



# Biennial Cropping

EVERY? ALTERNATE YEAR | AN INTERACTIVE SESSION

# Biennial bearing or alternate bearing

- ▶ Irregular crop load from year to year
- ▶ In the “on” year too much fruit is set
- ▶ In the “off” year too little fruit is set
- ▶ Internally regulated by the plant
- ▶ Can be eliminated by horticultural practice

# Horticultural practices to eliminate biennial or alternate bearing

- ▶ Variety selection
- ▶ Pruning and vigour
- ▶ Fertiliser management
  - ▶ Nitrogen, boron, potassium
- ▶ Irrigation management
- ▶ Harvest management

# Horticultural practices to eliminate biennial or alternate bearing (cont)

- ▶ Pest & disease management
  - ▶ Cercospora and peacock spot
  - ▶ Anthracnose
  - ▶ Olive knot
  - ▶ Scale
  - ▶ Olive lace bug

# Other factors influencing crop load

- ▶ Weather events
  - ▶ Rain
  - ▶ Winter or spring frosts
  - ▶ Drought and high temperatures
  - ▶ Wind during flowering
  - ▶ Temperatures below 18 deg. C during flowering
  - ▶ Seasonal variation of weather



