

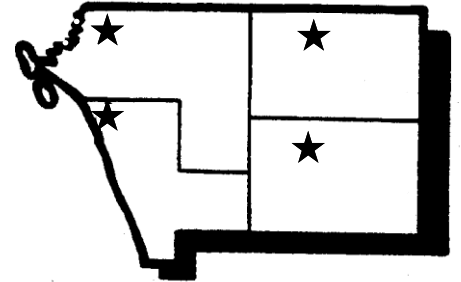
## West Central Citrus Letter

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



**October 5, 2015**

### **Advanced Citrus Production Systems Field Day, October 29 (Thursday)**

The Advanced Citrus Production Systems Field Day will be conducted at the Citrus Research & Education Center on Thursday, October 29. The purpose of the field day is to demonstrate novel integrated approaches for sustainable citrus production in HLB-endemic environments.

Topics covered during the program will include citrus undercover production systems (CUPS), whole tree thermotherapy, high density planting, scion and rootstock varieties, canopy pruning, drip fertigation, autonomous spraying vehicle, and economics of the CUPS systems.

You can register by any of the following methods:

- Online at:  
<https://acpsfieldday2015.eventbrite.com> .
- Fax, mail, or send a scanned copy of the registration form that is at the bottom of the enclosed flyer as noted.
- Call Sarah White at 863-956-8632.

Please note that the program is limited to the first 80 people that register for the program.

### **Rootstock Field Day, November 10 (Tuesday)**

A citrus rootstock field day will be conducted on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM to

showcase UF-IFAS rootstock trials being conducted cooperatively with A. Duda & Sons. The field day will be located at A. Duda & Sons farm which is about 8 miles south of LaBelle on Hwy. 29 and north of Immokalee.

The field day will feature:

1. A rootstock trial of closely spaced, intensively managed Valencia trees in their 6<sup>th</sup> year;
2. A young Vernia trial with 48 rootstock candidates;
3. The new CRDF sponsored rootstock trial with HLB tolerant candidates; and
4. HLB-tolerant Sugar Belle® ‘LB8-9’ trees in commercial production.

Presentations will be made by Dr. Jude Grosser and Joby Sherrod.

Pre-registration is required by calling 863-674-4092 or by sending an e-mail to Dr. Mongi Zekri at [maz@ufl.edu](mailto:maz@ufl.edu) .

### **Operation Cleansweep 2015-16**

The Florida Department of Agriculture is conducting the statewide pesticide pick-up. The first 750 pounds of pesticide will be picked up at your farm for free. Any amount in excess of the first 750 pounds will be disposed of at a contract rate. For more information on the program, please see the attached flyer.

### Citrus Budwood Annual Report

The 2014-15 Annual Report is available from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and is available at:

[http://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/62638/1423875/2015\\_Annual\\_Report\\_PDF.pdf](http://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/62638/1423875/2015_Annual_Report_PDF.pdf).

This report is full of lots of interesting information. A very interesting table regarding rootstock use is on page 27 of the report. This table lists rootstock use for the 2014-15 period. The table indicates that the top 10 rootstocks by usage are: Kuharske (17.3%), X-639 (14%), Swingle (12.38%), Sour Orange (9.82%), Cleopatra (7.99%), US-802 (7.2%), US-897 (6.66%), US-942 (5.85%), US-812 (3.58%), and C-35 Citrange (3.23%). Some of the newer rootstock usage is limited by availability of seeds or plant material to make cuttings.

Please check out the report for lots of very interesting information on both variety and rootstock use in Florida.

### Value of Citrus for 4-County Area

Using the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) data that was released in late September, the on-tree value of citrus in the 4-county area of DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee, and Sarasota counties was \$121.5 million for the 28.1 million boxes of all citrus produced in those counties.

The table below shows the ranking within the State of Florida for acres and for the total amount of citrus produced in the 2014-15 season for each of the noted counties.

County	Statewide ranking in citrus acreage for the 26 citrus-producing counties	2015 Acres	Statewide ranking in boxes of citrus produced
DeSoto	2	66,302	3
Hardee	5	47,121	5
Manatee	9	16,974	8
Sarasota	21	1,197	19

### Abandoned Citrus Acres

On September 27, 2015, the USDA, NASS released their annual report on abandoned citrus acreage. The total abandoned acres for the state was down by 3% to 122,744 acres. Within our 4-county area of DeSoto (3,393 acres), Hardee (2,399 acres), Manatee (2,564 acres), and Sarasota (274 acres), the abandoned acreages total 8,630 acres.

These abandoned acres pose a risk for existing growers who are trying to control psyllid within their groves. Growers need to work collectively with neighboring properties where citrus has been abandoned to seek options to have these groves removed and thereby reduce sites for psyllids to survive and re-invest commercial groves.

### Farm Labor Contractor Training

In the last citrus newsletter, mention was made about the fall training schedule for farm labor contractors. The fall season Farm Labor Supervisor training sessions start on October 7 and run through November 24. Please contact Carlene Thissen at 239-658-3449 or [carlene@ufl.edu](mailto:carlene@ufl.edu); or Primo Garza at 239-658-3463 or [pgarza08@ufl.edu](mailto:pgarza08@ufl.edu) if you have any questions. These training sessions cover first aid, CPR, human resource compliance, contractor basics, wage and hour, bus and van safe driving, agriculture equipment safety, and pesticide safety.

### Oriental Fruit Fly Outbreak

I would assume most are aware of the oriental fruit fly outbreak in Miami-Dade County that has occurred in the last few weeks. FDACS has developed lots of information to aid in identification.

Pest alert factsheet in English can be found at: <http://freshfromflorida.s3.amazonaws.com/Media%2FFiles%2FPlant-Industry-Files%2FPest-Alerts%2FPEST+ALERT+Oriental+Fruit+Fly+2015.pdf>

Pest alert factsheet in Spanish can be found at: [http://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/62697/1424552/PEST\\_ALERT\\_Oriental\\_Fruit\\_Fly\\_2015\\_Spanish.pdf](http://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/62697/1424552/PEST_ALERT_Oriental_Fruit_Fly_2015_Spanish.pdf).

### Dates to Remember

Oct. 29           Advanced Citrus Production System Field Day, Lake Alfred  
Nov. 10           Rootstock Field Day, A. Duda & Sons, Felda

Sincerely,

*Stephen H. Futch*

Stephen H. Futch, Ph.D.  
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Email: [shf@ufl.edu](mailto:shf@ufl.edu)

Attachment: Operation Cleansweep 2015-16