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# AVAILABLE from ANR

## Must-Have Production Manuals

Learn more about strawberry and prune production from these practical and easy-to-use field manuals published by UC Agriculture and Natural Resources.

*Organic Strawberry Production Manual*, complete with detailed information on production, disease and pest management, postharvest handling, marketing and the organic certification process, will help growers feel ready and empowered to take on the challenges of organic growing.

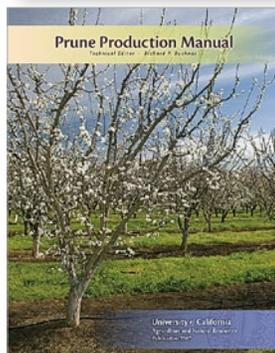
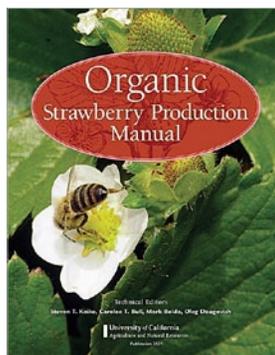
*Prune Production Manual* is one of the most comprehensive prune growing manuals in the world. Written with contributions from more than 40 UC Cooperative Extension professionals, UC faculty, USDA scientists and prune industry experts, this manual includes an industry overview, pest management techniques and a lesson on harvest and postharvest management.

*Organic Strawberry Production Manual*, ANR Pub #3531, 160 p, \$30.00  
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*Prune Production Manual*, ANR Pub #3507, 320 p, \$45.00  
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# COMING UP in California Agriculture



UC researchers have developed a way to verify that fertilizers labeled "organic" actually contain ingredients like compost instead of cheaper synthetic compounds.

## Developing testing protocols to assure the quality of fertilizer materials for organic agriculture

California leads the nation in organic farms and sales, but confidence in the state's organic produce was shaken in 2008, when major suppliers of organic fertilizer were caught using cheaper inorganic compounds. This prompted the passage of AB 856, which gave regulators more authority over organic fertilizers. However, there was still no good way to test whether fertilizers were actually organic.

Now, based partly on an analysis of 180 commercially available fertilizers and their raw components, UC researchers have developed a relatively simple, inexpensive method for distinguishing organic from synthetic fertilizers. This method assesses N-15, an isotope of nitrogen that is relatively high in organic sources; ammonium, which is relatively low in most organic sources; and the ratio of carbon to nitrogen, which has a characteristic value for a given organic source.