



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION

West Central Citrus Letter

DeSoto Extension Service

2150 NE Roan Street • Arcadia FL 34266
863/993-4846

Hardee Extension Service

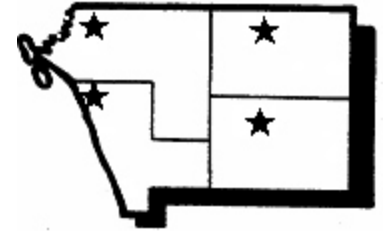
507 Civic Center Drive • Wauchula FL 33873
863/773-2164

Manatee Extension Service

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

Sarasota Extension Service

2900 Ringling Blvd • Sarasota FL 34237
941/316-1000



February 20, 2008

Greening Summit, April 8, 2008, Avon Park

The Extension Service, in conjunction with a number of sponsors, will be conducting a Greening Summit as part of the Florida Citrus Growers Institute. The summit will be held in Avon Park at the South Florida Community College main campus just south of Avon Park or north of Sebring on Hwy 27.

The summit will address a broad series of issues ranging from the current status of greening, research projects, control programs, sample submission, survey techniques, grower panels and a Brazilian experience. The program will begin at 8:30 AM with registration and conclude around 4:30 PM. CEUs will be offered for both the restricted use pesticide license and the certified crop advisor licenses.

Please see the enclosed flyer to register for the summit. Pre-registration is required. Registration is limited, please do not delay.

Safety Morning, March 12, 2008, Arcadia

The annual safety morning will be held at the Turner Exhibition Hall in Arcadia on March 12. The program will begin with registration at 7:00 AM and the program at 7:30 AM. The event will conclude at 11:00 AM. The program will cover various topics including: worker protection standards handler training; farm electrical safety; equipment safety (ATV and tractor); farm safety (snakes, bites and

stings); and PPE – heat stress, clothing, respirator, hearing, and eye and hand protection.

To register for the safety morning, please see the enclosed registration form. CEUs will be offered to pesticide license holders.

Greening Tour, March 13, 2008

A greening bus tour will be conducted on Thursday, March 13, 2008 to visit groves with significant greening in the Clewiston area in south Florida. The purpose of the tour is to show you first hand the devastation that can be caused by greening and its impact on yield. The event will visit several groves where greening was discovered in late 2005 or early 2006. The grove management team has been very active in psyllid management, scouting, and tree removal of positive trees since 2006. The grove managers will be present to answer questions about their control programs.

The charter bus will depart on Thursday, March 13 promptly at 7:30 AM from the Hardee County Extension Service Office, 507 Civic Center Drive, Wauchula and at 8:15 AM from the DeSoto County Extension Office, 2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia. The Extension Service Office in Wauchula is at the Agri Civic Center just north of Hardee Senior High School. The DeSoto County Extension Service is located across the street from the DeSoto Senior High

School. The tour will return to Arcadia around 6:00 PM and then to Wauchula around 6:30 PM. The cost to participate in the tour is \$20.00 per person which will offset the cost for the bus. A catered lunch will be provided. Registration will be limited to the capacity of the single bus at 58. Reservations will be on a first to register basis. Travel in private vehicles will not be permitted. To register, please contact the Hardee County Extension Service Office at 863-773-2164. Payment in the amount of \$20.00 per person is required and can be mailed to the Citrus Advisory Committee at 507 Civic Center Drive, Wauchula, FL 33873-9460 or brought to the event. However, pre-registration is essential. The participation fee is non-refundable and in the event of cancellation, payment is still required to cover the bus rental fees.

Worker Protection Standards – Train-the-Trainer, March 10, 2008, Wauchula

A training session will be conducted from 3:00 PM until 4:45 PM at the Extension Service Office in Wauchula on March 10, 2008. The session will cover the worker protection standards (WPS) information required under the rule to train employees as a pesticide handler or workers.

Please remember that all pesticide handlers must be trained prior to handling tasks. Employees that are classified as workers must be trained within five days of working in areas that have had pesticides applied within the last 30 days. All employees must be retrained every five years.

To register for the class, please call the Extension Service Office in Wauchula. A registration fee of \$5.00 per person is required.

Two continuing education units (CEUs) will be offered to individuals with restricted use pesticide licenses in the private, ag tree, row crop and ornamental and turf categories.

Bees and Bloom

In your effort to control citrus psyllid, or any pest, you need to remember to refer to the pesticide product label for use requirements as well as restrictions or prohibitions. These restrictions are very important to follow as violation in chemical application can be prosecuted via the legal system.

Colony collapse disorder (CCD) is of great concern to beekeepers in Florida and worldwide. Beekeepers are reporting the sudden loss of adult bees in their colonies – few, if any, adult bees are found in or near the dead colonies. Queen and baby (brood) bees remain in the colonies, but the adults are not returning to provide food, so the colonies collapse or die. Over 22 U.S. states reported significant colony losses in the fall of 2006. Similar reports are coming from Europe as well. Researchers are considering viruses, bacteria, fungi, weather, food loss, and other stresses as possible causes.

Chemical toxins in the environment are one of the possible causes of CCD. Another chemically-oriented theory is that toxins in the environment are responsible for CCD. Because pesticides are used widely in cropping systems in an effort to kill herbivorous insects, one is left to consider the potential for non-target chemical effects on foraging bees. In addition to being exposed to toxins while foraging, honey bees also may encounter toxins by drinking water contaminated with chemical runoff, encountering various chemicals (household, commercial, etc.) through contact outside of the hive, or via direct inhalation.

Over the last several years, a number of issues have arisen related to pesticide applications and potential damage to honey bees. With colony collapse disorder (CCD) being a major issue within the bee industry, any action that causes or may cause mortality to bees needs to be closely monitored.

Attached to the newsletter is a table that was developed by Dr. Michael Rogers which lists the insecticides and miticides and their possible effects on different pests and beneficial insects. Information sources:

http://pestalert.ifas.ufl.edu/Colony_Collapse_Disorder.htm

<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/plantinsp/ccd.html>

New Greening (HLB) Testing Lab Open in Immokalee

An additional testing lab for greening samples is now accepting growers' samples. The lab is located at the University of Florida's Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee. The lab will have most of the same sample submission requirements as the current lab in Clewiston.

For information on submitting samples, please see their web site at <http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/hlb/> or contact them at 239-658-3400.

Citrus Industry Update

The Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred publishes a newsletter on citrus canker and greening about every eight weeks. The newsletter can be accessed from the web at:

<http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/publications/ciu/index.htm>. If you wish to be placed on the electronic newsletter list, please contact the newsletter editor at canker-greeningupdates@crec.ifas.ufl.edu. Please provide them with your name, email address, company name and telephone number. The newsletter is free and sent electronically.

Nutrition of Florida Citrus Trees, Publication Revision

Nutrition of Florida Citrus Trees has been revised and is now available in limited quantities from most Extension Offices in citrus producing counties. The publication was edited by Drs. Obreza and Morgan and is a revision of the first edition published in 1995. This updated publication reflects changes in fertilizer recommendations and nutrient best management practices (BMPs) in addition to four new chapters addressing soil characteristics, precision agriculture, irrigation and nutrient management, and various environmental issues. Please contact me or your local Extension Office for a copy of the nutrient publication.

Citrus Health Response Plan Update

The Florida Department of Agriculture has posted an updated version of their citrus health response program (CHRP) on their web site. The revision can be found at:

http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/chrp/images/chrp_updates.pdf.

The CHRP plan addresses issues related to citrus canker and greening and has requirements for citrus growers, harvesters, processors, packers, nurseries and fresh fruit movement. If you have questions about CHRP, please call the Department of Agriculture at 863-298-7777.

Dates to remember

March 10	Train-the-Trainer, Wauchula
March 12	Safety Morning, Arcadia
March 13	Greening Tour, Clewiston
April 8	Greening Summit, Avon Park

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Futch

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Enc: Greening Summit Agenda
Safety Morning Registration Form
Pest Control Table