



University of California Cooperative Extension
NEWS RELEASE



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Training Materials

Three educational products are available from the University of California Cooperative Extension office in Kern County. For the homeowner, “how to” videos on citrus tree and rose bush pruning are offered. Craig Kallsen, Kern County Cooperative Extension Citrus Advisor, shows the proper method of pruning a typical backyard citrus tree. His presentation discusses the proper tools and techniques for maintaining an appropriate sized tree, optimal fruit production and reducing pest problems. “The key to proper pruning is to understand how a citrus tree grows and produces fruit,” said Kallsen. The video takes you inside the tree canopy to see “downward cuts” that shape the tree and optimize productive foliage.

“Proper pruning enhances the presentation of rose bushes and their productivity” says John Karlik, Kern County Cooperative Extension Horticulture Advisor. The rose pruning video demonstrates pruning and shaping techniques for Grandiflora and Hybrid Tea roses and discusses size and shape for various landscapes. The videos are available in VHS or DVD format from the Kern County Extension Office.

An effective management tool for cotton production is the plant mapping information developed by the University of California more than a dozen years ago. The paper and pencil recording method was exchanged for software that utilized Lotus 123 spreadsheet on a HP Palmtop PC. The software has now been updated to run on Microsoft Excel. The program uses a similar input screen to the old program but has an improved output and interpretation format. The output includes a graphical representation of the height-to-node ratio, growth rate and nodes above white flower. These data points are plotted in comparison to standard curves developed from many high yielding cotton fields. “Growth will vary from the standard curve on a field to field basis, with different varieties, pest pressures or other growing conditions,” said Bob Hutmacher, Extension Cotton Specialist. “That is why it is important to use the data from several sampling dates throughout the season and follow the trend compared to the standard curve.” The most important improvement in this version is the programming to display multiple dates in a graphic format. This helps improve interpretation of the data.

These crop production tools are available at the Kern County Cooperative Extension Office or by calling 661-868-6200. ■