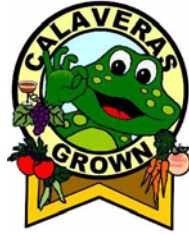


Calaveras Grown News



Website: calaverasgrown.org

P.O. Box 2101, San Andreas, CA 95249

June 2008

Phone: (209) 754-6477

Are California's Oak Trees Dying?

In spite of relatively abundant rainfall this past winter, the leaves of many oak trees in the Sierra Nevada and Coast Range are missing or turning brown. UC Berkeley Cooperative Extension natural resources specialist Douglas McCreary theorizes that early spring weather conditions are to blame and expects the trees to recover.



"Above all, landowners should not assume the trees are dead and cut them down just because they have lost their foliage," McCreary said. "Next year it will probably be very difficult to tell which trees lost their leaves early, and which remained foliated late into the season."

In recent weeks, people have reported that oak trees normally fully leafed-out at this time of year are almost completely bare or have just isolated tufts of new foliage. Others have observed oaks partially or completely covered with dead, brown foliage. In some cases, entire hillsides now have oak forests with few, if any, leaves.

McCreary confirmed that several native California oaks, including deciduous blue (*Quercus douglasii*) and valley oak (*Q. lobata*) have exhibited these symptoms, as well as interior live oak (*Q. wislizeni*), an evergreen species that normally has a full canopy of foliage throughout the year.

McCreary said the die-back is almost certainly not Sudden Oak Death because the symptoms are different, none of the affected oaks are SOD hosts, and the locations where this has been observed generally don't overlap with the SOD infestation zone.

He attributes the leaf death to this year's early spring weather conditions.

"In mid- to late-April, there were several nights with extremely cold temperatures for that time of year, falling below freezing in many foothill locations on April 20," McCreary said. "The problem for the oaks was that, at the time the freeze occurred, many trees were just starting to leaf out. The recently emerged leaves were very succulent and tender and, consequently, vulnerable to the low temperatures."

When the freeze occurred, relative humidity was also very low, further contributing to the damage. However, only oaks in certain locales were affected. At high elevations, most oaks had not yet started to leaf out, so there was no damage. At many low elevation sites, temperatures weren't cold enough to freeze the foliage.

"It appears that the greatest amount of damage occurred in the foothills at mid-elevations or in isolated frost pockets where temperatures were lower," McCreary said.

Although experience with this type of damage is sparse, based on other conditions that cause defoliation -- such as low-intensity fires or insect outbreaks -- McCreary said it is likely that the oaks will recover and produce a new crop of leaves this year.

"When there are ground fires in oak woodlands, the leaves on many trees become so hot that they are killed," McCreary said. "As long as the cambium (the area immediately beneath the bark) has not been lethally heated, the trees will usually recover and produce a new crop of leaves that same year. Similar recovery happens following spring defoliation by insects such as tent caterpillars."

The long-term consequences of the defoliation are harder to predict, McCreary said.

"During some years there can be unusually high levels of foliar diseases such as *Anthraco*, which can exacerbate freeze problems," he said. "Also during especially dry years, oaks tend to drop their foliage in late summer. This could also prevent trees from recovering fully."

In general, tree vigor at the time of defoliation influences the response. Trees with more energy reserves are better able to recover than weakened trees. Another likely consequence of the freeze will be a reduction in acorn production since many flowers -- which emerge at roughly the same time as the new foliage -- were also killed.

While the current situation may not lead to long-term damage or tree death, it is certainly not good for the trees, he said. Leaf loss resulting from freezing reduces a tree's ability to manufacture food through photosynthesis and, over time, repeated defoliations could weaken trees. But because these events are often widely spaced, long-term tree health is usually not seriously impacted.

For more information about oaks and oak management and the names of experts working with oaks by region, visit the home page of the Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program at <http://danr.ucop.edu/ihrmp/>. For information about sudden oak death, visit the Web site of the California Oak Mortality Task Force at <http://nature.berkeley.edu/comtf/>.

Regional events that may be of interest:

The 2008 Browsing Academy will be held September 5-7, 2008 at the Edwards Tree Farm in Colfax, CA. The purpose of the California Browsing Academy is to teach, demonstrate and provide practical experience in using goats to reduce fuel loads and control invasive plants. It is a three day course. After completion, participants will be able to identify target plants for grazing, assess carrying capacity of brush and forage and much more. The enrollment fee of \$175 includes lunch and all course materials. For more information please contact Roger Ingram at 530-889-7385, rsingram@ucdavis.edu or download the registration form at - http://ceplacer.ucdavis.edu/Livestock/2008_California_Browsing_Academy.htm



This year's **Foothill Grape Day** event will be held on June 5, 2008 from 7:30 am until 12:30 pm at the Sogno Winery in Shingle Springs. The \$30 registration fee includes lunch and a wine tasting following the meeting. For more information contact Robin Cleveland at 530-621-5528, rkcleland@ucdavis.edu or register online at http://ceeldorado.ucdavis.edu/Viticulture/Foothill_Grape_Day.htm

Pond Management Workshop

Thursday, June 19th, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Poverty Hill Schoolhouse

Stent Cutoff Road, Jamestown CA



Workshop Topics include:

- ◇ Pond Ecology
- ◇ Site Selection & Construction
- ◇ Pond Uses, Planning and Design
- ◇ Pond Management: Maintenance, Repairing & Renovating
- ◇ Stocking a Pond with Fish
- ◇ Fish Stocking Strategies, Species Selection
- ◇ Aquatic Weed Identification
- ◇ Aquatic Weed & Algae Control

Registration Form Pond Management Workshop

Registration fee of \$20 per person. Fee includes handouts and light refreshments.

Registration due by June 13th.

Registration also available online at <http://cetuumlumne.ucdavis.edu>

Name _____
E-mail _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Daytime Phone _____

Make checks payable to UC Regents & return to:

UCCE
Attention: Robin Blood
2 South Green St.
Sonora, CA 95370

Sponsored by:

UC Cooperative Extension—Tuolumne County;
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service,
Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District

Should you need assistance or require accommodations for any physical challenge, please let us know.

Range Management and Niche Meat Marketing Workshop

Monday, June 16, 9:00- 4:00
American Legion Hall, Martell

Workshop Agenda

Cost: 10\$ per person

Registration and Coffee 9:00-9:30 am

Range Management to Enhance Your Forage Value and Production 9:30-10:00
Bill Frost, UC Cooperative Extension

Controlling and Preventing the Spread of Invasive Weeds on Your Property 10:00-10:40
Wendy West, UC Cooperative Extension

Break 10:40-11:00

Fencing and Cost Share Options for Ranchers 11:00-12:00
Jason Linderman, USDA-NRCS

Lunch (participants have lunch on their own locally) 12:00-1:30

USDA Grass Fed Claim Standard, Selling Meat at Amador Farmers' Markets 1:30-2:00
Andrew Kramer, UC Cooperative Extension

Specific Costs and Procedures of a USDA Inspected Processing Facility 2:00-2:30
Lou Cruz, Cutting Edge Meats, Newman

USDA Processing Location Needs Assessment Survey* 2:30-4:00
Roger Ingram, UC Cooperative Extension

*The survey on processing location needs has been conducted in other Sierra Foothill Counties and is your opportunity to have a voice about the availability of USDA inspected processing locations. The survey is an optional portion of the workshop. If you would like to participate in this interactive survey, please mark the box on the registration stub below. Thank you.

Name _____

Ranch/Farm _____

Phone _____

Address _____

____ I plan to participate in the USDA processing location needs survey

Pre-registration is required. Please tear off and return registration stub and check made out to "UC Regents" by June 9th. Mail registration to:
UCCE Range Management Workshop
12200 B Airport Road
Jackson, CA 95642

Please note that our regular monthly meetings have been changed to the third Wednesday of the month at 8:30 AM in the Mark Twain St. Joseph's Hospital education wing.
Plan to attend on June 18th and July 16th !



Drover's Breakfast Mashed Potatoes



9 cups mashed potatoes, seasoned to taste
1 pound thick sliced bacon, fried crisp and crumbled
¼ pound butter
¼ cup vegetable oil

1 dozen large eggs
1 ½ cup grated cheddar cheese
¼ cup chopped Italian parsley

Mix the potatoes and bacon. Melt butter and oil in large cast iron skillet over medium heat. Shape potatoes into 12 cakes about 3 inches in diameter and place in skillet. Make a depression in each one with a large spoon. Break an egg into each cake. Sprinkle with cheese, cover, and cook for about 8 minutes or until eggs are set and potatoes crisp up on the bottom. Sprinkle with parsley and serve.

Calaveras Grown Fair Booth Wins Big!





A big thank you to Talibah Al-Rafiq, Billie Hammer, and Shawn Zmak!

Calaveras Grown Reusable Grocery Bags

Our very own beautiful grocery bags are available for \$1.25 wholesale to members or \$1.50 to the general public. Be sure to pick up your supply!

Calaveras Grown Wine Glasses

What could be more cool than a wine glass with a gold embossed Calaveras Grown logo? On sale now!

Retail: \$5 Wholesale to members: \$4

Stock up today!



Be Mindful of Heat Stress Dangers



A sudden rise in temperature can put outdoor workers at greater risk for heat related illnesses, according to Howard Rosenberg, the UC Berkeley Cooperative Extension agricultural personnel management specialist. "When a body is working hard in any weather, it generates and needs to dissipate a lot of internal heat," Rosenberg said

In addition, workers may not yet be "acclimatized" to hot weather, which takes a week or two. "The sudden change in weather this early in the year may catch many workers before they are ready to cope with the same level of heat that they would be able to later in the season," Rosenberg said.

Key to controlling heat stress at any stage of acclimatization is drinking enough water to replenish fluid the body loses as sweat in cooling itself. A state regulation adopted two years ago requires all employers to protect their outdoor workers from heat stress by providing a quart of water per hour, a shaded area and time to rest there when necessary, and training in heat illness prevention.

Rosenberg has worked extensively with growers to prevent heat-related discomfort, impaired performance, accidents, and heat illnesses that threaten workers' safety and even lives. In partnership with the California Farm Bureau Federation and with support from the USDA Western Center for Risk Management Education, he compiled key points on heat stress prevention concisely in Spanish and English on pocket-sized fold-out cards. They may be downloaded for free from the UC ANR Web site, <http://ucanr.org/heat>.

This article adapted from Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, USDA. Please contact the Farm Advisor's office at cdcalaveras@ucdavis.edu or 754-6477 with your agricultural questions. Talk to a certified Master Gardener every Wednesday, 10:00-12:00, 754-2880. To speak with a Master Gardener in Tuolumne County, please call 209 533-5696.

Deer Hunters Please Note



Two hunters were dragging their dead deer back to their car. Another hunter approached pulling his along too. "Hey, I don't want to tell you how to do something... but I can tell you that it's much easier if you drag the deer in the other direction. Then the antlers won't dig into the ground... After the third hunter left, the two decided to try it. A little while later one hunter said to the other, "You know, that guy was right. This is a lot easier!" "Yeah, but we're getting farther from the truck," the other added.

Buy the very best! Buy locally grown!



The Annual Meeting & Farm Conference was well attended with interesting speakers from Calaveras Grown and Marin Grown.

Calaverasgrown.org

Calaveras Grown is Your Organization How can you help out?

If everyone pitches in and helps out our organization can continue to grow and make a real impact for agriculture in Calaveras County. Please thoughtfully consider how you can help. It can be as simple as asking people and businesses to join Calaveras Grown, putting a decal in your car window, proudly displaying your gate sign, or attending monthly Board meetings and volunteering to take on projects. You really can make a difference!



Don't forget to encourage others to join Calaveras Grown!

What is Calaveras Grown?

Calaveras Grown is a county-wide marketing and education program to assist local agricultural producers and processors market their commodities. The goal is to bring communities together for the support and growth of agriculture, agriculture and nature tourism, and preservation of open space in Calaveras County. Calaveras Grown is your organization!