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re: Crop Testing at Brandeis

This winter I collected avocado and citrus (orange) samples for chemical and radiological analysis. Avocados, taken from the avocado grove on March 6, were tested for dioxins. This chemical is soluble in fatty tissue. Because of its high fat content, avocados could absorb dioxins. Fortunately, the test was negative (none detected).

Orange samples were taken from the Main House Orchard on January 25. They were combined and analyzed for tritium, which is the most water-soluble contaminant of interest. Tritium is also used, if present, as an indicator of other possible contaminants. The test showed only background levels of tritium (18 pCi/L). A rainwater sample taken on the same date tested at 12 pCi/L--also background.

Testing of spring crops, such as corn, will depend on available funding. If no further crop testing is done this year, we at least know that the winter testing was negative.

April 29

None - FYI