

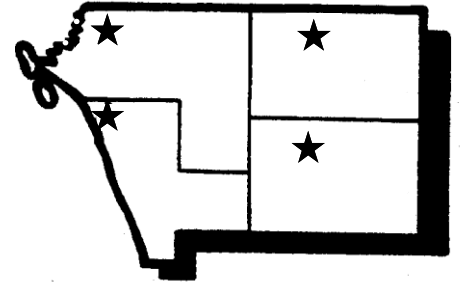
## West Central Citrus Letter

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  
6700 Clark Road  
Sarasota FL 34241  
941/861-9900



**February 9, 2015**

### **Safety Morning, March 10, 2015**

The annual "Safety Morning" will be held at the Turner AgriCivic Center in Arcadia on Tuesday, March 10. The program will begin at 7:00 AM with registration and the safety presentations will begin at 7:30 AM. The program will conclude around 11:30 AM.

Topics for the annual safety event include: Worker Protection Standards handler training, first aide, general farm safety, PPE, equipment safety, and understanding the pesticide label.

Preregistration is requested prior to Feb. 27. Please see the attached flyer for a full list of topics, times and registration requirements. Classes will be conducted in English and Spanish, thus be sure to note which class (English or Spanish) you want the participants to attend.

### **HLB Grower Day, March 12, 2015**

A grower meeting will be held on Thursday March 12, 2015 from 9:00am to 12:00pm at the UF-IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL to present salient points conveyed at the IRCHLB IV conference. Lunch will be served. Please register via email to [clarkb@flcitrusmutual.com](mailto:clarkb@flcitrusmutual.com).

### **Sivanto – New Insecticide for Use in Controlling Asian Citrus Psyllids**

Sivanto (flupyradifurone), a broad-spectrum insecticide for the control of Asian citrus psyllid and other insects has received Florida Department of Agriculture approval and labeled for use in Florida citrus. Sivanto has a 4 hour restricted entry interval

(REI) and a 1 day pre harvest interval (PHI). It belongs to a new class of chemicals known as Butenolides. When applied to the foliage it is translaminar through the leaf tissue, moving from point of contact to the leaf tip. Sivanto has been shown to not be toxic to bees through contact exposure. Field studies conducted with the product have shown no effect to honeybee colony development.

Application rates of 10.5 to 14 fluid ounces of product per acre are recommended with a maximum application rate of 28 fluid ounces per year. Sivanto should not be applied within 10 days of the previous application. In Florida, Sivanto can be applied in a spray solution of as little as 2.5 gallons per acre by ground equipment and 2 gallons by air.

When selecting any pesticide, be sure to read the entire label and follow all label directions.

### **Post-Bloom Fruit Drop**

Post-Bloom Fruit Drop (PFD) was first reported in Florida back in about 1983 and the last major outbreak was in the 1990s. It was reported in citrus groves throughout Florida in the spring of 2014.

PFD spores are produced on the surface of infected petals and spread by rain-splashed, wind dispersed rain to healthy flowers. Citrus trees having multiple or bouquet blooms seem to promote rapid disease development under wet or raining conditions. Thus far, this winter seems to be providing ideal conditions for disease development due to our frequent rains and expected prolonged bloom period.

When identifying PFD, look for orange colored lesion on flower petals. When flowers are infected,

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fruit and petals fall leaving the button on the tree for up to 18 months. PFD spores remain dormant until flowering on the buttons, leaves and twigs as they serve as an inoculum source for future infection. Leaves around the effected buttons can be slightly distorted.

Varieties that show the greatest susceptibility are Navel and Valencia oranges with Hamlin and tangerines being somewhat less susceptible. However, all citrus varieties are susceptible to PFD.

Control options include applications of fungicides that include the strobilurin products (Abound, Gem, and Headline) and have limited residual effect, thus requiring multiple applications during bloom if environmental conditions are favorable for spore development. Mixing the strobilurin products with Ferbam improves effectiveness but Ferbam is in short supply this spring season. Products like spray oil, fosetyl-al, copper, urea, oxidate and phosphites do not provide control against PFD.

When spraying to control PFD, multiple sprays will be required. The time between applications will vary based upon the infection level, status of the bloom, frequency of rain and time since the last application. Sprays at 30 day intervals are too far apart to provide sufficient control. For more information on timing of sprays, a computer based model can be found at <http://pfd.ifas.ufl.edu/> to provide guidance on application frequency.

To adequately control PFD you must be proactive and scout the groves twice per week and react quickly. Additional information on PFD can be found in the Florida Citrus Pest Management Guide, (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/cg007>), or the December 2014 issue of *Citrus Industry* magazine.

## Greasy Spot

Greasy spot is caused by the fungus *Mycosphaerella citri*. Greasy spot is more severe on leaves of grapefruit, pineapple, Hamlin and tangelos than on Valencia, Temple and Murcott varieties.

The airborne ascospores produced in decomposing leaf litter on the grove floor serve as the primary inoculum source. Warm humid nights and high rainfall promote infection and disease development in the early summer. The spores are ejected in May-July under normal conditions but with micro sprinkler irrigation, the wetting of the leaves in April-May will cause an earlier spore release.

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The time to assess the level of greasy spot infection is during the late winter (January-February) as this is the time when the largest amount of infected leaves will fall from the trees. These fallen leaves will serve as an inoculum source for future infection beginning in the early summer.

To control greasy spot, properly timed sprays would be required beginning as early as May-June with a second spray in July-August depending on the grove location within Florida. Spray timing and frequency will be impacted by disease level, variety and environmental conditions.

## Citrus Pest Management Guides

The 2015 Florida Citrus Pest Management Guide is available at the local county extension offices in Wauchula, Arcadia and Palmetto. If you need a copy, stop by one of the offices and pick up your free copy. The offices will not mail copies due to mailing costs.

## Citrus Publications

Technology has changed the way we communicate and relay information. Current fact sheets and magazine publications for the citrus industry are just a click away and can be found at [http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/trade\\_journals/](http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/trade_journals/)

## Dates to Remember in 2015:

Feb. 17, 24, March 3	Citrus Production School, Arcadia, 7-9 PM
March 10	Safety Morning, Arcadia, 7:30 - 11:30 AM
March 12	HLB Grower Day, CREC, Lake Alfred
April 7	Citrus Growers Institute, Avon Park

Sincerely,



Stephen H. Futch, Ph.D.  
Extension Agent, Multi-County  
Office: 863-956-8644  
Email: shf@ufl.edu

Enc.: Citrus Production School