

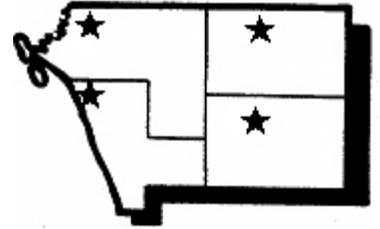
## West Central Citrus Letter

DeSoto Extension Service  
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863/993-4846

Hardee Extension Service  
507 Civic Center Drive • Wauchula FL 33873  
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Manatee Extension Service  
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941/316-1000



December 29, 2008

### Citrus Production School

The annual citrus production school will be held on Tuesday evening, January 27, February 3 and 10, 2009. Each session will begin at 7:00 PM and conclude at 9:00 PM. This year's topics will center on the issues related to citrus greening, canker, nutrition and young tree care.

For a full listing of topics, speakers, and to register, please see the enclosed program flier. Registration is \$25.00 per person and is requested prior to January 20, 2009.

Continuing education units (CEUs) have been requested for both the restricted use pesticide license for both the private and ag tree crop category as well as the certified crop advisor license.

### Detection of *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* in Sprouts from Citrus Tree Stumps

A study was recently completed by Steve Futch, Ron Brlansky, Mike Irely and Shawron Weingarten to determine if citrus trees that were removed due to greening symptoms by clipping off above the soil would later be positive for greening from sprout regrowth. In this study, citrus trees were visually confirmed to have greening (huanglongbing (HLB)) symptoms prior to tree removal using a standard tree shear mounted to a large front-end loader (in a process commonly referred to as clipping). Clipping as a tree removal method is frequently used to eliminate citrus trees that are declining or diseased. This study

consisted of 15 trees that were removed by clipping the tree off above the soil surface leaving the entire root system intact in the soil. Stumps were allowed to resprout and upon sprouting were placed in screen enclosures to minimize psyllid feeding. Eighty percent (80%) of the stumps began to sprout within 60 to 146 days after clipping and consisted of 2 to 26 sprouts per stump by 160 days after tree removal. At 160 days after clipping, individual sprouts were collected and tested with real time PCR to determine if resprouts were positive for *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*.

PCR testing indicated that 80% of the tested stumps contained one or more positive HLB sprouts. Not all sprouts on a given stump were positive for HLB providing evidence that the bacteria are not evenly distributed in the tree. This data clearly provides evidence that it is essential to keep all stumps and roots sprout-free to ensure this plant material is not serving as a pathogen source for future infection of nearby trees when fed upon by psyllids.

### Sampling for Asian Citrus Psyllid

Dr. Phil Stansly at the Southwest Florida Research & Education Center in Immokalee has developed a monitoring system for adult psyllids. The method is utilized by tapping a limb three times that is 1-foot above the collection pad (clear clip board). Under the clear clip board you can place a sheet that divides the area into 12 squares to make counting collected insects (pests and beneficials) easier. After tapping,

the psyllids or other insects are quickly counted that fall onto the collection pad. Once counted, the number is recorded to monitor population dynamics over time. Included in this newsletter is a copy of the sampling method description as well as the data collection sheet. For those that wish a laminated sheet, we can provide those for your use.

### **Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing (Core & Private), Jan. 7, 2009**

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2009 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 class 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 \$25.00 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 January 5, 2009.

### **Ag Tree Crop Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, Jan. 14, 2009**

A two-hour pesticide license review for the ag tree crop license will be held at the DeSoto County Extension Service Office at 2150 NE Roan Street in Arcadia. The class will review the information contained in the test to obtain a commercial ag tree crop license. The class will begin at 9:00 AM and conclude prior to 11:00 AM at which time the exam will be given. Two CEUs (ag tree crop) will be offered to individuals having a current pesticide license. A registration fee of \$25.00 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 DeSoto County Extension Service Office at 863-993-4846. To obtain an ag tree crop license, you will need to have a valid pesticide license or recently have passed

the 'core' category. The core review and testing will be offered on January 7<sup>th</sup> at the Hardee County Extension Service Office in Wauchula.

### **Citrus Pest Posters**

Recently, the citrus agents developed a set of 5 pest posters for use in identifying various pests in citrus. Each poster is 27 x 18 inches and identifies a group of pests with pictures. The poster series is as follows: citrus diseases; citrus greening; mites, insects and scales; nutrient-associated patterns; and miscellaneous insect pests. If you would like a copy of one or more of the pest posters, please stop by the Extension Service Office in Wauchula, Arcadia, Palmetto or Sarasota. The printing of the posters was supported from a grant from the Florida Citrus Production Research Advisory Council and are being provided free of charge to growers upon request.

### **Minimum Wage Increases**

In 2009, the Federal Minimum wage will increase from the current \$6.79 per hour to \$7.21 on January 1, 2009 and then again on July 24, 2009 to \$7.25 per hour. The minimum wage must be paid to all covered employees in both agricultural and non-agricultural jobs.

### **Quick Sheet for Insecticides and Miticides for Use in Florida Citrus**

A group of entomologists led by Dr. Michael Rogers has recently revised the Quick Sheet developed in August 2008. The new version lists the following:

- a) Mode of Action,
- b) Target Pest Controlled (Psyllid, Leafminer, Rust Mites, Spider Mites, Root Weevils, Scale Insects and Mealybugs), and
- c) Effect on Natural Enemies.

Each pesticide is rated as to the level of control for each selected pest.

On the reverse side of the sheet, imidacloprid rates based upon tree size are provided. Additionally, the restricted entry interval (REI) and pre-harvest interval (PHI) are also listed.

Please remember to have a current pesticide label at time of application that lists your application requirements as well as REI & PHI.

**Winter Weather Watch**

Each year, Chris Oswalt, Extension Agent in Polk County provides a recorded weather service forecast that is available via standard phone service. If you are interested in obtaining his weather forecast, please contact him at 863-519-8677 ext 108. The service is \$100 per winter season.

**New Citrus Varieties**

Dr. Peter Chaires, Executive Director of the New Varieties Development and Management Corp., is trying to develop an email listing of individuals that would be interested in being notified of upcoming fruit displays and evaluations. If you would like to be notified of upcoming variety events, please email me at [shf@ufl.edu](mailto:shf@ufl.edu) and I will see that you are placed on future notification lists.

**Dates to remember:**

- Jan. 7 Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing (core and private), Wauchula
- Jan. 14 Ag Tree Crop Pesticide License Review and Testing, Arcadia
- Jan. 27 Citrus Production School, Arcadia
- Feb. 3, 10 Citrus Production School, Arcadia

Wishing you a prosperous New Year,

*Stephen H. Futch*

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Enc: Citrus Production School Form  
Asian Citrus Psyllid Sampling Form  
Quick Sheet for Insecticides and Miticides for  
Use in Florida Citrus Pest Management