



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION

West Central Citrus Letter

DeSoto Extension Service

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Hardee Extension Service

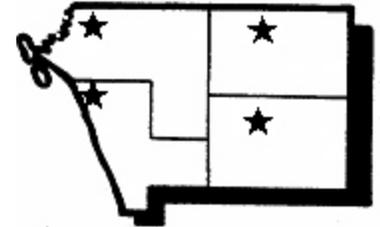
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January 2, 2008

Citrus Production School, February 5, 12, 19, 2008

The annual citrus production school will be held on Tuesday evenings, February 5, 12 and 19, 2008. The first two meetings (Feb. 5 & 12) will be held at the Turner Exhibition Hall and the third meeting (Feb. 19) will be at the South Florida Community College, both of which are in Arcadia. Each session will begin at 7:00 PM and conclude at 9:00 PM. This year's topics will center on issues related to canker, greening and citrus nutrition.

For a full listing of topics, speakers, and to register, please see the enclosed registration form. Registration is \$25.00 per person and is requested prior to January 28, 2008.

Continuing education units (CEUs) have been requested for both the restricted use pesticide in the private and ag tree crop categories and certified crop advisors licenses.

We would like to thank Dow AgroSciences for providing assistance with offsetting part of the meeting expenses.

Citrus Greening

With each newsletter it seems I have mentioned issues related to greening and psyllid management. This newsletter is no different than past issues.

Growers must survey their groves to determine greening infection levels within a given location. The

cool winter period is an optimum time to conduct these surveys. Surveys can be conducted by walking, riding on ATVs or on elevated platforms. The efficiency of each method will be affected by tree size and height.

Of the growers I visit with, many are indicating that the level of trees found to exhibit symptoms of greening remains very low in most locations. However at some locations, growers are finding a significant number of positive trees. The worst thing that can be done is to do nothing. Growers must fight this greening battle aggressively if they wish to remain in a profitable situation within the Florida citrus industry.

Regardless of your location in Florida, it should be assumed that you either have greening positive trees within your grove or will have some trees positive within the very near future. The only way to fully understand the greening level within your grove is to actively survey your property. Once greening is found in your grove, it is suggested that you remove the greening positive trees to minimize its spread with time.

Earlier recommendations remain the same in that it is suggested that psyllid management programs are also essential to suppressing the spread of the disease. A key psyllid management program should consider applications of pesticide or pesticides to suppress the psyllid population in the late winter.

This dormant or winter application will reduce the populations prior to spring allowing that flush to emerge and mature prior to the development of higher psyllid populations.

If you are unsure of what greening looks like or need assistance with training workers to find greening symptoms, please contact me and I will be more than happy to visit your location to answer questions or assist in any way possible. Greening must be taken as a serious and real threat to the Florida citrus industry.

Greening Sample Submission

Growers can submit samples of suspect greening tissue to determine if the plant material is positive for greening to the Southern Gardens Diagnostic Lab in Clewiston. This testing procedure is at no expense to the grower. Prior to submitting samples, the grower will need to complete some forms and follow specific submission procedures. These testing procedures and forms can be found on Florida Citrus Mutual's web site at:

http://www.flcitrusmutual.com/content/docs/issues/canker/sg_samplingform.pdf.

When samples are submitted, it is recommended that they be sent via FedEx or UPS overnight delivery. Delivery should be scheduled to assure delivery early in the week and not sent over the weekend period.

Pest Managers Group

Challenges within the citrus industry are greater today as we learn more about management control strategies for citrus greening (huanglongbing) and the Asian citrus psyllid.

Some topics for discussion at the upcoming meetings most likely will include: GPS mapping, data management, greening symptomatology, and insecticide efficacy of various products to control psyllids. Additionally, one important idea which will be discussed is grower trials. Orange-Co has determined to conduct a number of trials and some of these trials should be replicated at additional sites to gain a greater understanding of production options. Some of the trials currently being discussed at Orange-Co are open hydroponics, nutritional supplements, and insecticide fogging applications.

If you would like more information about the Pest Managers Group or the upcoming meeting, please

contact Shawron Weingarten at Orange-Co in Arcadia at 863-494-4939 or via email at SWeingarten@orangecofla.com.

Worker Protection Standards, Train-the-Trainer Training, January 16, 2008

A training session will be conducted from 3:00 PM until 4:45 PM at the Extension Service Office in Arcadia on January 16, 2008. The session will cover the worker protection standards (WPS) information required under the rule to train employees as a pesticide handler or worker.

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 Arcadia at 863-993-4846. 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 and row crop and ornamental and turf categories.

Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, February 13, 2008

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 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 that have a current pesticide license and will be renewing using CEUs. 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 prior to February 6, 2008.

Flower Bud Advisory

Each year Dr. Gene Albrigo provides information related to flower bud induction and provides the information via a web site at the Citrus Research & Education Center. These advisories are updated throughout the winter season.

His report in December indicated that the 2007-08 winter is supposed to be a La Niña winter with warmer and dryer than normal weather, average or better cool temperature accumulation can occur if warm periods do not interrupt the accumulation process. Unfortunately so far, this year is behaving like an average La Niña winter.

Even though cool temperature accumulation is lower than last year, the trees will have reached induction levels at the end of this cool period that make the buds very vulnerable to stimulation of bud growth by a warm period. A week with daytime highs in the mid-80s would probably promote growth of the terminal-most 2 to 3 buds.

His advisory provides a number of options that growers should consider to enhance flowering in the spring of 2008. If you have questions regarding the advisories, please contact Dr. Albrigo at albrigo@ufl.edu. His advisories can be viewed at <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/flowerbud/2007/>.

Web Based Greening Information

Greening information can be found on a number of web sites hosted by the University of Florida, Florida Department of Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture, and Florida Citrus Mutual. The web sites are as follows:

<http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/greening/index.htm>

<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/chrp/greening/citrusgreening.html>

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=7376>

<http://www.flcitrusmutual.com/content/interior.asp?section=issues&body=greening.htm>

If you are unable to access the information, please let me know and I will be glad to provide you with printed copies of requested information.

Citrus Grower Trip to Brazil

The Extension Service will be planning another citrus tour to Brazil in 2008. This tour will be similar to the trips that were conducted in April and July 2007. Each tour is limited to 15 participants. The group will depart from Miami for a direct flight to Sao Paulo, Brazil. The entire week will be spent visiting citrus groves, meeting with growers and research agencies with a major emphasis on programs related citrus greening. It is anticipated the cost for the airfare, ground transportation and hotels to be in the range of \$2,500 to \$3,000 per person based upon a single room. The 7-day trip will depart from Miami on a Saturday and return to Florida on the following Saturday morning. Departure from Orlando will be at a slightly higher cost of around \$200 per person. The tour will be either in May or July 2008.

For more information on the tour and locations visited, please contact Steve Futch at the Citrus Research & Education Center in Lake Alfred or by email at shf@crec.ifas.ufl.edu.

Dates to remember:

Jan. 16, 2008 -- Worker Protection Standards, Train-the-Trainer, Arcadia

Feb. 5, 12, 19, 2008 -- Citrus Production School, Arcadia

Feb. 13, 2008 -- Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, Wauchula

Wishing you a prosperous New Year,

Stephen H. Futch, Ph.D.

Extension Agent, Multi-County, Citrus

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Enc: Citrus Production School Registration Form