



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION

West Central Citrus Letter

DeSoto Extension Service

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863/993-4846

Hardee Extension Service

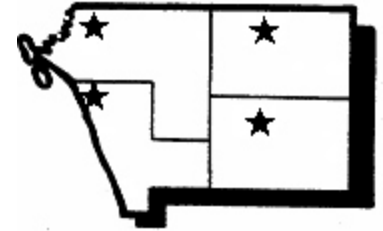
507 Civic Center Drive • Wauchula FL 33873
863/773-2164

Manatee Extension Service

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

Sarasota Extension Service

2900 Ringling Blvd • Sarasota FL 34237
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February 28, 2006

Citrus Pest & Disease Management - Citrus Canker & Greening Management 101, March 8, Arcadia

A citrus pest management class on citrus canker and greening will be conducted at the South Florida Community College in Arcadia on March 8, 2006 from 9:00 AM until noon with a sponsored lunch. The program will discuss current disease status and management strategies growers should consider when addressing these diseases. Please preregister by calling 863-993-4846 prior to March 6, 2006. Sponsored lunch and continuing education units (CEUs) for both the restricted use pesticide license and the certified crop advisor will be provided.

Safety Morning, March 21, 2006, 8:00 AM - 12 Noon

The Extension Service will be conducting its annual pesticide safety program on March 21 at the Turner Exhibition Hall. The program format will be expanded this year to cover a greater number of safety related topics for agriculture operations. The program will begin at 8:00 AM and conclude at 12 noon and include lunch. Topics discussed include: worker protection standards, auto safety, pesticide spill cleanup, fire safety, farm first aid, and choosing the proper personal protective equipment. One and one-half CEUs will be requested in the Core category for those with a restricted use pesticide license.

Registration for the program, including lunch is \$3.00 per person. Part of the program cost is being offset area chemical and fertilizer company sponsors.

Please use the enclosed form to register your employees for the morning safety program and/or the afternoon greening and canker identification program which is also discussed in the newsletter below. Registration is limited to the first 150 participants.

Greening and Canker Identification Training for Grove Workers, March 21, 2006, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

With early identification of greening and canker being very important in managing these diseases, a two-hour training session will be provided to area grove workers. This training will highlight both diseases and how to distinguish them from other problems and symptoms commonly found in citrus groves that can be confused with these diseases.

Registration for only the afternoon session does not include lunch and is also limited to the first 150 participants.

BMP Pest Management Workshop, April 12, 2006, Arcadia

The quarterly BMP program will be conducted on April 12 and will cover topics related to pest management. The program will be as follows:

- * Monitoring Psyllid Populations - Dr. David Hall, with the USDA in Ft. Pierce.
- * Survey, Scouting, and Detection of Pests - Dr. Steve Rogers, Citrus Consultant.

The program will begin at 10 AM and conclude with a sponsored lunch and will be held at the DeSoto County Extension Service Office in Arcadia. Continuing education units (CEUs) will be offered for both the restricted use pesticide and certified crop advisor licenses.

Preregistration for the workshop is requested prior to April 7 by calling the DeSoto County Extension Service Office at 863-993-4846.

Citrus Greening Training DVD

Recently, the University of Florida has developed a training DVD for citrus greening identification and management. This training DVD can be picked up at the local county Extension Service Offices in Arcadia, Palmetto and Wauchula, as well as other Extension Offices around the state, or by calling one of the citrus Extension agents. The material is presented in both English and Spanish and last approximately 20 to 25 minutes.

Soil Moisture Sensor, April 4, Balm, 1:30 PM

A grower meeting on soil moisture sensors used in agriculture will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2006 at 1:30 PM at the Gulf Coast REC in Balm, FL. This meeting is designed to update growers of any crop (citrus, vegetables, ornamentals, fruit or agronomic crops) on some of the soil moisture probes that are available on the market today. Some of the newer probes can give a grower a permanent record of changes in soil water status or show when water gets to a particular depth. Use of probes can help reduce irrigation pumping costs and potential leaching of fertilizers. Dr. Larry Parsons of the UF/IFAS Citrus Research & Education Center will present information on several probes. This program is being sponsored by UF/IFAS and the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Mechanical Harvesting: Remaining Profitable in These Times of Canker and Greening, April 6, Immokalee

Want to learn more on how mechanical harvesting may help you remain profitable during these times of canker and greening? Plan to attend

the IFAS Citrus Mechanical Harvesting and Abscission Field Day at SWFREC in Immokalee on April 6, 2006 from 8 AM to 3:30 PM. A field trip during the program will allow participants to observe two of the currently viable mechanical harvesting systems in action as well as fruit abscission demonstration. Discussion on economics of mechanical harvesting, use of abscission compounds, new harvester technologies, improved sanitation, yield monitoring, long-term yields, tree requirements, and tree damage caused by Hurricane Wilma will be highlighted. Lunch will be provided by Gator Hammock BBQ. RSVP is required prior to April 4th. To register or for more information for the program, please contact Barbara Hyman at (239) 658-3415.

Windbreak Short Course, April 19, CREC, Lake Alfred

A full-day, comprehensive and very practical-oriented short course, "Living and Artificial Windbreaks for Citrus" will be held on April 19th at the CREC, Lake Alfred. There will be presentations on plants, designs, and management of living windbreaks by speakers from the University of Florida IFAS, School of Forestry, USDA-NRCS, and the Florida Department of Agriculture—Division of Forestry. Information on materials, design, and costs for artificial windbreaks will be presented. Advance registration is encouraged. Use the form enclosed or visit the CREC website, <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/>, for program details and a registration form that you can download and submit.

Private Pesticide License Review and Testing, April 5 - English

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be held on Wednesday, April 5 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 AM and conclude at noon with the tests being given at 1:00 PM. Three CEUs (2 Core and 1 Private) will be offered to individuals which have a current pesticide license. A registration fee of \$20.00 per person is charged to cover the study manuals and refreshments. To attend the class for

only CEUs, the registration fee is \$3.00. 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. Preregistration is requested by April 7.

Private Pesticide License Review and Testing, April 26 & 27 - Spanish

A two-day pesticide license review and testing class in Spanish will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, April 26 & 27 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 in Spanish with the tests being given in English. Current license rules do not allow the tests to be given in Spanish. The class will begin each morning at 8:30 AM and conclude at 3:00 P.M. at which time the test will be given. Twelve CEUs (6 Core and 6 Private) will be offered to individuals which have a current pesticide license. A registration fee of \$15.00 per person is charged to cover training materials and refreshments. 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. Preregistration is requested by April 21st. Please note the entire class is conducted in Spanish, thus individuals speaking languages other than Spanish are not encouraged to attend. To offer the class, preregistration must exceed 20 participants for both sessions of the training.

Citrus Disease Hotline

Dr. Pete Timmer with the University of Florida's Citrus Research & Education Center in Lake Alfred and Syngenta Crop Protection are providing a recorded message about citrus diseases and scouting information for Florida citrus growers. The recorded message is available 24-hours per day by calling 1-866-365-3017. The service is updated every two weeks and provides information on postbloom fruit drop (PFD), Alternaria, scab, melanose, greasy spot and citrus canker.

Aquatic Weed Control Short Course, May 1-5, 2006, Coral Springs

The annual aquatic short course will be held in Coral Springs on May 1-5, 2006. The short course features sessions on aquatic, and upland weeds, review sessions on aquatic and natural areas, equipment calibrations and aquatic plant identification. To view more information or to register, please see the web site at: www.conferences.ifas.ufl.edu. Early registration is \$200 prior to March 20 and increased to \$250 on March 21, 2006.

Dates to Remember

- March 8 - Citrus Canker and Greening Management, Arcadia
- March 21 - Safety Morning, Arcadia
- March 21 - Greening and Canker Identification for Grove Workers, Arcadia
- April 4 - Soil Moisture Sensor Program, Balm
- April 5 - English Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, Wauchula
- April 6 - Mechanical Harvesting Program, Immokalee
- April 12 - Pest Management BMP, Arcadia
- April 19 - Windbreak Short Course, Lake Alfred
- April 26, 27 - Spanish Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, Wauchula
- May 1-5 - Aquatic Short Course, Coral Springs

Sincerely,

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enc: Safety Morning / Greening and Canker
 Registration Form
 Windbreaks Registration Form