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Biology/Phenology

Effects of sanitation practices on almond mummies infested with navel orangeworm

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Abstract: Lab and field evaluations were conducted in order to assess the effect of mowing and disking treatments on the survival of immature stages of the navel orangeworm (NOW) infesting almond mummies. Flail mower treatments, which included mowing single layers of mummies once or twice and mowing mummies in windrows, resulted in 95 to 99 percent mortality relative to controls. For the field disking treatments, one or two passes of a disk resulted in 41 and 89.5 percent mortality, respectively. In addition, flight peaks in disking treatments were delayed up to 2 weeks relative to controls. Field disking treatments were imitated in lab studies by covering infested nuts with 1 or 3 inches of soil, resulting in 9.5 and 43 percent mortality. These studies indicate that mowing is vastly superior to disking for destroying overwintering NOW populations and disking may alter flight dynamics in surviving populations.