April 2013

- Upcoming Events
- FDACS/OAWP Weather Station Cost Share Funds
- Florida Citrus Mutual Area Meeting
- High Density Planting Rootstock Field Day
- Citra Stone Fruit Field Day
- Spotted Wing Drosophila
- Citrus BMP Program
- HLB Outlier Trees
- Young Tree Care
- CHMA Map of the Month

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Upcoming Events

**April 16-30** Beekeeping 101 Series at the UF/IFAS Extension, Polk County Office in Bartow, FL

**April 17** UF/IFAS Extension Certified Crop Advisor Seminar at the UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County Office in Tavares and other locations in Florida

**April 18** UF/IFAS Extension Stone Fruit Field Day at the Plant Science Research and Education Center in Citra, FL

**April 18** UF/IFAS Extension Higher Density Planting Rootstock Field Day at Gardiner Citrus Grove in Indiantown, FL

**April 24** Florida Citrus Mutual Area Meeting and Election at the UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County Office in Tavares, FL

**April 24-25** UF/IFAS Extension Juice HACCP Workshop at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred, FL

**May 22** CEU Day and Worker Protection Standard Train the Trainer at the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center in Apopka, FL

**June 2-4** 126th Annual Meeting of the Florida State Horticultural Society at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota in Sarasota, FL

**June 20** Review and Exams Ornamental/Turf and Private Applicator Ag at the UF/IFAS Extension, Volusia County Office in DeLand, FL

**August 2-4** 5th Annual UF/IFAS Extension Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference at the Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee
COST-SHARE PROGRAM FOR ON-FARM WEATHER STATIONS

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Office of Agricultural Water Policy

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) has established a cost-share program to help producers enrolled in FDACS BMPs purchase on-site weather stations and temperature sensors. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Producers who own operations with less than 300 acres of production land may apply for one station and up to five temperature sensors for each operation. Producers who own larger operations may apply for one station and up to five temperature sensors for each 300 acres of production land on the operation(s). FDACS will provide 75 percent of the cost up to a $25,000 maximum per producer, with a $5,000 cap per station/sensors set (see table below).

The stations will be installed by a company that agrees to meet the approved specifications, at the on-site location(s) the farmer designates. These weather stations will collect real-time information throughout the year on rainfall, air temperature, relative humidity, dew point, wind speed, and wind direction. The information will be accessible to producers on their smartphones and computers, through a University of Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) website.

Why purchase a weather station?

The use of weather stations helps producers:

- Better determine when to delay irrigation after rainfall and when to irrigate during frost/freeze events, which can reduce water use and save costs on pump operation.
- Better determine when to use fungicide or pesticide sprays or foliar fertilizer applications, which can avoid waste and save related costs.
- Enhance the potential for reducing the pumping of surface and ground water and the runoff and leaching of fertilizers and other farm chemicals into water resources.

For more information on this cost-share program, and assistance with applying, please contact the FDACS/OAWP field staff member in your Water management District (WMD):

**SWFWMD:** Jessica McCoy Stempien 813-985-7481 x 2125
**SJRWMD:** Jody Lee 386-329-4812
**SFWMD:** Bonnie Wolff 863-462-5881

Weather Station Specifications and Suppliers:
http://lake.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture/citrus/documents/WeatherStationSpecsFinal021413.pdf
Florida Citrus Mutual Invites You.............

To the 2013 Area Meetings & Board Elections

Join us for a recap of FCM's Activities & Successes over the Past Year!

All Meetings Begin at 11:30 a.m., Lunch will be Served

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Tuesday, April 16, 2013
- Districts 5 & 6, Counties: Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk
- W.H. Stuart Ag Center, 1702 US Hwy 17 South, Bartow
- RSVP to Kara at 863.682.1111 or karac@flcitrusmutual.com

Wednesday, April 17, 2013
- Districts 8 & 9, Counties: Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands & Okeechobee
- The Linda Lou, Zolfo Springs, Jay Clark's Ranch
- RSVP to Kara at 863.682.1111 or karac@flcitrusmutual.com

Thursday, April 25, 2013
- Districts 1, 2, 3 & 4 Counties: Levy, Marion, Alachua, Putnam, St. John's, Flagler, Seminole, the portion of Volusia County not Included in the Indian River, Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Sumter, Lake, Orange & Osceola
- Lake County Ag Center, 50205 SR 19, Tavares
- RSVP to Kara at 863.682.1111 or karac@flcitrusmutual.com

Tuesday, April 30, 2013
- Districts 7, Counties: Brevard, Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Part of Volusia
- Indian River Citrus League
- RSVP to Kara at 863.682.1111 or karac@flcitrusmutual.com

Thursday, May 2, 2013
- Districts 10, Counties: Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Dade, Glades, Hendry, Lee & Monroe
- Forrey's Grill, 280 N. Bridge Street, LaBelle
- RSVP to Kara at 863.682.1111 or karac@flcitrusmutual.com
Higher Density Planting-Rootstock Field Day, Indiantown, April 18th

Hosts: Dr. Bill Castle, Stephane Gardinier, Lee Jones and Dr. Barrett Gruber

A cooperative 40-acre project with Gardinier Florida Citrus will be on display beginning at 11 am, Thursday, April 18th. There are 20 acres each of 3-yr-old Hamlin and Valencia trees in which whole beds are planted to individual rootstocks. The site consists of 60-ft beds planted to either 3 or 4 rows of trees and 7 to 12 ft in the row. The trees most closely planted are those shown above on Flying Dragon trifoliate orange, 7 x 12 ft = 518 trees/acre. There will a 30-minute orientation followed by a grove tour with commentary.

Registration: Please register at EventBrite http://hd_rootstock_fieldday.eventbrite.com/# by 5 pm April 12th. There is no fee.

Directions: From the north and SW, get to Indiantown via. Highway 710. At the south end of town is a Shell station and a ¼ mile south [towards the canal] is SW Citrus Blvd. Note that recent construction removed the road sign so it may not be marked. Go east ½ mile and turn left on CR 726. Go east ca. 5 miles to a GFC sign and turn north into the grove through a canker wash station. From the east, [1] take S.R. 76, a.k.a SW Kanner Blvd. to Indiantown and follow the directions above or, [2] come along SR 76 to Pratt Whitney Rd/SW 96th Street and go west to cross over the St. Lucie canal and turn left onto CR 726 and head towards Indiantown. It’s ca. 5.25 miles to the grove. By GPS: 16354 SW Citrus Blvd, Palm City, FL 34990.
Please join us for the annual stone fruit field day to be held at the new Frank Stronach Conference Center at PSREU, in Citra, FL. This is the same location as in previous years; however we will be in a more comfortable location this year! We will be serving lunch again this year at no cost to you thanks to the generosity of Philip Rucks Citrus Nursery, Maxijet, Island Grove Ag Products, Growers Fertilizer Corporation, Valent Biosciences, Syngenta and Keyplex. If you see representatives from these companies, please thank them! We have a great agenda planned with information on stone fruit diseases, reports on new and novel post-plant management for nematodes, and cultural practices for stone fruit.

Please register before April 15th, 2013 so that we can have an accurate headcount for lunch. In addition, if you need a vegetarian meal, please let me know.

If you have any questions, please let Mercy Olmstead know - mercy1@ufl.edu or 352-273-4772.

Hope to see you there!

**AGENDA:**

10:00 AM - 10:05 AM  
**Registration and Welcome**

10:05 AM – 10:35 AM  
**Use of ReTain to Enhance Peach Fruit Size in South Central Florida**  
*Dr. Mercy Olmstead, Assistant Professor and Stone Fruit Specialist, UF-IFAS, Gainesville, FL*

10:35 AM – 11:05 AM  
**Update on the Potential of Novel Post-Plant Nematicides in Peach Production**  
*Mr. Andy Shirley, University of Georgia, Athens, GA*

11:05 AM – 11:20 AM  
**BREAK (Fruit Tasting)**

11:35 AM – 12:00 PM  
**Update on the Peach Breeding Program**  
*Dr. Jose Chaparro, Professor, UF-IFAS, Horticultural Sciences Department, Gainesville, FL*

12:00 PM – 12:45 PM  
**LUNCH**

12:45 PM – 1:00 PM  
**Charitable Contributions of Fruit to Community Food Banks**  
*Janet Streit, Second Harvest North Florida, Food Industry Relations Coordinator*

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM  
**Managing Fungal Gummosis in Peach**  
*Dr. Thomas Beckman, Stone Fruit Breeder, USDA-ARS, Byron, GA*

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM  
**Peach Disease Update**  
*Dr. Phil Brannen, Professor and Plant Pathologist, University of Georgia, Athens, GA*

2:00 – 2:20 PM  
**Impact of Nitrogen Rate on Vegetative Growth in a Mature Orchard**  
*Dr. Mercy Olmstead, Assistant Professor and Stone Fruit Specialist, UF-IFAS, Gainesville, FL*

2:20 – 2:30 PM  
**Meeting wrap-up, Survey**

2:30 – 3:00 PM  
**Field Tour of Research Plots in Orchard**

**Preregistration Required at:** [http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5933428043#](http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5933428043#)
**Spotted Wing Drosophila**

With commercial blueberry harvest well under way in Florida, growers must remain vigilant in their monitoring and management of spotted wing *Drosophila (SWD) (Drosophila suzukii)*. This destructive pest is attracted to blueberry fruit as they begin to ripen to decaying culls on the ground.

This pest is included in a group known as the “vinegar flies” and traps containing vinegar are useful in monitoring for adult SWD. It is important to check the traps for the presence of SWD adults at least weekly and change the vinegar every 14 days.

Removing and destroying cull fruit is one step in reducing influx of SWD. If scouting indicates a presence of SWD in a planting, applications of recommended insecticides will assist to reduce populations. Applications are recommended on a 10 to 14 day schedule if monitoring does not indicate adult reinfestation from adjacent fields. If reinfestation is occurring, it may be necessary to application interval to 7 days between applications. It is important to always follow all label instructions when applying pesticides and to reduce the possibility of SWD from developing resistance by rotating insecticide modes of action.

UF/IFAS Extension Entomologist Dr. Oscar Liburd and Graduate Student working on SWD Ms. Lindsy Iglesias have created an excellent publication covering the biology, monitoring and management of SWD linked below:


Dr. Liburd has also provided a copy of a new 24c Special Local Need Malathion label he worked on allowing higher amounts of active ingredient during applications linked below:

[http://lake.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture/citrus/documents/NewMalathionlabel.pdf](http://lake.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture/citrus/documents/NewMalathionlabel.pdf)

Below are digital images provided by Dr. Liburd of SWD adults; male left and female on the right:
Citrus BMP Program

UF/IFAS Extension Best Management Practice (BMP) Specialist Dr. Brian Boman gave an interesting presentation at the Florida Citrus Growers Institute on the new Citrus BMP Program and Manual. He indicated that growers who had previously enrolled in the Ridge BMP Program have until January 8, 2015 to enroll in the new program. He stated that those growers who are already enrolled in one of the other BMP programs are “grandfathered in” and only have to continue complying with their practices in the original program and follow the recommendations of “Nutrition of Florida Citrus” UF/IFAS Extension Publication CL253. They would only have to enroll in the new program if they re-establish a grove or perform major renovations.

We have a limited supply of the new Florida Citrus BMP Manual at the Extension office. You can also access copies by following the link below:


Outlier HLB Trees

Most of us see trees that appear to be HLB infected but are not as affected by the disease as the majority of the adjacent trees. It possible that genetics of such trees may one day be helpful in the fight against citrus greening.

UF/IFAS Researcher Dr. Fred Gmitter has received funding from the CRDF for Project# 724 “Accelerating Citrus Gene Discovery for HLB Tolerance/Resistance” to identify citrus genetics that could be helpful as part of the battle against HLB. As part of the study, UF/IFAS Extension Agents will help locate possible “HLB Outliers” in local groves.

If you have any trees in your grove that you think may be an “HLB Outlier” please contact me at (352) 343-4101 Ext. 2729 or gke@ufl.edu. We can evaluate and notify Dr. Gmitter, if your trees may fit his research criteria.

Young Tree Care

During his presentation at the recent Florida Citrus Growers Institute in Avon Park, UF/IFAS Extension Entomologist focused on some very interesting results on managing Asian citrus psyllid. During part of the presentation, he reiterated the importance of managing psyllids in young trees. For this reason, I have placed a link to Dr. Rogers publication focusing on psyllid management approaches for young trees below:

http://lake.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture/citrus/documents/PDFYoungTreeCareL09_12.pdf
CHMA Map of the Month

The map below is for the **South Lake/West Orange CHMA** from March 29. The red arrows represent increasing psyllid populations in that area. In depth interpretation of these results can be obtained by logging in to the CHMA Sectional Mapping Program on the CHMA Website Main Page:

http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/chmas/index.shtml