California Pepper Commission

531-D North Alta Ave ~ Dinuba, CA 93618, Phone (559) 591-3925 Fax (559) 591-5744

-October 2026-

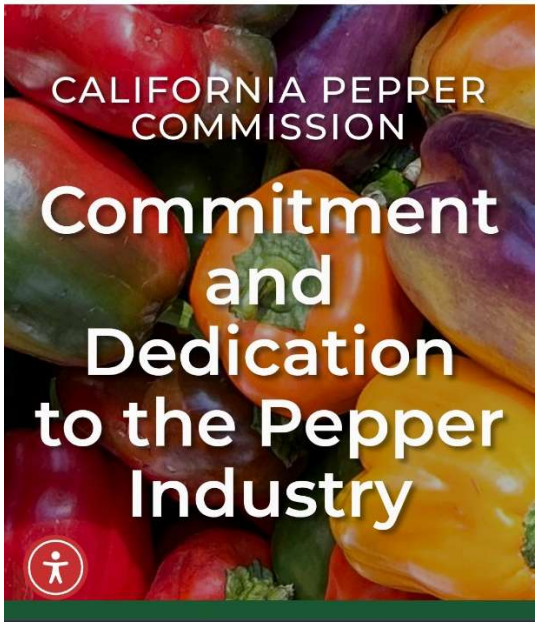
Chairman, California Pepper Commission
Matthew Terra, Eckert Cold Storage

The California Pepper Commission focuses its efforts on improving the chemical, disease and pest issues that concern the pepper industry. The Commission met earlier this year with the purpose of discussing any current and future issues along with research projects that can improve the California Pepper industry. Consisting of five producers, five processors and one public representative, these members are nominated by the industry to represent their interests on the Commission.

Visit http://www.calpeppers.com for all your industry updates including virus detection incidents and concerns along with extensive crop reports by county. The Commission is focused on bringing the pepper industry quality and useful information. Along with the "Latest News" page where you can get industry updates, you can view several years of research funded by the Commission along with much more.

CALIFORNIA PEPPER COMMISSION

Est. 1989



The California Pepper Commission will be meeting remotely on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. via the following Zoom Link: https://bit.ly/4iIOlyD Phone # 1-669-900-6833 – Meeting ID: 821 8653 7612 – Passcode: 357825

Along with industry updates, the Pepper Commission will be reviewing its research priorities. This list of priorities is sent out to the research community allowing interested researchers the opportunity to submit research proposals to the Pepper Commission. The Pepper Commission encourages all industry members to express concerns or issues they may be experiencing.

Research Priorities 2025-26
Research priorities change from year to year which will help our growers to continue to grow peppers profitably in California. Research dealing with control of insects, weeds, and diseases has been the major focus of our funding, and we expect that to continue. Areas of interest that have been discussed recently in our latest commission meeting are topics such as:

Verticillium Wilt – Santa Clara Valley
Cucumber Mosaic Virus – San Joaquin Valley and Oxnard Plain
Curly Top Virus - San Joaquin Valley and Oxnard Plain
Pepper Weevil – Oxnard Plain
Whitefly Control – Coachella & Imperial Valley
Aphid Control – Statewide (removal of partial use of Imidacloprid has affected control)
Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus - Statewide

In addition, research proposals involving the efficiency of water and fertilizer use will be considered.

28th International Pepper Conference
September 20-23, 2027
Ventura Beach Marriott
Ventura, California, USA
https://plantbreeding.ucdavis.edu/international-pepper-conference-2027

For the California Pepper Commission to operate effectively it requires the industry to work together. Each year the CPC determines an assessment rate that is equally split between the processor and producers. While it is an equal contribution, the CPC office relies on the processors to pay the assessment rate. Despite the CPC efforts to maintain a complete processor list there is always the possibility of processors who are not receiving the assessment form and paying their share. The CPC office is always seeking out possible processors that are not contributing and will continue to do so.

For the past several years the Commission has been a member and active participant with the California Specialty Crops Council (CSCC). The CSCC provides the Commission the opportunity to work with similar groups to focus on research, education, and regulatory activities, which can affect California agriculture. By representing a variety of groups, the CSCC is well supported when communicating industry issues with state and federal agencies. The CSCC also acts as a conduit of information between its members and various entities. For more information you can visit the CSCC website at www.specialtycrops.org.

The Commission is currently working on a comprehensive email list to streamline the distribution of information to the industry in a more efficient and cost-effective method. Please reach out to the Commission office or email nathan@tabcomp.com to be included.

2025-2026 Research Projects

Lee/Kung	Insect Pest Management	$20,000
Bob Gilbertson	Surveillance for TSWV Resistance	$17,500
Scott Stoddard	Evaluating neonic insecticide	$2,400
Allen Van Deynze	Evaluation and advancement	$2,500

Research Updates (newly funded projects

Scott Stoddard – Evaluating Neonic Insecticide Alternatives for Thrips and TSWV Management in Bell Peppers, UCCE Merced

Neonicotinoid insecticides are labeled in peppers to help manage the insect vectors that transmit tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) and beet curly top virus (BCTV). Beginning in 2024, however, DPR adopted additional regulations to protect bees that limited the application of four common insecticides Belay (clothianidin), Venom (dinotefuran), Admire Pro (imidacloprid), and Platinum (thiamethoxin). The new regulations prevent application of these materials during bloom and limit use rates to 0.172 lbs a.i. per acre per year. Alternative insecticides may serve as potential replacements and have similar efficacy.

An insecticide efficacy trial was established in a late season pepper field in Merced County, near Le Grand, to compare a standard grower spray program alternatives and an untreated control. The insecticides that were evaluated included Verimark (cyantraniliprole) applied as a transplant drench with no additional treatments, Verimark followed by sprays of Radiant – Brigade - Lannate, Minecto Pro (cyantranilitprole + abamectin), Sefina (afidopyropen), Exirel (cyantraniliprole), Sequoia (sulfoxaflor), and Assail (acetamiprid). The statistical design was a randomized block with 4 reps, and plots were 1 bed wide by 50 feet long. Bell pepper variety 'Sycamore' was machine transplanted June 29 at 2 rows per 5 ft bed on a one-foot spacing. Verimark treated plants were treated on June 29 by drenching the trays with 26 fl oz water per tray to deliver an equivalent rate of 13.5 fl oz/A. Transplants were then machine planted 4 hours later. Since this trial took place in a commercial field, all treatments received imidacloprid through the drip tape after transplanting. The plots were sprayed by hand on July 20, Aug 3, and Aug 17 and treatment efficacy was determined by presence of TSWV and fruit yield. TSWV was confirmed by using AgDia test strips. Harvest yields were estimated on Sept 21 with a once over harvest and removing all fruit to determine harvestable yield and number of culls.

In general, this was a high yielding field with only slight TSWV. Average yield was over 1900 boxes per acre, with less than 12% culls. Most culls were a result of late season worm damage and not TSWV. The best treatment was Verimark at planting followed by 3 foliar sprays, which had no observed TSWV in the plots at harvest. This was significantly less than the plots that only received Assail (5.8%), Sefina (3.3%), and Verimark only (2.4%). There was very little TSWV in the untreated plots, however, this treatment did have far more aphid problems than all the others. There was no significant difference in yield or number of culls between any of the treatments, however, highest average yield was observed in the Verimark + foliar spray program.

Allen Van Deynze – Evaluation and Advancement of Chile Pepper Tolerant to Water Stress, UC Davis

Our long-term goal is to develop chile pepper varieties that yield well under water stress (WS) to conserve water and make them available as breeding germplasm as parents or as open-pollinated cultivars to growers and seed companies. It is well-documented that the relative humidity has decreased with persistent heat stress and reduced access to water in the past 50 years in central and southern California where the majority of peppers are grown.

We leverage the well-established UC breeding program (20 years) that has developed breeding tools and is screening breeding populations based on landraces from arid/semi-arid regions funded by an ongoing Specialty Crops grant (duration: Nov 2023-Jun 2026) that has screened 1000s of lines derived from 15 landraces. From this work, we have genetically mapped yield and quality and associated traits in 3 populations and developed genomic predication models. We also have created over 30 advanced backcross populations selected for yield and quality under water deficit irrigation and tested them with controls in replicated trials in 2025.

The Commission and staff are always available to answer questions or assist in any way they can. Nathan Sano (nathan@tabcomp.com) is the Board Manager, and JD Allen (jdallen@tabcomp.com) is the Assistant Manager, and they can be contacted via email or at (559) 591-3925.