February 21, 1986

TO:  Pistachio Farm Advisors

FROM: Louise Ferguson
Extension Horticulturist

RE: Recent Syndrome on Pistachios — Elide to follow

On February 3, Doug Gubler (Extension Plant Pathologist) came to Kern County to see the problem I spoke of in a recent memo. Young (4-6 years old) pistachio trees had persistent, dead leaves in the fall, some vertical, gumming cracks with discoloration of cambium beneath, a greyish bark with more prominent, orangish lenticels and a sooty (probably opportunistic or secondary) fungus on the bark. Scion cambium was darker than root cambium and smelled fermented. Incidence was sporadic through the orchards.

Drs. Mirceticth and Gubler diagnosed it as freeze damage from the early October freeze of last fall. Thus far it seems only younger (<6 years) trees are susceptible. We may see more of this as the P. integerrima and P. integerrima X P. atlantica rootstocks are planted as these tend to keep growing into the fall. In nurseries, a ZnSO4 spray is applied to burn off leaves and induce dormancy. If substantial losses develop from freeze injury, perhaps this practice should be instituted for young trees in the field.

LF: jc
POSTHARVEST HANDLING OF PISTACHIO NUTS
ON A SMALL SCALE
1985

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