

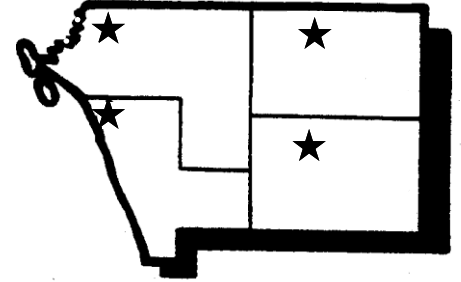
West Central Citrus Letter

DeSoto Extension Service
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863/993-4846

Manatee Extension Service
1303 17th Street West • Palmetto FL 34221
941/722-4524

Hardee Extension Service
507 Civic Center Drive • Wauchula FL 33873
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Sarasota Extension Service
6700 Clark Road • Sarasota FL 34241
941/861-9900



April 5, 2011

Citrus Health Management Areas

The Extension Service along with area growers, caretakers and chemical sales force are in the process of developing some citrus health management areas (CHMAs) in Hardee County. If you have citrus property in Hardee County, would like to be involved in this process, or would like to participate in targeted sprays, please contact me at 863-956-1151 or by email at shf@ufl.edu.

The process of developing these CHMAs will take time to develop. Area success will depend on finding some dedicated and resourceful individuals to assist with the process in getting growers to participate or act as local contact. Your involvement will determine the success of CHMAs.

Extension Listening Sessions

Each county Extension Service office will be conducting listening sessions over the next couple of months. These sessions are being developed to ensure proper long range plans are being developed to guide Extension educational programs into the next decade and meet critical needs of our clientele. These sessions will examine the challenges and issues facing all citizens to enhance program delivery and services rendered.

Your input, comments and suggestions would be greatly appreciated. Listening sessions will be conducted at the following extension service offices as follows:

DeSoto County: April 26, 3:30 PM and again at 6:00 PM

Hardee County: April 21, 6:30 PM

Sarasota County: May 19, 9:00 AM

Mechanical Harvesting Field Day and Workshop, April 20, 2011

A citrus mechanical harvesting field day will be conducted at the Southwest Florida Research & Education Center in Immokalee on April 20th (Wednesday). Program registration begins at 7:30 AM and the oral presentations at 8:00 AM. Topics covered include: projects in citrus mechanical harvesting and abscission, SWFREC concept grove, what we know about CMNP (abscission chemical) and what has been learned from the experimental use permit, and fruit recovery. Lunch will be provided and the program concludes prior to 2 PM. Registration for the program is required by calling Barbara Hyman at 239-658-3461 or by email at hymanb@ufl.edu.

UF Stone Fruit Field Day, April 27

The University of Florida will be conducting its Stone Fruit Field Day at the Plant Sciences Research and Education Unit in Citra on April 27. The program begins at 8:30 with registration and presentations beginning at 8:45 AM. Topics discussed include peach diseases and management options, using MarketMaker to expand sales, pruning, cropload management, tree productivity, weed management, and field pruning demonstration. The program concludes at 12:30 PM. For more information on the stone fruit field day, please contact Dr. Mercy Olmstead at 352-273-4772 or at mercy1@ufl.edu.

Mid Florida Citrus Foundation Field Day at Conserv II, May 10

The annual Mid Florida Foundation Field Day will be conducted on May 10 at their site, 17498 McKinney Road, Winter Garden, FL. The field day will have various talks on: nutritional demonstrations; herbicide trials; Asian citrus psyllid & leafminer management; citrus health management areas; Midsweet, Valencia and new Valencia release; understanding wind speed for successful spray application; peach varieties for Florida; thinning and pruning peaches; and pomegranates and olives for Florida.

The program will begin at 9 AM and will conclude around 3:30 PM. Lunch is being sponsored by Bayer CropScience, Dow AgroSciences and Syngenta.

To register for the program, please see the enclosed flier or by going to <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1351148321/mcivte>. Pre-registration is essential to ensure adequate number of meals are obtained.

Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing (Core & Private), May 11, 2011

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at the Hardee County Extension Service Office at 507 Civic Center Drive in Wauchula. The class will review the materials contained in the tests to obtain a private applicator pesticide license. The review session will begin at 9:00 A.M. and conclude at noon with the test being given at 1:00 P.M. Three CEUs (2 Core and 1 Private) will be offered to individuals having a current pesticide license and will be renewing using CEUs. A registration fee of \$38.00 per person is charged to cover the study manuals and refreshments. To attend the class for only CEUs, the registration fee is \$5.00. If you wish to attend the class to obtain CEUs or to take the test, please call the Hardee County Extension Service Office at 863-773-2164 to register. Pre-registration is requested prior to May 4, 2011.

Belay 50 WDG

Belay 50 WDG has been approved with a 24c (special local need) label for use in non-bearing citrus. The active ingredient in this product is clothianidin, a neonicotinoid insecticide with pest control similar to imidacloprid (Admire) and thiamethoxam (Platinum).

Belay can be applied as a soil drench as one would do with Admire or Platinum and should provide similar levels of psyllid and leafminer control. The benefit of this product to the Florida citrus grower is that this will

now allow an additional two soil-applied systemic applications (at the high rate of 6.4 oz/A) to young tree plantings providing protection of young trees beyond what can be currently achieved with imidacloprid and thiaethoxam. Depending on the tree age, growers now have the ability to provide year-long protection of young trees using soil-applied systemic insecticides which is important to help prevent young trees from becoming HLB infected prior to reaching bearing age.

Belay, Admire and Platinum all have the same mode of action. The potential for psyllids and leafminers to develop resistance to all three of these products is increased if proper precautions are not taken. Between applications of any of these 3 products, it is recommended that growers apply a foliar insecticide spray with a different mode of action to young trees to minimize the likelihood for pesticide resistance development to this important group of insecticides.

Disclaimer: The use of trade names in the newsletter is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. UF/IFAS does not guarantee or warranty the products named, and references to them in the newsletter does not signify our approval to the exclusion of other products of suitable composition.

What's Happening with Black Spot and Sweet Orange Scab?

Citrus black spot has continued to be a problem in Southwest Florida in Collier and Hendry Counties. The number of finds and disease intensity are higher than in 2010. We were finding symptoms that were not present last year such as false melanose and virulent spot. So far most finds have been on Valencia and the symptoms have been visible in mid to late March. DPI tells me that there have been no new suspect finds in the last 2 weeks. The quarantine areas have expanded, but revisions from APHIS are expected as the most recent finds are taken into account. In our spore trapping efforts, we found *Guignardia* spp. ascospores, the spores responsible for the majority of infections, in all months except December 2010 and January 2011. Spores were first found in mid-February and by early March, moderate to large spore numbers were trapped. This means that the fungus is active at the moment but it is unclear what this means in terms of disease control at this time of year. The first year of spore trapping has yet to be completed. Applications for black spot should go out no later than the beginning of May. See the Florida Pest Management Guide for further control details.

Sweet orange scab finds are spreading through the state with 11 counties considered positive. Most of the fruit have been from dooryards with only 2 finds in commercial groves, 1 in Sarasota and another in Indian River. The most recent find was in Polk County but not near commercial sites. Few suspect finds were submitted to DPI in the last few weeks. My lab and DPI continue to be unsuccessful in isolating a fungus but have been able to get a positive PCR test. We are not sure what is actually occurring in Florida yet. Despite this, APHIS had placed Florida under a state-wide quarantine along with Arizona, Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana. In Texas, there have been fungi isolated from fruit in commercial groves. We are working with Texas to determine if their isolates cause disease but this is on-going.

Source: Dr. Megan Dewdney, Citrus REC, Lake Alfred

Dates to remember:

April 20 Mechanical Harvesting Field Day, Immokalee
April 21 Listening Session, Wauchula
April 26 Listening Session, Arcadia
April 27 Stone Fruit Field Day, Citra
May 10 Mid Florida Foundation Field Day, Winter Garden
May 11 Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, Wauchula
May 19 Listening Session, Sarasota

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Futch

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Enc: Mid Florida Foundation Field Day Program Flier