contract with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to survey Sonoma County for the presence of Exotic Newcastle Disease (END). There are 10 extra-help employees working on this project, nine survey crewmembers and one team leader. The program is expected to take one year.

Currently the program consists of a door-to-door survey looking for any kind of domesticated birds including: chickens, ducks, pigeons, pheasants, turkeys, emus, ostriches, parrots, parakeets, etc.

During this survey residents are asked if they have any birds. If the resident says that they have birds, or if birds are observed, the information is documented. Fact sheets on the disease are also handed out during the survey. The crewmembers must take bio-security measures between each property. This survey is being conducted in a 1.5 mile radius

around all commercial poultry facilities in the county and will be expanded later this year.

The survey started on June 17, 2003. As of

June 30, 2003 1,253 properties had been surveyed, with 204 sites having birds.

Fourteen radio stations in the local area are currently, or soon will be running public service announcements about END. END is a very serious contagious and often fatal viral disease that affects most birds. Birds with END may have respiratory, nervous, or gastrointestinal signs, or birds may die without showing any signs of disease. Some bird species can be infected without showing signs of disease and spread the disease to other birds. If you suspect a bird with END, you can call 1-800-491-1899. A local veterinarian will call you back; if they feel it is necessary they will come out to check your birds free of charge.

