

October – December 2020

New Panelists

In the last quarter of 2020, DATOC added two new panelists to the team: Dr. Jonathan Kaplan and Dr. Robin Choudhury. Dr. Kaplan is a Professor of Economics at Sacramento State University. He is currently heading an economic analysis of huanglongbing control and management. Dr. Choudhury is an assistant professor at the University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley. His research focuses on the epidemiology and biology of plant pathogens, and how management strategies will impact future pathogen dispersal and colonization.



Figure 1. Dr. Jonathan Kaplan (left) and Dr. Robin Choudhury (right), the newest additions to the DATOC expert panel.

Changes to residential buffer zones

In October, DATOC was asked to explore changing how insecticides are applied in residential areas surrounding commercial groves that participate in area-wide ACP control programs (“buffer zones”). We were asked how many homes would be included in buffer zones of various sizes, and what size zone is needed to protect groves from residential ACP incursion. In November, DATOC presented answers and recommendations in response to these questions, including examples of varying buffer zone sizes in different areas which currently receive treatments. We recommended that if the buffer zones needed to be reduced to optimize

application timing and reduce spending, the zone be reduced to 250 m from 400 m; the first 100 m from a grove should be treated first, followed by the remaining 100 – 250 m. This recommendation was approved by the full CPDPD Committee.

ACP in the San Joaquin Valley

DATOC was also asked to weigh in on the service interval for ACP traps in the San Joaquin Valley. We were asked to review ACP trapping history and climatic suitability. Based on the reviewed data, we recommended that traps continue to be serviced twice per month. This recommendation was also approved by the full Committee.

As part of this work, we were also asked to examine climate data in the citrus-growing regions of Texas. Generally, we found that Texas had more days per year suitable for optimal ACP development than any California region examined, and far fewer days per year with temperatures hot enough to induce mortality, compared with Southern California desert regions.

Insecticide treatments in Santa Clara

The CPDPC voted to cease eradicated ACP treatments in the Santa Clara area where certain stipulations had been met (area infested, cost considerations, etc.). However, the vote was split 8 to 6, and the panel convened to discuss the question and provide an informative briefing to CDFA for context. This was completed in November.

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