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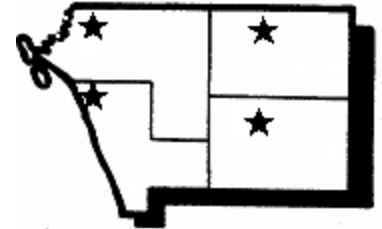
# West Central Citrus Letter

DeSoto Extension Service  
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863/993-4846

Hardee Extension Service  
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863/773-2164

Manatee Extension Service  
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941/316-1000



January 2, 2006

## Citrus Production School, January 31, February 7 & 14, 2006

The annual citrus production school will be conducted in Arcadia on January 31, February 7 and 14, 2006.

Topics in this year's production school will include the following:

- \* Citrus Canker - factors and practices to consider about the disease.
- \* Developing programs to assure disease-free citrus nursery trees.
- \* Citrus greening - understanding this new disease and its identification in field situations.
- \* Controlling citrus psyllid - a vector of citrus greening.
- \* Understanding what happens in an ag use inspection by the Fla. Department of Agriculture.
- \* Citrus BMP cost share opportunities.

Each program session will be conducted from 7:00 to 9:00 PM in Arcadia. The first two evening sessions of the school will be held at the Turner Center Exhibition Hall with the third and final class being conducted at the South Florida Community College.

To register for the production school, please see the enclosed registration form and return by mail prior to January 24, 2006.

CEUs for both the restricted use pesticide and certified crop advisory licenses have been requested.

## Water Quality and Quantity BMP Program, January 18, 2006

A citrus and vegetable water quality and quantity BMP meeting will be held on January 18, 2006 at the Turner Center Exhibition Hall in Arcadia from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Topics discussed will include: water use regulations; total maximum daily loads (TMDLs); BMP rules; presumption of compliance; BMPs for flatwood and ridge soils; and water use permits.

The program will include a sponsored lunch. To register, please contact the DeSoto County Extension Service Office at 863-993-4846 prior to January 12, 2006. The enclosed program flier provides a complete listing of topics and speakers.

## Restricted Use Pesticide License Review & Testing, January 19, 2006

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be held on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> 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. Pre-registration is requested by January 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Water Resources BMP Program, February 8, 2006, Arcadia**

A citrus BMP water resource program will be conducted at the DeSoto County Extension Service Office in Arcadia on February 8 beginning at 9:00 AM. Topics discussed will include irrigation management, water use requirements, water table monitoring and cost share opportunities. A sponsored lunch will be provided at 12 noon. The program will also be conducted at the Indian River Research & Education Center in Ft. Pierce on February 7. CEUs have been requested for both the restricted use pesticide license as well as certified crop advisors. To register, please contact the DeSoto County Extension Service Office at 863-993-4846.

### **Indian River Citrus Seminar, January 24, 25, 2006, Ft. Pierce**

On Tuesday, January 24, 2006, the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds will once again bustle with activity, as growers and grove owners from the tri-county areas gather together for the 59th annual Indian River Citrus Seminar. The 2 day long seminar will be held at our St. Lucie County Fairground facilities on January 24 & 25, and will provide educational training and expertise to Citrus Industry Leaders. Show Times: 9:00 AM - 4:15 PM on January 24 and 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM on January 25, 2006.

This year's seminar will follow the topic, "Still Alive, Whether Canker or Weather We Will Survive". CEU's and CCA credits available both days to attendees at the seminar. For more information, please contact the St. Lucie County Extension Service Office in Ft. Pierce at 772-462-1660.

### **Flower Bud Induction Overview and Advisory**

Each year, Dr. Gene Albrigo post data related to cool winter weather accumulation (temperatures

below 68 degrees F) and its impact on flowering potential for the next few weeks as well as for the season. These reports can be found at: <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/flowerbud>.

In his advisory, Dr. Albrigo will report on the potential of using urea or PO3 sprays to enhance bloom as well as factors affecting tree dormancy.

### **Citrus Leaf Freezing Temperature**

Chris Oswalt, Extension Agent in Polk County is conducting a study using citrus leaf freezing information to determine critical temperature for citrus. The weekly data is being posted from ten sites around Florida and includes a site from Wauchula and Arcadia.

As the season progresses, it is anticipated that the leaf freezing temperatures will decrease as the trees acclimate to the winter temperatures. To view the posted data, please visit:

[http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/scripts/crit\\_temp\\_select\\_guide.asp](http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/scripts/crit_temp_select_guide.asp).

The data from the leaf freezing study can be very valuable in determining when and how to best utilize irrigation for cold protection as well as when to shut off the irrigation after a freeze event.

### **FAWN Weather Tower in Arcadia**

Weather information is currently available for local area locations in Ona and Arcadia via the FAWN (Florida Automated Weather Network) via the internet. The weather sites provide the following data: air temperature at 2, 6, and 30 feet; dew point, percent relative humidity, wind speed in miles per hour and wind direction. The data from Arcadia as well as other sites around the state can be viewed by connecting to the FAWN site at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

In the near future, the data will also be available by calling a toll free phone number (866-754-5732) and entering the station identification number. The station identification numbers are 380 for Ona and 490 for Arcadia.

The data on FAWN is very useful in developing strategies to be utilized when using cold protection operations.

**Need Analysis Survey for Precision Agriculture Education**

Dr. Reza Ehsani, Assistant Professor at the CREC is conducting a need analysis survey for precision agriculture for Florida agriculture operations and would appreciate your participation. The survey will only take about five minutes of your time and will aid in developing needed programs and educational materials in precision agriculture based upon participants' feed back. All information will be kept confidential to the extent provided by law. To participate in the survey, please go to: <http://www.zoomerange.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB224TQLVHJJF> .

If you have questions about the survey, please contact Dr. Ehsani at 863-956-1151 extension 1228 or by email at [Ehsani@ufl.edu](mailto:Ehsani@ufl.edu) .

**Dates to Remember:**January & February 2006:

- Jan. 18 Best Management Practices for Peace River and Manasota Basin Citrus & Vegetable Growers, Arcadia
- Jan. 19 Restricted Use Pesticide License Review & Testing, Wauchula
- Jan. 23, 24 Indian River Citrus Seminar, Ft. Pierce
- Jan. 31, Feb. 7, 14  
Citrus Production School, Arcadia
- Feb. 8 Water Resource BMP Program, Arcadia

Sincerely

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enc: \*Citrus Production School Program  
\*Best Management Practices for Peace River & Manasota Basin Program