

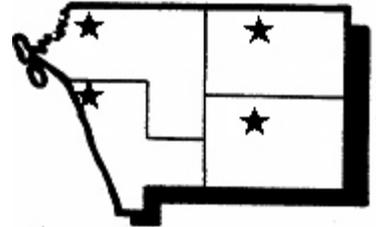
# West Central Citrus Letter

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  
941/316-1000



**November 5, 2007**

## **Greening Field Day, December 5, Arcadia**

The Extension Service will conduct a citrus greening identification field day, Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> in Arcadia. The purpose is to allow growers to test their skills in identifying and finding greening positive trees in an actual grove. The event will begin at 9:30 AM by meeting at the front gate at OrangeCo which is located on Hwy 70 east of Arcadia. In the event of a large number of participants, the group may be divided into a morning and afternoon session.

At the grove entrance, the group will then travel to the selected block. Once at the block, the participants will be allowed to walk down four rows to see if they can identify the greening positive trees. Each row will have every fifth tree numbered to make it easier to record the positive trees. After completing the inspection, information will be provided as to the tree and row number for all identified trees.

If you wish to participate in the field day, please contact the Extension Service Office in Arcadia at 863-993-4846 to make reservations for the field day.

## **Psyllid Control**

Many citrus growers successfully used aldicarb (Temik), a soil applied systemic material, for the control of psyllids during the spring growing season in groves containing mature trees. The control of psyllids is an important task in successfully suppressing the spread of greening. Failure to control greening's vector, the Asian citrus psyllid, will greatly limit the ability to suppress the spread of greening with time.

It is anticipated that with the high demand for the aldicarb this application season (November – April), it would be wise to begin discussions with your chemical supplier and applicator to schedule your application. With the higher demand and limited number of applicators, the application scheduling may be limited during the more ideal application season.

Psyllid control in mature citrus groves tended to be better when the material was applied prior to the spring dry season. Applications that were applied and then received little or no rain did not perform as well as the applications that were applied earlier in the application season and were activated in the soil by sufficient rain. Even with low volume microsprinkler irrigation systems, the irrigation coverage area may be insufficient, in many cases, to wet the entire chemical application area, thus not obtaining the desired psyllid control.

In addition to the use of aldicarb, many growers applied an application of one of the registered pesticides for adult psyllid control during the winter season. This application suppressed the over wintering psyllid population. By reducing psyllid numbers in the winter prior to spring flush, overall psyllid numbers were reduced in the spring as compared to areas that were not sprayed during the winter period.

Products for the control of adult psyllids include: Danitol, Provado, Lorsban, Dimethoate, Carbaryl, Metasystox R, Assail and the higher rate of Agri-mek.

**Application of Precision Agriculture for Fruits and Vegetables, January 6-9, 2008, Orlando, FL**

The first International Symposium on Application of Precision Agriculture for Fruits and Vegetables will be held from January 6 to 9, 2008 at the Regal Sun Resort in Orlando, Florida. During the symposium, research and review reports regarding virtually all aspects of applications of precision agriculture and cutting-edge technology in fruits and vegetable production will be presented in the form of oral and poster sessions with 5 keynote speakers. A total of 45 oral presentations and 25 poster presentations will be offered during the conference. For details of the program and list and topic of speakers, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.precisionag2008.com/monday.htm>  
Registration is \$320 for members and \$370 for non members of the society. Hotel reservations are required prior to December 7, 2008.

For more information or to register, visit the meeting website at:

<http://www.PrecisionAg2008.com> or contact: Reza Ehsani at (863) 956-1151 ext. 1228, e-mail [ehsani@ufl.edu](mailto:ehsani@ufl.edu).

**Citrus Greening/Pest Managers Advisory Group**

A new citrus group is forming that works in the area of citrus greening and pest management. The group will meet about four times per year to discuss issues related to greening, survey techniques, and pest management. The next meeting of the group will be in late January. If you would like more information on this new group, please contact Shawron Weingarten at OrangeCo in Arcadia at:

[SWeingarten@orangecofla.com](mailto:SWeingarten@orangecofla.com).

**Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, December 3, 2007**

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be held on Monday, December 3, 2007 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 which 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 November 26, 2007.

**Worker Protection Standards, Train-the-Trainer Training, December 10, 2007**

A training session will be conducted from 3:00 PM until 4:45 PM at the Extension Service Office in Wauchula on Monday, December 10, 2007. 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 at 863-773-2164. A registration fee of \$5.00 per person is required.

Two continuing education units (CEUs) will be requested from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

**Florida's Minimum Wage**

Florida's minimum wage is \$6.79 per hour, effective January 1, 2008. This is up from the \$6.67 per hour minimum wage in 2007. On November 2, 2004, Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment which created Florida's minimum wage. The minimum wage applies to all employees in the state who are covered by the federal minimum wage. Florida law requires the Agency for Workforce Innovation to calculate a new minimum wage each year and publish the new minimum wage on January 1. The current minimum wage represents a 1.85 percent change in the federal consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers in the South Region for the 12-month period prior to September 1, 2007. Florida's minimum wage is \$.94 more than the current federal minimum wage of \$5.85.

In deciding whether the federal or state minimum wage applies, federal law directs that businesses must pay the higher of the two. The Florida minimum wage will prevail over the federal rate until such time as the federal minimum wage becomes higher than the state rate.

Employers must pay their employees the hourly state minimum wage for all hours worked in Florida. The definitions of "employer," "employee" and "wage" for state purposes are the same as those established under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Employers of "tipped employees" who meet eligibility requirements for the tip credit under the FLSA, may count tips actually received as wages under the FLSA. However, the employer must pay "tipped employees" a direct wage. The direct wage is calculated as equal to the minimum wage (\$6.79) minus the 2003 tip credit (\$3.02), or a direct hourly wage of \$3.77 as of January 1, 2008.

Employees who are not paid the minimum wage may bring a civil action against the employer or any person violating Florida's minimum wage law. The state attorney general may also bring an enforcement action to enforce the minimum wage. FLSA information and compliance assistance can be found at: <http://www.dol.gov/dol/compliance/comp-flsa.htm>.

Florida Statutes require employers who must pay their employees the Florida minimum wage to post a minimum wage notice in a conspicuous and accessible place in each establishment where these employees work. This poster requirement is in addition to the federal requirement to post a notice of the federal minimum wage. Florida's minimum wage poster is available for downloading in English and Spanish from the Agency for Workforce Innovation's website at: [http://www.floridajobs.org/resources/fl\\_min\\_wage.html](http://www.floridajobs.org/resources/fl_min_wage.html). The federal poster can be downloaded from the U.S. Department of Labor website at: <http://www.dol.gov/esa/regs/compliance/posters/flsa.htm>.

On May 25, 2007, President George W. Bush signed legislation increasing the federal minimum wage. The new federal minimum wage increases in a three-step process as follows:

\$5.85 – July 24, 2007

\$6.55 – July 24, 2008

\$7.25 – July 24, 2009

**Source:** State of Florida, Agency for Workforce Innovation.

### Florida Automated Weather Network

The Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) (<http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/>) is pleased to announce the release of its new-and-improved internet site. The site has been completely overhauled with a new user interface, database, and web and data servers. The

entire FAWN database has been updated to a new, more standardized and efficient format. All this, operating on new servers monitored 24/7 by UF personnel, will provide the user with faster, more reliable access to FAWN data, tools, and other resources. The site has added several new tools for both commercial agricultural producers.

When you access the site, many tools are available for agricultural operations. These tools including: cold protection, evapotranspiration (ET), citrus irrigation, and more.

Weather data is available for more than 30 sites around the state. Local weather sites include Ona, Arcadia, Frostproof, Sebring, Balm and more.

### La Niña Impacts on Agriculture in the Southeast

A La Niña watch has been issued by the Southeast Climate Consortium and the state climatologists of Alabama, Florida and Georgia. A watch means that conditions are likely for the development of a full-fledged La Niña event. Latest forecasts indicate a 65% chance that a La Niña will develop compared to 34% for neutral and 1% for El Niño events.

La Niña conditions usually bring warmer and drier fall and winter seasons (October through March) to Florida, central and lower Alabama and central and southern Georgia. La Niña events in 1999 and 2000 and more recently in early 2006, were associated with an increase in forest fires across Florida and Georgia. La Niña is also known to be associated with an active tropical hurricane season.

Now is a good opportunity to review some of the implications that La Niña has on our agricultural industry. Links to more detailed discussions are available at Agclimate.org (<http://www.agclimate.org/>) or UF-EDIS (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>) and UGA publications available online.

**Source:** Southeast Climate Consortium, Clyde Fraise.

### EQIP Application Deadline is November 13<sup>th</sup>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service has a conservation program that can help farmers and ranchers pay for conservation practices that prevent erosion, improve water quality, and provide habitat for wildlife.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a key program under the 2002 Farm Bill that provides federal cost-share funds to working farms and ranches for conservation improvements. The 2008

EQIP application period will remain open until November 13, 2007.

EQIP provides incentive payments and cost-share funds to private agricultural and livestock producers to implement conservation practices. It promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. Like all NRCS programs, participation is voluntary.

It is extremely important for producers to note that the application deadline for the 2008 Program Year is November 13<sup>th</sup>. The early deadline is a continuing effort to improve the funding process. The accelerated program cut-off date will allow producers time to complete practices during the first years of their contracts. The earlier application deadline date will also help accommodate field work in preparation for fall projects.

The accelerated process makes early contact with the NRCS staff more important than ever. NRCS would encourage farmers and ranchers to come in and visit with local field staff now. We know that producers that get in early have more time to resolve certain program or land eligibility issues.

As with all NRCS programs, EQIP is a voluntary program that is intended to yield high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

For more information on the 2008 EQIP program, contact your local NRCS District Conservationist for Manatee and Sarasota counties by calling 941-907-0011.

### **Operation Cleansweep for Pesticides**

Operation Cleansweep is a mobile collection program that provides agricultural producers a safe and economical method of disposing of cancelled, suspended and unusable pesticides. Proper disposal can be expensive and places a regulatory burden on small agricultural producers and dealers. Operation Cleansweep offers an opportunity to avoid these

barriers and to promote safe and environmentally sound pesticide use, handling and disposal. Operation Cleansweep was initiated in 1995 with the major objective of collecting lead arsenate, a widely used pesticide in Florida citrus production, but banned for use by the EPA in 1978. During 1995, Operation Cleansweep collected more than 70,000 pounds of lead arsenate. Statewide surveys have identified substantial quantities of cancelled, suspended and unusable pesticides stored throughout Florida. Some of these materials have been in confinement for many years and are in containers unsuitable for proper storage. Some, such as chlordane and DDT, are no longer allowed to be used.

Operation Cleansweep provides for a contractor to come directly to a farm or pesticide application business for pickup and disposal of pesticides when there is a sufficient quantity in a defined area. There is no cost charged to those who participate in the program. For more information, call the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services by calling toll-free 877-851-5285 or email at [Cleansweep@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:Cleansweep@doacs.state.fl.us). This year's deadline for being added to the pickup list is December 15.

Cleansweep Website can also be accessed at: [www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/cleansweep-pesticides/](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/cleansweep-pesticides/).

### **Dates to remember**

Dec 3 Pesticide License Review and Testing,  
Wauchula

Dec 10 WPS Train-the-Trainer, Wauchula

Sincerely,

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