

# 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  
Fax (707) 565-3850  
[www.sonoma-county.org](http://www.sonoma-county.org)

August 2003

Marilyn Vernon and Suzanne Ostrom

### APPLE TESTING

Every year the Agricultural Commissioner's Office tests apples for maturity. Maturity testing is a way to make sure that only apples that will continue to mature to full ripeness will enter the marketplace. When a variety of apples have met the requirements for maturity our office releases them for harvest and sale. Six varieties of apples are tested and released by the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, they are: McIntosh, Jonathan, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Rome, and Granny Smith. Gravenstein apples are not released by the Commissioner's Office, but courtesy tests will be performed for growers that request them.

Each year members of our office will go into representative orchards and randomly select apples for testing. The apples are brought back to the lab in our office for maturity testing.



McIntosh, Jonathan, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, and Rome apples are tested using a pressure test (how hard the apple is) and a sugar content test (how sweet the apple is). These two scores combine to determine maturity for these varieties. Each variety has specific scores that they must achieve to be considered mature. Granny Smith apples are tested using a starch test. This test shows how much sugar the apple has.

Gravenstein apples are tested by checking the juice for sugar content.

### CHEMIGATION INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

Chemigation is the application of a pesticide through irrigation water. There are specific requirements to prevent the backflow of pesticides into the water source during chemigation. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has added new pages to their website providing information on their chemigation initiative. The new pages contain information about chemigation including:

- Chemigation regulation overview – an overview of what chemigation is, what the potential problems are, and regulations related to chemigation
- DPR chemigation publications – a collection of publications regarding regulations related to chemigation
- Educational materials – a grower training manual and several diagrams of different chemigation systems
- Required chemigation safety devices – a diagram and pictures showing specific devices required for chemigation systems
- Related links – links to other websites dealing with chemigation

## **CHEMIGATION INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE WEB CONTINUED**

- Ground Water Protection Program – DPR's overall ground water protection program

These new web pages can be found on DPR's website: [www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov) Click on "Programs & Services", then "Ground Water Protection Program", then "Chemigation Initiative".

If you are going to be applying pesticides through your irrigation system please give our office a call at 565-2371 so that we can assist you in making sure that you have all of the necessary devices in place.



## **PESTICIDE USE REPORTING (PUR) FORMS**

You can now fill out and print a copy of many pesticide use reporting (PUR) forms on the California Department of Pesticide Regulations (CDPR) website:  
<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pur/forms/purforms.htm>

This website link includes: Notice of Intent, Monthly Summary Pesticide Use Report, Pesticide Use Report (7-day), Production Agricultural Monthly Pesticide Use Report, and School Site Pesticide Reporting forms. All forms are in FML format or PDF form, so you can use the format or form that best suits your computer system.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact our office at (707) 565-2371 or for content questions contact David Reyna, CDPR, at (916) 445-3911.