2023 THE ALMOND CONFERENCE Connecting the Dots

GROWERS // HANDLERS // CUSTOMERS // CONSUMERS

Developing a Disease Management Strategy When Prices Are Low

Moderator: Lauren Fann (ABC)

Speakers: Wes Asai (Pomology Consulting), Themis Michailides (UC ANR), Jim Adaskaveg (UC Riverside)

Managing Almond Diseases in a Challenging Economic Year



Pomology Consulting

Turlock, California













































Pinkbud

Full Bloom

Petalfall

























































Rhizopus

Monilinia

Aspergillus







Canker Diseases of Almond

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Definition

What is a canker?

- A continuous mass of killed tissues in trunks, scaffolds, branches, and shoots of plants.
- The canker pathogen colonizes the entire cankered tissues and beyond.
- A canker can result to the development of a blight, but a blight to occur does not need a canker.



ΟUTLINE

(Above Ground Canker Diseases)

1. Band Canker****

2. Neoscytalidium canker (and hull rot)***

3. Ceratocystis canker**

1. Band canker

English, H. Davis, J.R., and J.E. DeVay. 1975. Relationship of *Botryosphaeria dothidea* and *Hendersonula toruloidea* to a canker disease of almond. Phytopathology 65:114-122.

- Pathogens: Botryosphaeria dothidea and Hendersonula toruloidea associated with "band canker"
- Reported on walnut causing cankers ("melaxuma canker") in 1915
- And again on walnut, avocado, and citrus causing cankers in 1935



Reported on walnut causing Branch wilt 1965



English, H. Davis, J.R., and J.E. DeVay. 1975. Relationship of *Botryosphaeria* dothidea and Hendersonula toruloidea to a Canker Disease of Almond. Phytopathology 65:114-122.

Relationship of Botryosphaeria dothidea and Hendersonula toruloidea to a Canker Disease of Almond Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Davis 95616. Present address of second author: Branch Harley English, James R. Davis and J. E. DeVay Experiment Station, University of Idaho, Aberdeen 83210. there was no evidence of a synergistic relationship between Accepted for publication 5 August 1974. these two fungi in the formation of cankers. The mycelium of ABSTRACT both organisms was found principally in the lumen of cells in both xylem and phloem, and it passed from cell-to-cel mostly through pite Since the sexual stage of B. dothidea wa

dothidea was

An unusual canker disease of almond (Prunus amygdalus) caused by Botryosphaeria dothidea is described. Bandlike or irregular cankers are formed on the trunk or scaffold branches of vigorous young trees, occasionally causing death of the parts distal to the point of infection. A second fungus (Hendersonula toruloidea) was found in many of the cankers, but in nature it appears to be mainly, if not entirely, a secondary invader. Both fungi, however, were able to induce canker formation when mycelial inoculum was placed in cortical wounds on the cambium, or on xylem exposed by pruning. Natural infection by B. dothidea appeared to be tind growth cracks. The cankers induced by both

not found, the id A conclusion from 2004 & 2005 morphology, sero Nonpareil was me research:

Ultra or Mission protectant, was Band canker has potential of becoming a devastating disease in almond.

1. Band canker of almond



Causal agents

Neofusicoccum nonquaesitum Neof. parvum Neof. mediterraneum Botryosphaeria dothidea Diplodia seriata Dothiorella sarmentorum Macrophomina phaseolina Lasiodiplodia theobromae Neoscytalidium dimitiatum*****

Band canker on almond trunk



Tree death (note excess suckering)







Cankers from fruit infection (blight): very uncommon

Bot panicle and shoot blight of pistachio

Bot canker and blight of walnut



Band canker gradient with distance from the inoculum source (riparian trees along the water canal)



2nd - leaf orchard severely damaged by band canker (Butte County)

3rd-leaf almond orchard with gaps due to Band Canker (Stanislaus Co.)





Distribution of trees with various levels of cankers (4th –leaf almond orchard)

Cultivar	Replants/Row
Aldrich	1, 0, 0, 2
Nonpareil	9,8,6,10,19,14, 7,6,5,7,4,4
Butte	1, 0, 0, 0
Peerless	0, 3, 2



Hypotheses:

- 1. Perhaps these trees were infected uniformly as soon as they were planted.
- 2. Or, the trees were delivered to the orchard bearing latent infections (not showing any disease symptoms).



qPCR, a molecular technique to quantify the DNA of canker pathogens



Results

Incidence of latent infection of canker pathogens <u>in new</u> and <u>1-year-old shoots</u> from 3 almond orchards



Incidence of latent infection by 4 canker pathogen groups from shoots of different <u>almond</u> <u>varieties (nursery plants)</u>



We started to focus on nurseries to investigate possible infections on young trees

Effects of Topsin-M applied in March 2019 in a <u>2nd</u> - leaf orchard (before any symptoms of band canker were noticed)



Treatment: March 2019, Disease recording: Nov. 2019

(Each replication includes 50 trees)

The almond orchard treated in 2019 with fungicides in <u>4th - leaf now</u>



Fungicide treatment

Effect of Topsin M spray(s) in reducing the incidence of band canker in a 3rd-leaf almond orchard in Yuba Co. (after symptoms of band canker were noticed)



Topsin spray time

CONCLUSIONS:

PREVENTATIVE APPROACH (YOUNG ORCHARDS):

Obtain "clean" trees from nurseries.

Spray the trunks in 1st, 2nd, or 3rd leaf orchards with Topsin[®]-M at label rate.

Keep the trunk of trees dry.

Protect pruning wounds by spraying Topsin[®]-M at label rate.

WHEN BAND CANKER IS PRESENT (YOUNG ORCHARDS):

Keep the trunk of trees dry.

Spray trunk and scaffolds with Topsin[®]–M.

Protect pruning wounds by spraying Topsin[®]-M at label rate.

Remove killed trees <u>and</u> stumps (sanitation).

Keep wood piles (spore inoculum) away from the orchard.



Branch wilt of walnut







Hull rot

2



Aspergillus niger

Symptoms and signs of a <u>new hull rot</u>





Neoscytalidium canker



Canker from fruit infection

Neoscytalidium hull rot





Pruning wound protection trial (c/o Dr. Flo Troullias)

Products	Cytospora sp.	Eutypa lata	C. fimbriata	B. dothidea	N. parvum	N. mediterraneum	* * * Neosc. dimidiatum	Avg. recovery
Control	25	75	50	50	100	50	50	57.1
Luna Experience	75	25	25	25	0	25	25	28.6
Merivon	50	25	25	0	25	50	50	32.1
Topsin M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quash	25	50	0	0	25	50	50	28.6
Inspire Super	25	75	0	0	0	25	25	21.4
Quadris Top	100	0	0	0	0	0	100	28.6
Rally	50	25	0	0	25	0	50	21.4
thyme oil #1	100	100	0	75	50	75	50	64.2
thyme oil #2	75	25	0	50	100	75	100	60.7
neem oil	100	100	0	100	100	100	100	85.7
Avg. recovery	56.8	45.4	9.1	27.3	38.6	40.9	54.5	

Disease Management

- Avoid wounds on young trees (herbicide damage, sunburn, mechanical wounds) to reduce <u>Neoscytalidium canker</u>.
- Avoid practices in neighboring walnuts /figs /grapefruit to prevent inoculum load when almonds are at hull-split stage and thus reduce hull rot.
- Spray the fungicide Topsin M to prevent canker development.

3. Ceratocystis canker







Wounds caused by the tie rope





Tree tie flat rope



Ceratocystis canker

Caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis variospora* (Syn *Ceratocystis fimbriata*)

Infection courts:

- injuries from harvesters and other machinery
- Injuries from the tie rope

insect damage

(Bark injuries and pruning wounds are susceptible for 14 days)





Management of Ceratocystis canker:

Adjust shaker pads to avoid trunk injuries

Do not irrigate within 2-3 weeks prior to harvest date

Limit wounds on branches and scaffolds

Use a flat tie rope to avoid injuries of branches

Remove cankers by surgery in dry weather (in winter)

Perithecia are produced after infected wood chips enclosed in a plastic bag for **48** hours.



Follow right tree training & scaffold selection, also do minimal pruning, if possible.

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Developing a disease management strategies for almond when prices are low

Developing disease management strategies for almond when prices are low - Flower, foliar, and fruit diseases -

Dr. J.E. Adaskaveg Dept. of Microbiology and Plant Pathology University of California, Riverside Flower, foliar, fruit, and root/crown diseases of almond

> Bacterial, Fungal, Oomycota, etc....



Although the almond crop can be affected by numerous diseases caused by fungi, fungal-like organisms and bacteria, climatic conditions of California generally limit severe disease outbreaks.
Fungicide/bactericide applications have the potential to be minimized.
The foundation of Plant Pathology: *The Disease Triangle*





The impact of the components of the disease triangle can be modified:

- We can modify the orchard environment and host susceptibility to reduce disease pressure.
- We can monitor for the presence of the pathogen and look at disease history
- We can forecast **regional environments** and adjust management practices

Disease management

Orchard

Location:

- Low or high elevation
- Near riparian areas

Design:

- Number of trees per acre (density)
- Planting design (square, diamond)
- Irrigation system (drip, microsprinkler)
- Cultivar selection

Age:

• New vs. established plantings

Disease risk:

- Historical records of diseases (by year)
- Presence of fungicide resistance
- Monitor for disease
- Use of disease forecasts



Almond Board of California and Semios Precision Agriculture - Disease Forecasts in cooperation with the University of California -



Fresno Central



Fresno East



California almonds[•]

Why Almonds A

Almond Industry

Tools & Resources

Regionalized Disease Forecasts - A pilot program

Disease risk forecasts for 5 counties based on regional in-orchard/nearorchard weather data and disease modeling. Powered by Semios^(R) precision farming platform, the data is logged and then summarized by UC Riverside's Dr. Jim Adaskaveg.

See 7-day disease risk predictions for multiple diseases on the link below. Looking at the website allows growers to see up-to-date predicted disease risks. The combination of the disease prediction tool, along with the weekly interpretation by The University of California, will hopefully allow growers to make more nuanced disease management decisions. To view live conditions and modeling, visit the portal below and use **Almondboard2022** as the password.

Almond Board of California <industry@almondboard.com>

Semios Precision Agriculture https://semios.com/

Fungicide programs

Goals:

- Minimize number of applications
- Use the most effective and least costly treatment
 - Conventional treatments cost can be minimized by using generics
 - o Biological treatments cost generally more and are less persistent
- Use effective, broad-spectrum MOAs that target several diseases

• Timing:

- $\circ~$ Apply when infection risk is highest
- Apply when several diseases can be targeted at once.
- At bloom, a single application with a translaminar fungicide can replace two applications with a contact fungicide under moderately favorable conditions.

Orchard management is essential to disease management







Considerations for minimizing disease management input

Fungicide timing and	Apply when infection risk is highest Use the most effective and least costly treatment		Use FRAC Codes that are effective against several diseases – the best material with the broadest spectrum		
Choice of MOA	Apply when several diseases can be targeted at once	Consider presence of fungicide resistance	Use generics to cut cost		
Other strategies	Orchard design Tree density, irrigation, cultivar selection	Orchard history for disease, disease monitoring	Use of disease forecasting systems	Cultural practices (modified deficit) irrigation	



Springtime diseases of almond



- The occurrence of these diseases is highly dependent on environmental conditions – rainfall and temperature.
- Under less favorable conditions, chemical disease management can be minimized.

Bacterial blast

Late spring and summer diseases of almond



The occurrence of these diseases is highly dependent on microclimatic orchard conditions and cultural practices.



FUNGICIDES, BACTERICIDES, BIOCONTROLS, AND NATURAL PRODUCTS FOR DECIDUOUS TREE FRUIT AND NUT, CITRUS, STRAWBERRY, AND VINE CROPS IN CALIFORNIA 2022

2022





PLUM POMEGRANATE PRUNE (DRIED PLUM) STRAWBERRY WALNUT James E. Adaskaveg, Professor University of California, Riverside

Themis Michailides, Plant Pathologist

University of California, Davis/Kearney Agricultural Center

Akif Eskalen, Cooperative Extension Specialist University of California, Davis

Special thanks to Larry Bettiga, Farm Advisor, UCCE Monterey Co., for his review of grape fungicides and Gerald Holmes, Director of the Strawberry Center, CalPoly, for his review of strawberry fungicides

> UC Davis, Dept. of Plant Pathology www.plpnem.ucdavis.edu

UC Kearney Agricultural Center www.uckac.edu/plantpath

> Statewide IPM Program www.ipm.ucdavis.edu

Update planned in 2024

Timing of treatment applications for major fungal diseases





Critical timings where several diseases can be targeted with one application



Treatments for managing fungal diseases of almond Biological treatments

BM-01 – Natural products Regalia, Oso (organic), Ph-D (exempt status), ProBlad, EcoSwing, Dart, others

Actinovate, Botector, Serenade ASO, Serifel, CR-7

BM-02 – Biological controls

Numerous new ones under evaluation

			Bloom		Spring		Summer		
Disease	Dormant	Pink bud	Full bloom	Petal fall	2 weeks	5 weeks	Мау	June/July	
Anthracnose		3,3/7, 3/9, 3/11, 3/33, 7	3, 3/7, <mark>3/9,</mark> 3/11, 3/33, 7, 7/11, 11	3, 3/9, 3/7, 3/11, 3/33, 11, M3, M4, M5	3, 3/9, 3/11, 3/7, 3/33, 7, 7/11, 11, M3 M4, M5	3, 3/7, 3/9 3/11 3/33, 7, 7/11 11, M3, M4, M5	3, 3/7, 3/9, 3/11, 3/33, 7, 7/11, 11, M4	3, 3/7, 3/9, 3/11, 3/33, 7, 7/11, 11, M4	
Shot hole	M1	2, 3, 3/7, 3/9, 3/11, 7, 9, 11	2, 3, 3/7, 3/9, 3/11,7, 7/11, 9, 11, 19	2, 3, 3/7, 3/9, 3/11,7, 7/11, 9, 11, 19 <mark>, M</mark> 5	7, 7/11, 11, 19, M3, M4, M5	7 7/11, 11, 19, M3, M4, M5			
Brown rot		1 ² , 2 +oi, 3, 3/7, 3/9, 3/11, 3/33, 9	1 ² , 2 +oil, 3, 3/7, 3/9, 3/11, 3/33, 7, 7/11, 9, 11, 19	1 ² , 2 +oil, 3/11, 3/33, 7, 7/11, 9, 19					
Jacket rot, green fruit rot			1 ² , 2 +oil, 3/7, 3/9, 3/11, 7, 7/11, 9, 9	1 ² , 2 +oil, 3/7, 3/9, 3/11, 7, 7/11, 9, 19					
Scab	M1+oil, M2, M5+oil			1 ² , 3/7, 3/9, 3/11, 3/33, 7, 7/11, 11, M3, M4, M5	1 ² , 3/7, 3/9, 3/11, 3/33. 7, 7/11, 11, M3, M4, M5	3, 3/7, 3/9, 3/11, 3/33, 7, 7/11), 11, M2, M3, M4	M2 ³ , M4		
Alternaria						2	3, 3/7, 3/9, 3/11, 3/33, 7, 7/11, 11, 19	<mark>8</mark> , 3/7, 3/9, 3/11, 3/33, 7, 7/11, 11, 19	
Rust						3, 3/7 <mark>, 3</mark> /11, 3/33 ¹ , 7, 7/11, 11, 19, M3	3, 3/7, 3/11, 3/33, 7, 7/11, 11, 19	3, 3/7, 3/11, 3/33, 7, 7/11, 11, 19	
Hull rot						(3, 3/7. 3/9, 3/1107/11, 11, 19	3/7,)/9, 3/11, 7, 7/11, 11, 19	
Dis. manager	nent de	3	9	M5	M3	3+11 c	or 7+11	3+7	

Multiple FRAC Codes are available for each of the diseases

Identify FRAC Codes that are effective against multiple diseases at each timing

Code	FRAC
3	DMI
7	SDHI
9	AP
11	Qol
M3	EBDC
M5	IPN

Estimation of treatment costs using less costly conventional fungicides

Disease	Timing	Product	FRAC code	Rate/A	Approximate cost/A (+10%)	Low Disease	High Disease
BR	Pink bud	Tilt, Tebustar	3	8 oz	\$5		Х
BR	Full bloom	Vangard, Scala	9	5 oz	\$19	Х	Х
BR/GM/SH	Petal fall	Bravo, Equus	M5	4 pts	\$16		Х
GM/SH	2 wk after PF	Manzate	M3	5 lb	\$19	Х	
Scab/Rust	5 wk after PF	Tilt/Tebustar+ Abound/Acadia	3+11	8 oz + 12.5 fl oz	\$5 + \$11=\$16		Х
ALS	Spring (May)	Fontelis+ Abound/Acadia	7+11	8 oz + 12.5 fl oz	\$30 + \$11=\$41	Х	Х
ALS	Summer (June)	Tilt/Tebustar+ Fontelis/Sercadis	3+7	8 oz + 20 fl oz	\$35	(X)	
HR	Hull split	Cinetis/MarVerde	Fert.	16-32/32-64 fl oz	\$14	Х	Х
* Cost estimates for materials only					Total	\$93	\$130



Resistance management with rotations of FRAC Codes.

Multiple organic products are available for each of the diseases with various efficacy ratings

		Bloom			Spring		Summer	
Disease	Dormant	Pink bud	Full bloom	Petal fall	2 weeks	5 weeks	Мау	June/July
Anthracnose		BM 01, BM 02, P 05, oxidizer						
Shot hole	M1 + BM 01 (oil)	M1+BM01 (oil)	BM 01, BM 02, P 05, oxidizer					
Brown rot		BM 01, BM 02, P 05, oxidizer	BM 01, BM 02, P 05, oxidizer	BM 01, BM 02, P 05, oxidizer				
Jacket rot, green fruit rot			BM 01, BM 02, P 05, oxidizer	BM 01, BM 02, P 05, oxidizer				
Scab	M1 + BM 01 (oil), M2			BM 01, BM 02, P 05, NC				
Alternaria						BM 01, BM 02, oxidizer	BM 01, BM 02, oxidizer	BM 01, BM 02, oxidizer
Rust						BM 01, BM 02, P 05, M2	BM 01, BM 02, P 05, M2	BM 01, BM 02, P 05, M2
Hull rot								BM 01, BM 02

Disease M2 management by product/FRAC Code Botector/ Problad Oso

Botector/

Problad

U

Oso

M2

EcoSwing

Acadia

Estimation of treatment costs using OMRI-approved fungicides

Disease	Timing	Product	FRAC code	Rate/A	Approximate cost/A	Low Disease	High Disease
BR	Pink bud	Botector/Problad	BM-01, -02	20 oz to 40 fl oz	\$59-\$125		Х
BR	Full bloom	Oso	19	13 fl oz	\$38	Х	Х
BR/GM/SH	Petal fall	Serenade ASO	BM-02	96 fl oz	\$35		Х
GM/SH	2 wk after PF	Oso	19	13 fl oz	\$38	Х	
Scab/Rust	5 wk after PF	Sulfur	M2	8 oz + 12.5 fl oz	\$5		Х
ALS	Spring (May)	EcoSwing	BM-01	8 oz + 12.5 fl oz	\$41	Х	Х
ALS	Summer (June)	EcoSwing	BM-01	8 oz + 20 fl oz	\$41	(X)	
HR	Hull split	Acadian	BM-01	12.5 fl oz	\$20	Х	Х
					Total	\$135	\$198



Summary

- An increasing arsenal of fungicides is being introduced with different modes of action (FRAC codes), spectrum of activity, and efficacy. Best timings are based on monitoring and environmental conditions.
- Generic compounds can lower the cost with 4-6 timings for the season.
- Low-cost disease management using organic treatments is difficult.
- Selecting the best materials with the broadest spectrum and timing the application at a critical stage can lower costs.
 - Multiple diseases with one application
 - Timeline and cost based on disease pressure:
 - A) Conventional: ca. \$100-\$130/A for products
 - B) Organic: ca. \$135-\$198/A for products

	Pink bud- Full bloom	Petal fall (March)	5-wk after PF (April)	Spring (May)	Late spring (June-July)	Hull split
	BR, GM	BR, GM, SH, Scab, Anthracnose	Rust, Scab	Scab, Alternaria	Alternaria	Hull rot
A V	3, 9	M5	M3	3+11	7+11	Fert. (low N, high K+P)



Thank you

