

# *Imperial County Agricultural Briefs*

*November 2023 (Volume 26 Issue 10)*

**Features from your Advisors**

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# 34th Annual Fall Desert Crops Workshop

## November 30, 2023

### Workshop Location:

AgWest Farm Credit, 485 Business Park Way, Imperial, CA 92251

### Registration link:

<https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=41576>

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

7:30	Registration
8:00	Welcome address
8:10	Pest detection efforts in Imperial County - <i>Nelson Perez, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures</i>
8:28	Tools and information to enhance nitrogen-water use efficiency in desert carrots - <i>Ali Montazar, Irrigation and Water Management Advisor, UCCE Imperial County</i>
8:46	Biosolarization: enhancing the value of locally produced agricultural waste while effectively managing soil pests - <i>James Stapleton, IPM Plant Pathologist, UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Parlier</i>
9:04	Soil health management in low desert vegetable cropping systems - <i>Philip Waisen, Vegetable Crops Advisor, UCCE Riverside County (Palm Desert Office)</i>
9:22	Assessing the nematocidal efficacy of encapsulated bio control agents and organic amendments derived from cover crops for the control of root-knot nematodes - <i>Cuong Nguyen, Food Safety and Organic Production Advisor, UCCE Imperial County</i>
9:40	Industry updates - Syngenta Crop Protection and Gowan Co.
Break (10 minutes)	
10:10	Efficacy of pre-emergent herbicides for Guayule - <i>Oli Bachie, Agronomy Advisor &amp; County Director, UCCE Imperial County</i>
10:28	Biology and management of lettuce Fusarium wilt - <i>Alex Putman, Assistant Professor of Cooperative Extension in Plant Pathology, UC Riverside</i>
10:46	Aphid control in low desert alfalfa: interactions of insecticide and alfalfa regrowth height - <i>Michael Rethwisch, Crop Production and Entomology Advisor, UCCE Riverside, Blythe (Palo Verde Valley Office)</i>
11:04	Could drone and satellite imagery be utilized to define alfalfa management zones for addressing high and variable root zone salinity? - <i>Amir Haghverdi, Associate CE Professor of Irrigation and Water Management, UC Riverside</i>
11:22	Sudangrass nitrate concentration and livestock feeding recommendations - <i>Brooke Latack, Livestock Advisor, UCCE Imperial County; &amp; Gabriele Maier, Beef Cattle Herd Health and Production Specialist, UC Davis</i>
11:40	Industry updates – <i>Universal Agriculture &amp; Desert Control Americas</i>
12:00	Lunch - <i>Please stay for lunch</i>

For additional information on the workshop, please contact advisor organizers *Ali Montazar* ([amontazar@ucanr.edu](mailto:amontazar@ucanr.edu)), *Oli Bachie* ([obachie@ucanr.edu](mailto:obachie@ucanr.edu)), *Cuong Nguyen* ([cnguyen@ucanr.edu](mailto:cnguyen@ucanr.edu)), or *Brooke Latack* ([blatack@ucanr.edu](mailto:blatack@ucanr.edu)) or call us at (442) 265-7700.

PENDING CEU CREDITS: CALIFORNIA DPR (2.5 hrs.), ARIZONA DEPT. Of AG (2.5 hrs.) & CCA (3.5 hrs.)

Preregistration Link: <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=41576>

## 2023 WESTERN ALFALFA & FORAGE SYMPOSIUM

*Michael D. Rethwisch, Field Crops Farm Advisor, UCCE Riverside County, Palo Verde Valley Office*

The Western Alfalfa & Forage Symposium will be held December 12-14, 2023, at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, NV. The entire first day (Dec. 12) are devoted to alfalfa fertilization and health, with multiple talk in each of the following sessions: Fertilizer Outlook and Trends; Sampling, Diagnoses and Decisions (including some for small grains and cool season grasses); Economics; and Soil Amendments.

Day 2 also is scheduled from 8-5 with sessions on: Economics; Irrigation and Water Storage; Pest Management; and Forage Quality.

Day 3 (Dec. 14) only has morning presentations, with the first session including multiple talks on Soil Health and Fertility, Forage Systems, and Environment, with the second session focused on agronomic practices. There is also a poster session the first 2 nights highlighting some forage research projects across the western US.

Room cost at the the Nugget Casino Resort is \$59/night, but must be made through the symposium website: <https://calhaysymposium.com/>. Registration costs varies, dependent upon the sessions attended, with a cost of \$445 for the entire symposium. For further information regarding registration and talks (including CEUs for CCAs and CDPR and other credential holders) please visit the website (<https://calhaysymposium.com/>). Registrations are encouraged to be received no later than November 29.



# IMPERIAL VALLEY CIMIS REPORT AND UC WATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

*Ali Montazar, Irrigation and Water Management Advisor, UCCE Imperial, Riverside, and San Diego Counties*

The reference evapotranspiration ( $ET_o$ ) is derived from a well-watered grass field and may be obtained from the nearest CIMIS (California Irrigation Management Information System) station. CIMIS is a program unit in the Water Use and Efficiency Branch, California Department of Water Resources that manages a network of over 145 automated weather stations in California. The network was designed to assist irrigators in managing their water resources more efficiently. CIMIS ET data are a good guideline for planning irrigations as bottom line, while crop ET may be estimated by multiplying  $ET_o$  by a crop coefficient ( $K_c$ ) which is specific for each crop.

There are three CIMIS stations in Imperial County include Calipatria (CIMIS #41), Seeley (CIMIS #68), and Meloland (CIMIS #87). Data from the CIMIS network are available at:

<http://www.cimis.water.ca.gov>. Estimates of the average daily  $ET_o$  for the period of October 1 to December 31 for the Imperial Valley stations are presented in Table 1. These values were calculated using the long-term data of each station.



Table 1. Estimates of average daily potential evapotranspiration ( $ET_o$ ) in inches per day

Station	November		December		January	
	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31
Calipatria	0.13	0.11	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.10
El Centro (Seeley)	0.14	0.12	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.11
Holtville (Meloland)	0.13	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.10

For more information about ET and crop coefficients, feel free to contact the UC Imperial County Cooperative Extension office (442-265-7700). You can also find the latest research-based advice and California water & drought management information/resources through link below:

<http://ciwr.ucanr.edu/>.

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University of California, Davis, Agriculture and Natural Resources, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616, (530) 752-1397.*

