

Court reverses expanded insecticide label in California

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

The expanded use of a controversial pesticide in California has been reversed by a state appeals court due to insufficient review by state regulators.

A three-judge panel of the California Court of Appeal has agreed with an environmental group that the California Department of Pesticide Regulation didn't adequately scrutinize the effects of dinotefuran before approving increased usage in 2014.

Dinotefuran is a type of neonicotinoid, a class of pesticides that are considered less harmful to humans, mammals and birds than traditional organophosphate insect killers.

In recent years, though, neonicotinoids have been blamed for the health problems of honeybees and other pollinators.

Two types of dinotefuran — Venom Insecticide and Dinotefuran 20SG — were approved by the agency in 2014 to be applied in larger quantities and on additional types of crops.

The Pesticide Action Network North America, or PANNA, sought an injunction against the decision but a state judge denied the environmental group's motion.

The Court of Appeal has now reversed that ruling, ordering the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to rescind the pesticide label amendments permitting expanded use of dinotefuran.

The agency didn't live up to the review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act because it didn't explore alternatives to expanding the use of dinotefuran, the ruling said.

The agency argued that such an alternatives analysis wasn't necessary because the approval didn't have significant environmental effects. However, the court said it was "perplexed" as to how the department could reach such a conclusion, since neonicotinoids in general are being re-evaluated by the agency in response to data showing the chemicals can build up to toxic levels in bees.

The department also neglected to study the cumulative effects of the expanded usage and did not establish a "baseline" of ongoing neonicotinoid use in California, which is necessary to measure the environmental impacts, the ruling said.

Growers get latest Cosmic Crisp horticultural tips

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

ROCK ISLAND, Wash. — Mechanical pruning works well on Cosmic Crisp apple trees by the fourth year and cutting the tips of one-year-old limbs controls growth better than limb bending.

Those were main points growers learned at a Washington State University field day at Sunrise Research Orchard south of Rock Island, Sept. 27.

Cosmic Crisp is the new WSU-bred apple tree the industry is starting to plant in a big way with plans for the first apples to hit grocery stores in the fall of 2019 and quickly ramp up thereafter.

Promoters say Cosmic Crisp is a great eating apple with great flavor and good crispness and firmness that consumers will love more than Honeycrisp, one of its parents. It stores well without storage disorders such as water core, internal browning and superficial scald that hampers other varieties.

Perhaps its only negative is vigorous growth causing too much spacing between fruit, called blind wood, resulting in fruit on the outer edges rather than closer to tree trunks where desired.

Stefano Musacchi, WSU tree fruit physiologist, "now believes that's better controlled by cutting the tips of one-year-old limbs and cutting tips in subsequent years rather than by bending limbs down," said Karen Lewis, WSU Extension tree fruit specialist. Musacchi calls it click pruning.



Dan Wheat/Capital Press

Stefano Mussachi, WSU tree fruit physiologist, shows growers a Cosmic Crisp apple tree in spindle tree style at the WSU Sunrise Research Orchard near Rock Island, Wash., in spring of 2016. Growers are keen on learning horticultural aspects of what the industry hopes will be a great new variety.

Bending limbs down actually creates more blind wood, according to a tip sheet the scientists wrote for growers.

Apple trees produce the plant growth regulator auxin in their stems and shoot tips, inhibiting bud formation. Cutting limb tips or girdling or notching every foot of a trunk on two-year-old trees interrupts auxin flow allowing more buds to form where desired.

The tip sheet gave equal credence to spindle and biaxial (two trunks off one) tree structure for good fruit coloring and automation and mecha-

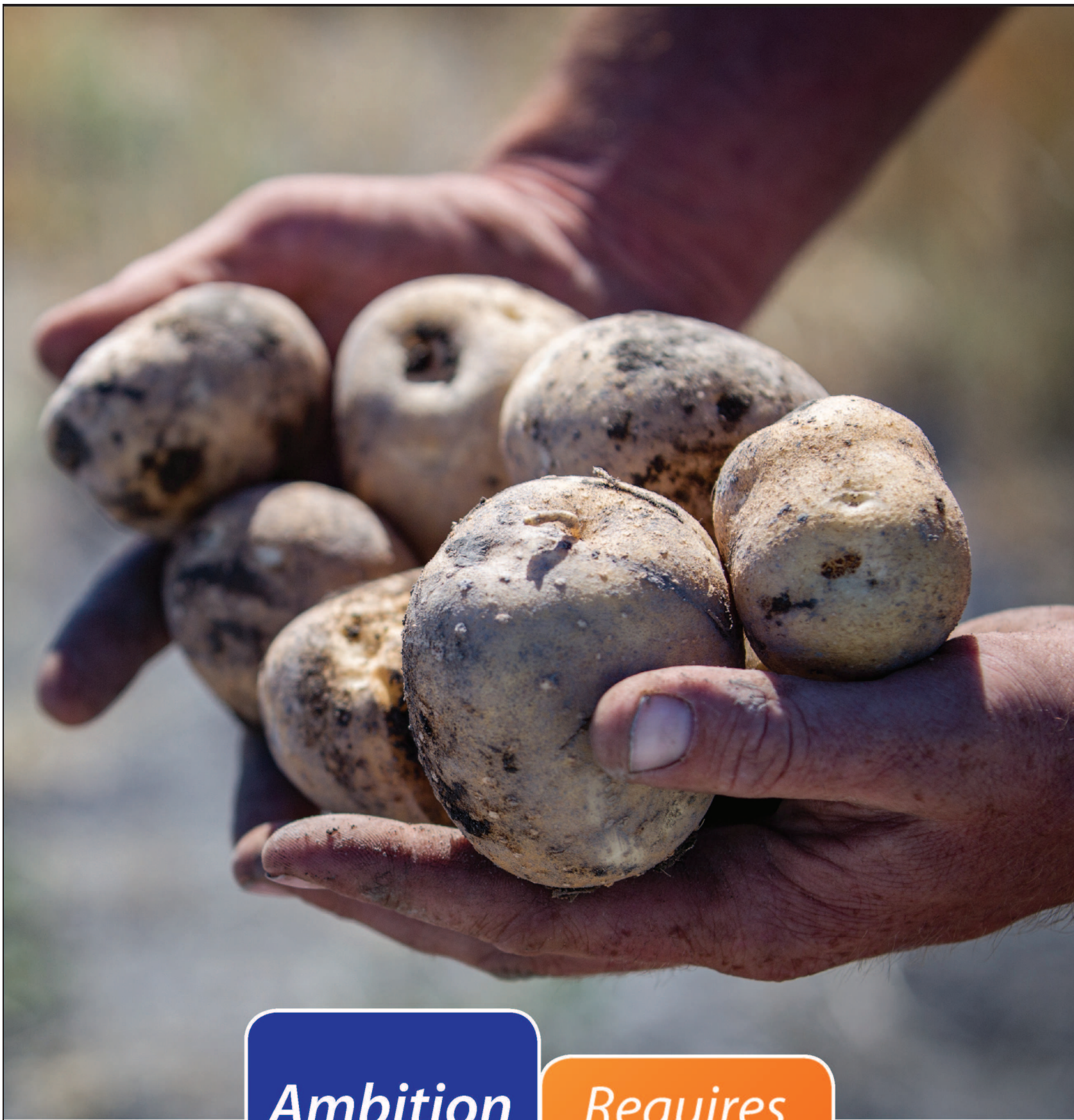
nization of pruning and harvest while European V is more problematic for mechanized pruning and harvest.

"At the end of the day, Cosmic Crisp responds well whether vertical or angle (V)," Lewis said. "Growers need to put the math to it (what's profitable) and their ability. They'll do what they know."

Musacchi is now experimenting with a fourth tree structure, what he calls top grafting which is grafting Cosmic Crisp onto stumps of other varieties above their rootstocks to develop three trunks, she said.

Lewis has focused a lot on mechanical pruning, also called hedging. Mechanical pruning in June eliminates blind wood by producing buds closer to stems and produces higher quality fruit, she said.

"We've also noticed that in the first couple of years when hedging the tree responds vigorously (more growth), but in the fourth year it settles down and gives you the tight narrow canopy you're looking for," she said. But it can result in smaller fruit, which is something to consider, she said.



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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON COUNTY OF MARION Probate Department IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Katina Elizabeth Hatzantonis, Deceased No. 17PB06169 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rocco Faren has been appointed Personal Representative of the above entitled estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the Personal Representative in care of the below named attorney within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice as stated below, or such claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative.

DATED and first published this 6th day of October, 2017. Personal Representative: ROCCO FAREN Attorney: L. E. ASHCROFT 510 SW Fifth Ave, 6th Flr Portland, OR 97204

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