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# Weed Management

2020 Pistachio Production Short Course  
Virtually!  
12-17-20

University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
**UC DAVIS**  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANT SCIENCE  
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

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## Why control weeds?

- Compete for water, nutrients, and light with trees
- Interference is especially problematic during establishment years
- Can affect crop management, irrigation, and harvest operations
- Impacts on other pest problems
- Crop quality concerns?


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## Complex populations

- Rarely just one weed species present
  - Annual vs perennial vs biennial
  - Grass vs sedges vs broadleaf
- Time of emergence
  - Fall vs spring emergence vs year-round
- Reproductive strategy
  - Seed vs vegetative




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## Factors affecting orchard weeds

- Orchard age and arrangement
  - Shading and space capture
- Irrigation type, timing, and amount
  - Furrow, sprinklers, micros, drip
- Tillage practices
  - Berms, cross-disking, etc.
- Herbicide options
- Orchard access



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## Integrated weed management

- Using all available strategies to manage weed populations in a manner that is economically and environmentally sound.
  - cultural
  - mechanical
  - chemical



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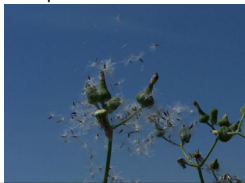
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## Goals of IWM

- Both short- and long-term goals
  - Prevent or reduce weed spread
  - Delay and/or suppress weed growth
  - Prevent or suppress weed seed production
  - Reduction of weed seed bank in soil



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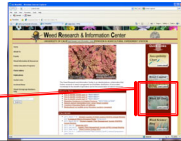
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## Weed identification

- Unknown weeds cannot be properly managed
  - No technique controls all weed species
  - Not all weeds cause equal damage (thresholds)
  - Species respond differently to control strategies
    - Even variants within a species (i.e. herbicide resistant biotypes)

Weed Research and Info Center  
<http://wric.ucdavis.edu>

Online weed ID tool



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## Weed ID books and pamphlets

A number of weed books are available



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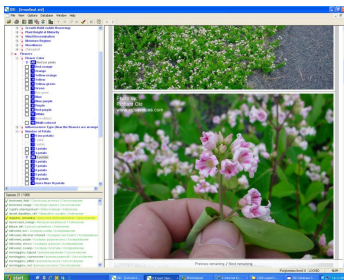
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## Weed ID - software

Several available.

- I use a set by XID Services
- UC Davis
  - WSSA
  - WSWS
  - others



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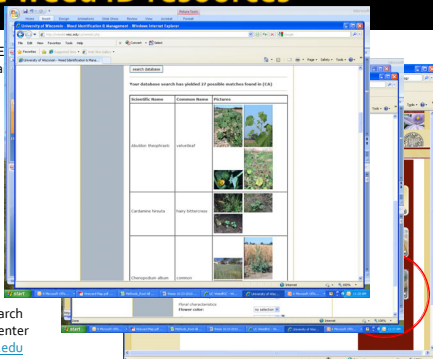
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## Online weed ID resources

A few online (FREE) resources are available



UC Davis Weed Research and Information Center  
[www.wric.ucdavis.edu](http://www.wric.ucdavis.edu)

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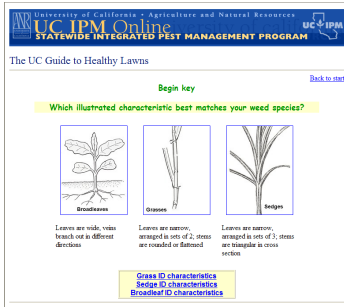
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## Online weed ID resources

UC Integrated Pest Management Program  
<http://ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/menu.weeds.html>



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## Weed management

- Orchard and vineyard floors divided into two management zones: middles and crop row
  - Zones may have very different strategies
  - Also may differ during the life of the orchard



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## How do we manage weeds?

- A few broad categories
  - Exclusion/sanitation
  - Cultural
  - Mechanical
  - Biological
  - Chemical



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## Sanitation

- Weed management should be an ongoing concern
  - Scout and manage in the orchard
  - Manage weeds on field margins and access roads
  - Clean equipment between sites
  - Scout and prevent seed set of "new" problems



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## Cultural practices

- Irrigation and fertilizer management
- Canopy management
- Cover crops
- Mulches
- Flaming
- Animals

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## Cover crops



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## Cover crop issues



### ADVANTAGES

- Winter orchard access
- Reduced soil erosion
  - And pesticide and fertilizer runoff
- Addition of OM
- Soil structure and water/root penetration
- Competes with weeds

### DISADVANTAGES

- Need to manage 2<sup>nd</sup> crop
  - More equipment
- Competes for water and nutrients
- Frost concerns
- Vertebrate and insect pests
- Addition of nutrients (N) may be unwanted (vineyard)



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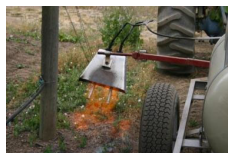
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## Flaming / heating

- Non-chemical
- High fuel cost
- Just need to "heat" not "burn" weeds
- Best on young broadleaf
- No residual control
- Danger of damage to young trees or vines and irrigation systems



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## Animals



- Animals can be used to manage vegetation in some cases
  - Can work very well ... or very poorly
    - Expensive (own or rent?)
    - Management effort
    - Animal health and welfare limits weed control
    - Can damage trees or vines (buds) if left too long
    - Food safety concerns

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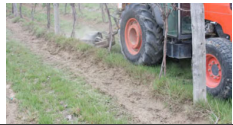
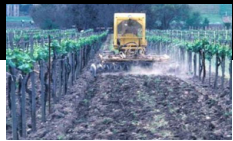
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## Mechanical control



- Tillage / cultivation
- Mowing
- Hand labor
  
- T&V rows vs middles
  - equipment options and costs

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## Cultivation

### ADVANTAGES

- Non-chemical tactic
- Organic matter additions and nitrogen release
- Reduces competition for water
- Reduces frost potential
- Easy control in middles
- No "resistance"

### DISADVANTAGES

- Fuel and time costs
- Trunk and root injury
- Dust
- Erosion
- Compaction
- Can spread seed and fragments
- Weeds near tree difficult
- Effects on tree vigor?

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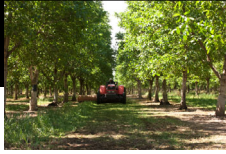
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## Mowing



### Advantages.

- Suppresses weeds, reduces seed set
- Orchard access and erosion benefits

### Disadvantages.

- Frost potential
- Weeds still use water and nutrients
- Favors low growing and perennial weeds
- Favors grasses (*advantages or disadvantages?*)
- Cost of repeat operations (slow and frequent)

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## Chemical control



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## Herbicides

- CA orchards and vineyard herbicides usually applied to "strips" under the tree/vine row
  - 2-20 ft strip, may treat 20-50% of the floor
  - Middles managed with mowing, tillage, or less intensive herbicide program
  - Often with a "preharvest" broadcast application



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## Types of herbicides



- Preemergence (PRE)
  - Applied to bare soil and affect germinating seeds and seedlings
  - Provide residual effects (weeks or months)
- Postemergence (POST)
  - "Burn down" treatments applied to the foliage of emerged weeds
  - Can be "contact" or "translocated" materials
  - Some products have residual control, some do not

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## Factors affecting herbicide choice

- Availability in the crop (registration)
- Weeds to be controlled (weed ID)
- Toxicity and safety (to crop and non-target)
- Soil type and texture
- Cost




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## Herbicides registered in pistachio

Preemergence (PRE)		Postemergence (POST)	
Mission	Surflan	Shark	Rely 280
Chateau	Goal	SelectMax	Sandea
Alion	Prowl H2O	2,4-D	Gramoxone
Trellis	Pindar GT	Diquat**	Pelargonic acid
Broadworks	Matrix	Fusilade**	Venue
	Zeus	Glyphosate	Treevix
			Poast
			+organic contact products

\*Trade names for example only  
 \*\* Registered in NB pistachio only

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## Weed challenges in orchards

- Old favorites:
  - Normal mix of annual grasses and broadleaves
  - Challenge with perennial weeds, especially in new orchards or crops with fewer herbicide options
- New weed problems
  - Most of the "new" issues seem to be related to glyphosate resistance and/or shifting populations to tolerant species
- Changing control options
  - Less tillage, some new herbicides, water issues

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## Extra challenges in young orchards

- Crop less competitive with weeds
- Greater sensitivity to weed competition
- Greater sensitivity to injury from weed control tactics
- Fewer herbicides registered on new plantings



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## Orchard weed management

- Weed ID
  - Understand the problem and biology
- Use integrated management tactics
  - Cultural and mechanical approaches
  - Chemical tactics
    - Right herbicide, right target, right time
    - Resistance management considerations
    - Environmental impacts
      - VOC, surface water, ground water

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