



The Cotton Chronicle

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www.ccgga.org

April 2015

Volume 25 Issue 4

Industry Calendar

May 27-29
Ginners Annual
Meeting—
Monterey

May 29
Ginners Board
Meeting—
Monterey

(Visit web calendar
for details)

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Please Welcome our New Director of Regulatory Affairs!

The California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association (CCGGA) is pleased to announce **Jodi Raley** has joined the organization as our new Director of Regulatory Affairs. Ms. Raley will be graduating from **California State University – Fresno**, with



a degree in Ag Education – Communications this spring. Ms. Raley was born and raised in Tollhouse, California. Ms. Raley is a member of **Alpha Zeta**, and is the current Chancellor for the chapter at CSU Fresno. Ms. Raley has previously worked as an intern for the **California Fresh Fruit Association** and the **California Olive Oil Council**. Ms. Raley officially began her duties on March 31st on a part time basis and will begin full time following graduation. As the Director of Regulatory Affairs, she will be responsible for regulatory issues for our members with specific areas to include water supply, food safety, air quality, pesticides and environmental issues.

The Ginners Annual Meeting is Upcoming!

The California Cotton Ginners Association is proud to be having this year's annual meeting in beautiful downtown Monterey, California, from **May 27th—29th** at the Monterey Plaza Hotel on Cannery Row! **Please make your hotel reservations by May 6th** to ensure the Association's special room rate and space availability. Reservations can be made by calling

Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa. The group rates for rooms are: Inland rooms - **\$224**, Ocean View - **\$329**, Ocean View w/Balcony - **\$399** and are available through the weekend. In order to get the group rate, you must identify yourself with the group name, CA Cotton Ginners Association by the cut-off date. To learn more about the hotel and its accommodations, visit their website at <http://www.montereyplazahotel.com/>. The Industry Meeting, held on May 29th, will include an update on current issues facing the ginning industry. Don't miss out on this informative packed agenda!

Incentive Money for Tractors is Available

USDA NRCS is accepting applications for incentive funding under the EQIP National Air Quality Initiative for the 2015 fiscal year. The purpose of the plan is to replace and destroy off-road tier 0 farm equipment. The older equipment would be turned over and destroyed. Incentive funding would be provided, to applicants that qualify, to be used to replace the destroyed tractor with newer, cleaner technologies. Current model-year diesel engines are available with incentive funding. NRCS is opening the application period to multiple times throughout the year in order to encourage more applicants. Forms and applications should be submitted to said producer's respective county Service Center. Applicants should apply prior to:

- **April 17, 2015**
- **June 19, 2015**
- **July 17, 2015**

Applications will be processed quickly if all of the proper information is present. If you are interested in enrolling, please find the links below for the proper information.

- **Service Center Directory:** <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=CA>

- EQIP: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ca/programs/?cid=nrcs144p2_063939
- AQI: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ca/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=stelprdb1247003>

CCGGA in Action on Proposed Night Work Standard

The **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA)** attended the recent Cal/OSHA Advisory Committee on the proposed standard for “Agricultural Operations during Hours of Darkness (between Sunset and Sunrise)”. The proposed standard would require employees working around equipment at night to wear reflective vests and for employers to provide lighting at a level of 20 foot-candle power within 25 feet of any equipment. The standard was in response to a petition by California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA). CRLA is pushing for the standard because they accuse farmers of shifting work to nighttime hours to avoid the new heat



Light level in this picture is less than 10 foot-candles!

stress regulations. CRLA, along with United Farm Workers (UFW), made accusations that farmworkers are subject to sexual harassment due to working at night. CRLA further commented that, ‘Asian farmworkers (??) have very poor eyesight and it makes for unsafe work conditions.’ CCGGA and the **California Farm Bureau Federation** both made presentations on actual light measurements taken at night. CCGGA’s point were on the fact that 10 foot-candle light power cannot be met by any equipment manufacturer’s standard lighting at 25 feet. Furthermore, CCGGA pointed out that the only way to meet the proposed standard was to bring in additional portable lighting such as the diesel fired generator powered lighting that you see on the highway by Caltrans. Lastly, CCGGA showed pictures of an area lit to a level of only 6.8 foot-candles, where a worker could see fine without any issues, including reading documents if necessary. CCGGA also asked Cal/OSHA what accident data they had to support such changes, to which no response was received. This is no surprise, as Cal/OSHA recently adopted the most recent changes to the Heat Illness Standard without a shred of evidence, simply due to the threat of a lawsuit by the UFW. Based on some of the comments by CRLA and UFW, and the fact they were unwilling to negotiate on any of the proposed revisions, we can expect to see another lawsuit or to see Cal/OSHA simply adopt more regulations. Representing CCGGA at

the meeting were **President/CEO Roger Isom** and **WAPA Director of Environmental and Safety Services Elda Brueggemann**.

Forklift Training Nearing End

The Association once again led a coalition of agricultural groups to provide Forklift “Train-the-Trainer” sessions throughout the state. The **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations, the Western Agricultural Processors Association, California Citrus Mutual, California Fresh Fruit Association, Far West Equipment Dealers Association and AgSafe** have all partnered to bring this specialized training to agriculture at an incredibly affordable rate. This is partly due to the tremendous partners helping to actually conducting the training, including **The Zenith, Cal/OSHA Consultation, JM Equipment and CalCoast Machinery**. The Association was able to keep the cost down due to the use of all of our host sites, who we would like to thank and recognize here. These sites include **Saticoy Lemon, Peters Packing, Fresno County Farm Bureau, CalCot, Superior Almond Hulling, JM Equipment, Howard Dryer, and Exeter Specialties**. Over 250 participants attended this year’s training!

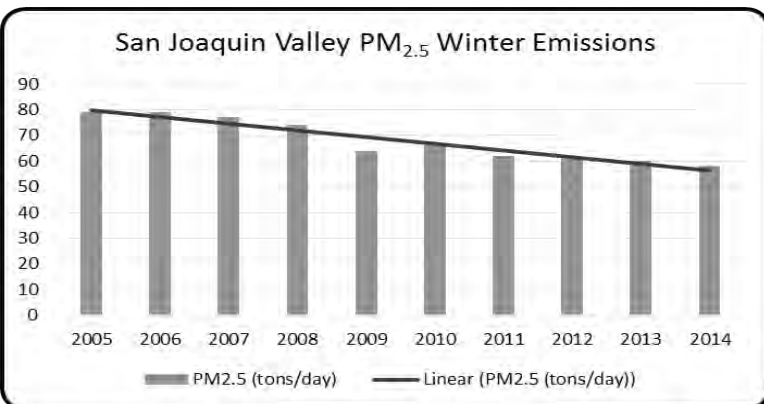
Fugitive Dust – Just when you think we’re done!

Recently, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) proposed an update to their PM_{2.5} State Implementation Plan (SIP). PM_{2.5} is defined as particulate matter with a size of 2.5 microns or less. PM_{2.5} can be dust, smoke, soot or other compounds such as ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulfate. Over the past two decades the District had made significant strides in reducing PM_{2.5} emissions from all sources throughout the valley, and was on track to attain the PM_{2.5} standard by 2014. Then, along came the drought. Drought conditions are often characterized by stagnant and stable meteorology with strong temperature inversions and low wind speeds. As a result, PM_{2.5} tends to build up in these conditions culminating in concentrations above the standard. In 2013 and 2014, these conditions led to exceedances that eliminated any chance of achieving attainment of the Federal PM_{2.5} standard by the required date. Consequently, the District was forced to revise their PM_{2.5} plan and request an extension of five additional years to achieve attainment. In doing so, the District must come up with a plan for additional PM_{2.5} emission reductions. Despite the drought, emissions of PM_{2.5} have actually dropped dramatically, especially during the critical wintertime months. PM_{2.5} emissions have dropped from 79 tons per day in 2005 to 58 tons per day in

2014, which equates to a 27% drop in only 9 years! While it is clear that these reductions are significant, Federal EPA remains unconvinced and has encouraged the District to go after further reductions of PM_{2.5} from sources of fugitive dust, including agriculture. Consequently, the District proposed significant control measures in their initial draft of the revised plan including the following:

- Evaluate and consider windblown dust from agricultural sources including additional Conservation Management Practices (CMPs)
- Identify new technologies that reduce PM_{2.5} emissions from “on-field ag” sources
- Encourage widespread adoption of conservation tillage

A recent study indicates that overall PM_{2.5} emissions are only 2.4% of total suspended particulate (TSP) emissions from a cotton gin. Based on this, PM_{2.5} emissions from a cotton gin would be insignificant. Furthermore, there has been substantial work on almond harvesting operations which report PM_{2.5} emissions to be in a range of 1.1% to 1.6% of total suspended particulate (TSP) emissions. Consequently, almond harvesting operations would be insignificant in terms of PM_{2.5} emissions. The agricultural industry took further exception to the proposed revisions of the PM_{2.5} plan by taking a close look at actual data from studies conducted in the San Joaquin Valley during the California Regional Particulate Matter Air Quality Study (CRPMAQS). It was determined by the California Air Resources Board during the 1995 Integrated Monitoring Study that “geological material” made up less than 1% of the total source contributions. This was further verified during the analysis of air quality episodes in 1999, 2000, and 2001 where PM_{2.5} concentrations were dominated by ammonium nitrates and carbonaceous aerosols, while geologic ma-



terials accounted for less than 1% of the measured concentrations. The agricultural industry took further exception to the inclusion of “windblown dust”. This issue has been brought up many times over the years, only to be refuted time and time again. Windblown dust is not an issue for the San Joaquin Valley, especially for PM_{2.5}. According to

USDA, wind erosion occurs when wind speeds reach 13 miles per hour. Wind speeds rarely reach 13 miles per hour in the San Joaquin Valley, especially in “stagnant conditions”, and when they do, exceedances of the federal standard do not occur. These comments and concerns were expressed in a coalition letter written by the **California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations (CCGGA)** and submitted to the District in March. Since that time, the District has rewritten the plan to address the industry’s concerns. This is good news, but only highlights the fact that we must remain vigilant in our efforts to protect the agricultural industry.

Tighter restrictions following VOC Emissions Report

Following the completion of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation’s annual volatile organic compound emissions inventory report, the San Joaquin Valley will be subject to additional restrictions and regulations for the upcoming year in an effort to bring levels down to stay within state implementation goals. The report was based on the pesticide use from 1990-2013, comparing the pesticide VOC emissions with the state implementation goals over five ozone nonattainment areas (NAAs). Four of the five NAAs were in compliance with the state implementation goals. Additionally, those four NAAs were in alignment with VOC regulation benchmarks with a reduction of 11-88 percent of emissions from the initial 1990 starting year. However, the San Joaquin Valley NAA exceeded its state implementation goal and trigger level with levels rising from 26 tons/day (tpd) in 2012 to 18.28 tpd in 2013, surpassing the state implementation goal of 18.1 tpd. Regulations for select nonfumigant pesticide products will be prohibited for certain uses in the San Joaquin Valley NAA for the upcoming year in response to the Department of Pesticide Regulations VOC emission inventory report. Pesticide advisers cannot recommend and growers cannot use high-VOC products containing abamectin, chlorpyrifos, gibberlins or oxyflourfen to be applied in the San Joaquin Valley NAA between May 1 and October 31, 2015 and May 1- October 31, 2016 for alfalfa, almond, citrus, cotton, grape, pistachio or walnut crops. The regulations allow for some specific and limited exceptions. All exceptions are required to retrieve a recommendation from a pest control adviser. Among the current exception includes the use of Chlorpyrifos to control late season aphids on cotton crops. Products unaffected by these regulations include low-VOC products containing some of these active ingredients. Registered low-VOC products do not have any requirements for sale or use.

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations
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Another Successful Ginners School & Managerial Seminar

The California Cotton Ginners Association held their annual Gin School & Managerial Summit April 1st. Managerial Seminar classes included Hot Topics in Labor Law presented by **Mike Saqui** of the Saqui Law Group, Sexual Harassment Training provided by **Isabel Bravo** of AgSafe; Drug and Alcohol Program Overview provided by **Ruben Acedo** of Kern Insurance Associates; as well as Proper Enforcement of Safety Programs by **Sylvia Ramos** of Zenith Insurance Company. Gin School featured training seminars on Effective Safety Training Programs presented by **Jose Cantu** of J.G. Boswell Company, Gin Preventative Maintenance from **Caleb Truex** with Lummus Corporation, Sexual Harassment Overview conducted by **Rigoberto Ceja** and **Isabel Bravo** of AgSafe, and a session dedicated to the recently adopted Heat Illness Prevention standards by **Elda Brueggemann** of the Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA). **Irma Ramirez**

of WAPA wrote and conducted the famous safety contest, where **Daniel Moore of Dos Palos Coop won 1st prize**. As part of the training seminars, time was taken during the lunch period to recognize the gins for no lost time accidents. **Silver Creek Gin** and **Mid Valley Cotton Growers** received awards for 10 years of No Lost Time incidents.

2015 Top 10 Safety Contest Winners



(Back Row, Left to Right) Daniel Moore, Leonel Deleon, Rick Lemaster, David Correa, Jose Gonzalez. (Front Row, Left to Right) Manuel Alcaarez, Antonio Perez, Hector Orozco, Vidal Ambriz, Antonio Arreguin.

Five year No Lost Time awards were given to **County Line Gin, Dos Palos Coop -Red Top, and J.G. Boswell Gin #10**. Most of the gins received certificates for No Lost Time incidents 2014 season. This year's training was a huge success with over 100 ginners and gin staff in attendance. Sponsors for this year's event included **R & C Supply, Lummus Corporation, Ranchers Cotton Oil, Karl M. Smith, Robinson's Sheet Metal,**

Calcot Ltd., Langston Companies, as well as Stover Equipment Co., Inc.. Sponsored prizes by **Langston Companies, Samuel Strapping Systems, L.P. Brown., Jorgensen Company, Karl M. Smith, and Robinson Sheet Metal.**

Radiant®

SC

INSECTICIDE

THRIPS CONTROL IN COTTON, TOMATOES

THRIPS IN TOMATOES

In tomatoes, thrips by themselves generally do not cause economic issues. The damage comes from thrips' ability to vector tomato spotted wilt disease.

University studies continue to try to pinpoint the sources for tomato spot wilt virus, which has been found throughout tomato-growing counties. The main culprit is likely Western flower thrips, which picks up the virus in its larval stage, then can transmit it to tomatoes throughout its short life.

Thrips development and reproduction increase as temperatures increase. All stages of the pest will likely be found in tomatoes (and other host crops like cotton) at the same time.

Radiant® insecticide is effective on larval and adult stages of thrips. Radiant has no direct effect on the virus.



Western flower thrips in flower

THRIPS IN COTTON

The combination of higher-than-normal thrips populations and cooler-than-normal early-season temperatures can lead to thrips damage in cotton fields. Thrips will cause noticeable damage between cotton emergence and seedling stages.

Thrips rasp leaves and terminal buds causing leaves to become distorted/crinkled. Leaves may turn brown on the edges. This type of injury slows crop growth and may delay crop maturity as plants cannot "catch-up" during the season and cannot outgrow thrips populations.

According to UC Extension, early damage to plant terminals creates an atypical growth response, where the apical dominance is transferred to multiple growing tips.

Thrips damage is most prevalent in cool conditions where plant growth is slowed. But even in hot, dry conditions, thrips will migrate from host plants – like weeds and grasses – to succulent, irrigated crops like cotton.



Leaf damage by thrips

RADIANT® INSECTICIDE

Radiant continues to be the standard for thrips in many crops, including cotton, tomatoes, onions and leafy vegetables. Radiant provides excellent control of thrips – adults and nymphs – as well as beet armyworm and loopers. Pests are controlled through contact and ingestion activity. Radiant also has translaminar movement (into the leaf) which helps to reach pests out of the direct line of spray.

APPLICATION INFO

REI:	4 hours
PHI:	1 day (tomatoes), 28 days (cotton)
Adjuvant:	A penetrating surfactant may help for thrips
Resistance Management:	Maximum two consecutive applications of an IRAC Group 5 insecticide before rotating to another effective class of chemistry.

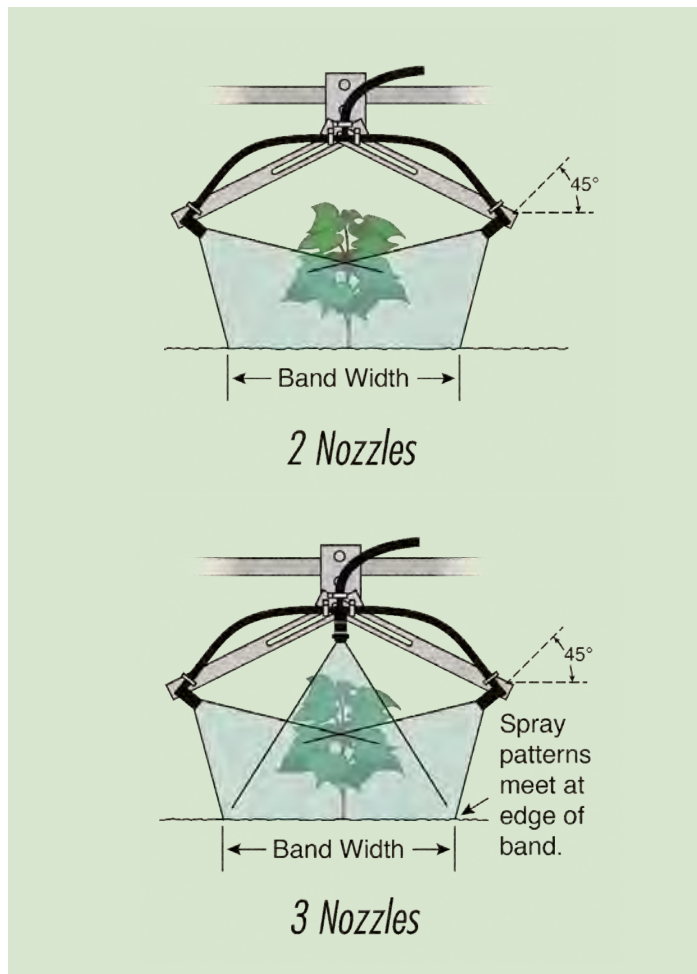
RADIANT® INSECTICIDE

BANDED APPLICATIONS

When cotton or tomato plants are small, banded applications can be very economical. Nozzles can be set up two per seedline or three per seedline. By treating anywhere from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the area, rates can be dropped to as low as 2 ounces per acre.

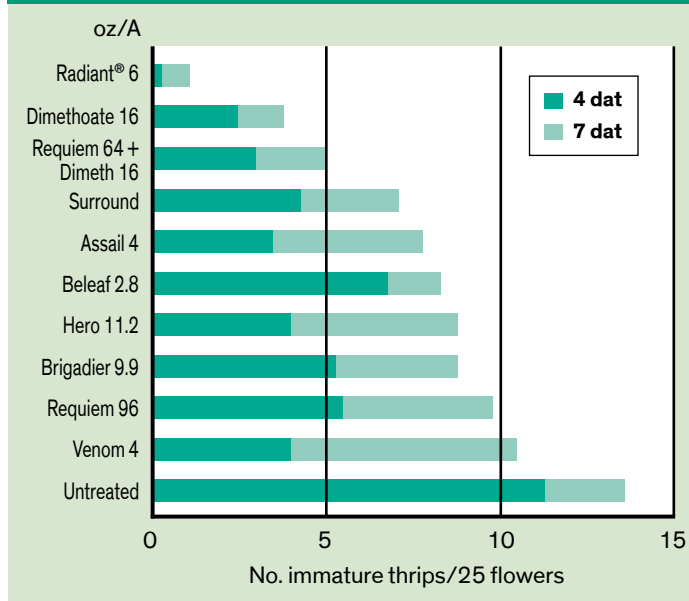
Rates

Standard broadcast rate for worms	4.5-6 oz/A
Thrips rate	6 oz/A
Banded ($\frac{1}{2}$ area) with reduced spray volume	3-4 oz/A
Banded ($\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{3}$ area) with reduced spray volume	2 oz/A



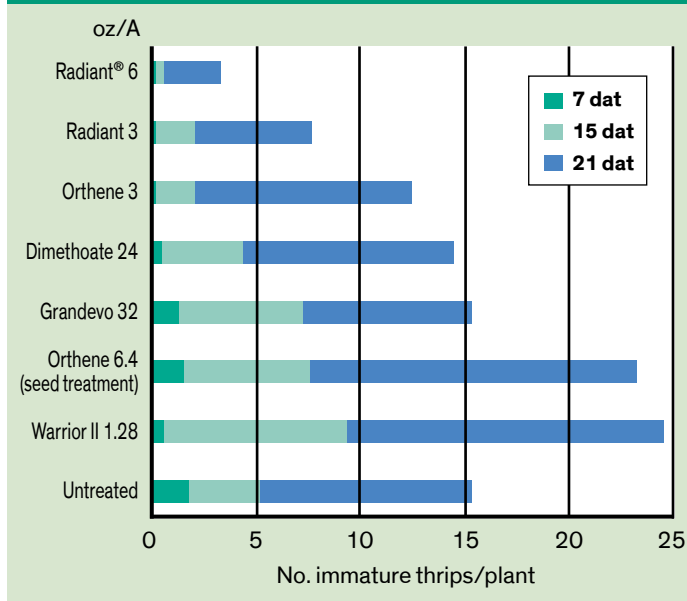
Western Flower Thrips Efficacy Trial – Tomatoes

T. Turini, UCCE-Fresno County, Five Points, 2010



Western Flower Thrips Efficacy Trial – Cotton

L. Godfrey, Shafter, CA, 2013



Complete trial details at <http://cefresno.ucdavis.edu>