

Feature Story



Integrated Pest Management Resources for Almond Growers

In the heart of the growing season, an almond grower's most trusted counsel is their Pest Control Advisor (PCA). PCAs help growers troubleshoot any problems or pests that might arise while almonds are developing. With harvest almost underway, growers have a few months of downtime ahead of them, which is the perfect opportunity to brush up on new Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. Three of the top resources available to growers are the University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program, Almond Board of California and their local crop protection retailer.

University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program (UC IPM) uses university scientists and researchers to help growers prevent and solve pest problems with the fewest unintended impacts on people and their surroundings. The program develops information on how to best manage a variety of pests in effective and ecologically conscious ways. It disseminates this information through cooperative extension offices in each county of California.

The UC IPM website is a treasure trove of pest management information. Growers can search by pest, such as three-spotted spider mite, for control recommendations or they can search by crop, including almonds, to get season-long recommendations for control of any pest that might threaten yield potential. The site also has weather models that can help predict disease pressure, weed galleries to help growers identify weed pressures and information about naturally occurring controls such as sulfur and beneficial insects.

Almond Board of California (ABC) is another excellent resource for brushing up on the latest and greatest in IPM. Many almond growers might see ABC as the organization that helps market their products to the world, but ABC offers many resources that can help growers be good neighbors and increase their bottom lines through IPM and other orchard practices.

ABC provides a wide variety of best management practices for almond growers that stretch beyond IPM. Its complete approach to orchard management includes researched-based guidelines for pest management, honey bee health, irrigation and harvest management. ABC also offers an online sustainability program to help growers continue to be great stewards of their land. The Almond Conference is another opportunity to learn about the latest and greatest in almond production and connect with fellow growers in the industry. This year, the conference will be held in Sacramento on December 5-7.

The last, but certainly not least, resource for new IPM information is local crop protection representation and retailers. BASF reps are among the most knowledgeable field reps due to their extensive training and experience in the industry. The winter months are a great time to meet one-on-one with a BASF rep, since there is time to dig into the best approach for each acre of an orchard. They can help growers create an IPM plan for the following year, including rotation partners for BASF products and spray schedules accounting for weather events.

To learn more, visit www.GrowSmartAlmonds.com or contact your local BASF representative.

For more information contact:

Barbara Aguiar
BASF Corporation
Tel: (919) 547-2305
E-mail: barbara.aguiar@basf.com

BASF Corporation
26 Davis Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
<http://agproducts.basf.com>