

2026 Vegetable Production and IPM for Conventional and Organic Systems

February 26, 2026

Coachella Public Library - 1500 6th St, Coachella, CA, 92236

Registration link: <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=47577>

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

7:30 Registration

8:00 **Welcome & Introduction**

8:05 **Selecting organic insecticides for effective insect pest management in organic vegetable production** –
Wilfrid Calvin, Assistant Professor, Specialty Crops Entomologist, University of Arizona

8:35 **Soilborne pathogens of lettuce and research updates on Fusarium wilt** – *Alex Putman, Associate Professor of
Cooperative Extension, University of California, Riverside*

9:05 **Weed management challenges and considerations in vegetable crops** – *Oleg Daugovish, Vegetable and
Strawberry Crop Advisor, UCCE Ventura*

9:35 **Beyond the fix: how root cause analysis prevents repeat food safety issues and builds trust in fresh produce**
– *Ahmed El-Moghazy, Assistant Professor & CE Specialist of Food Safety*

10:05 Break (5 minutes)

10:10 **Vegetable production and IPM discussion panel: industry perspectives on practical challenges and solutions**

10:40 **Whitefly management in melons: results from recent insecticide efficacy trials** - *Arun Babu, UCCE
Entomology Advisor - Imperial County*

10:56 **Understanding mode of action and applications of nematicides to maximize root-knot nematode control in
low desert vegetable production** – *Philip Waisen, Vegetable Crop Advisor, UCCE Riverside and Imperial*

11:12 **Significance of cover cropping for subsequent vegetable crop rotations** – *Oli Bachie, Agronomy & Weed
Management Advisor, UCCE Imperial, Riverside, and San Diego.*

11:28 **Building food safety capacity in low-desert vegetable systems: UCCE research and extension updates** –
Jimmy Nguyen, Food Safety and Organic Production Advisor, UCCE Imperial and Riverside

11:44 **Field trial lessons: best practices for water and nitrogen in drip-irrigated desert lettuce** – *Ali Montazar,
Irrigation and Water Management Advisor, UCCE Imperial, Riverside, San Diego*

12:00 **Adjourn** – *Please, stay for lunch*

For additional information about the workshop, please contact Andrea Ramirez at aiestrada@ucanr.edu or call (442) 265-7700.

Approved CEU's: California DPR (Course I.D. Code: DPR-0716-26 - 2.0 hours), Arizona Department of Agriculture (Course ID 26052 - 2.0 hours),
and CCA (Tracking No.: CA 63665 - 4.0 hours).

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