

INTRODUCTION

This summer I worked as Research Assistant for Agrimanagement, Inc based out of Yakima, WA. Agrimanagement is an agricultural consulting company that provides production services, independent of product sales, to orchardists and farmers. I spent the majority of my time in the contract research division. This division is focused on conducting experiential trial with products newly available or not yet on the market. Companies that sell fertilizers or pesticides will utilize these organizations to collect data pertaining to their product performance.



These are grapes infected with Powdery Mildew. This picture is from a trial where we are trying out different products effectiveness of controlling Powdery Mildew. These products are genetic approach to controlling these fungal pathogens.



Herbicide project: White flag indicating untreated site

One trial I participated in was an herbicide trial in hops. We compared several different herbicide formulations by analyzing their effect on weed canopy vigor. Each herbicide was applied to separate plots within a hop yard in addition to plots left on untreated. The above picture is the control site, where no herbicide was applied whereas, the picture below, is after one product application. The products that were applied caused a significant decrease in weed canopy vigor. Product active ingredient ranged from organic OMRI approved compounds, like caprylic acid, vinegar, and spearmint oils. These were compared to a conventional glyphosate product. Interestingly, the organic products were better at controlling weed than the glyphosate.



SUMMARY- WHAT I LEARNED

- How to detect early/late symptoms of Powdery Mildew
- Hop sampling protocols
- Proper identification of pests and beneficial insects in cucurbits
- Pesticide applications
- How to identify sunburn, feeding damage, mildews, disease, nutrient deficiency, etc. in various crops.
- How to design and carry out an experimental research trial
- Effective communication with growers



MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

- Following safe handling of pesticide and applications
- Identifying disease
- Identifying pests
- Building proposals/reports
- Data collection
- Sampling for nutrient tests