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Almonds—Ant Colony Monitoring

Supplement to UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines: Example Form

Directions:
1. Choose five survey areas per block of the orchard, each about 1000 sq. ft., including the soil area from mid-alley to mid-alley beneath trees. Document the survey areas in the map box below.
2. Count the number of active colonies in each of these areas. Although some colonies may have several entrance holes, count active colony entrances more than 3 feet apart as separate mounds. An active colony is one that has ants moving in and out of it.
3. Record the number of active colonies.
4. Use the total number of ant colonies per area and refer to the table below to estimate your ant damage rate based on the number of days between shaking and nut collection.

Grower/Orchard_____**Date**_____

Orchard area 1	
1000 sq. ft	Active colonies
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
Total	

Orchard area 2	
1000 sq. ft	Active colonies
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
Total	

Orchard area 3	
Survey row	Active colonies
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
Total	

Orchard area 4	
1000 sq. ft	Active colonies
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
Total	

Orchard area 5	
1000 sq. ft	Active colonies
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
Total	

Estimated Percent Damaged Nuts at Harvest

Number of colonies per 5000 sq. ft.	Days between shaking and pickup				
	4	7	10	14	21
15 colonies	0.9	1.6	2.1	3.1	4.9
45 colonies	1.4	2.3	3.2	4.7	7.0
185 colonies	2.0	3.6	5.0	7.0	11.1

Map orchard survey block and rows