

West Central Citrus Letter

DeSoto Extension Service

2150 NE Roan Street • Arcadia FL 34266
863/993-4846

Hardee Extension Service

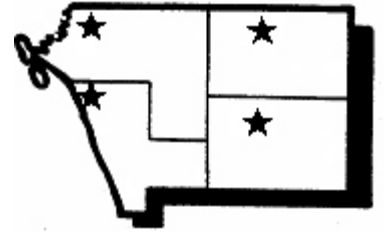
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863/773-2164

Manatee Extension Service

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September 12, 2008

Greening Program Series, Arcadia - October 8th

The citrus extension agents will be conducting a “mini-greening summit” at six locations in central and south Florida during late September and October. Each session will discuss various issues related to greening, psyllid control and management issues. In addition to greening, an update on citrus canker will also be provided. To see a full listing of topics discussed and program locations, please see the enclosed program agenda.

The session for the Wauchula and Arcadia area will be held at the Turner Exhibition Hall on October 8 in Arcadia. All sessions will begin at 10 AM and conclude at 12 noon. Two continuing education units (CEUs) for both the restricted use pesticide and certified crop advisors licenses will be provided for those who attend the session. To register for the Arcadia session, please contact the DeSoto County Extension Service office at 863-993-4846. Pre-registration is requested.

Insecticides and Miticides for Use in Citrus

Dr. Michael Rogers at the CREC has created a two-page handout that highlights products that provide control of insects and mites as well as their impact on beneficial insects. A copy of the handout is enclosed with this newsletter for your use. Copies of the handout are also available in a laminated version at many Extension Service Offices or from your local county citrus extension agent.

On the enclosed form, the left side of the table lists the selected material and then the target pest along the top of table. For each of the pests it will indicate if the material provides good control, short-term control or a low level of suppression. The table should make it easier to select specific products for the control of various citrus pests.

Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, September 22, 2008

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be held on Monday, September 22, 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 \$25.00 per person is charged to cover the study manuals and refreshments. To attend the class for only CEUs, the registration fee is \$5.00. 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.

Citrus Industry Update on Greening

The latest Citrus Industry Update developed by the Citrus Research & Education Center for August is now available on line at <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/publications/ciu/index.htm>. This newsletter highlights research updates related to greening and canker and is published every other month.

Remedy Label Change

Dow Chemical Company has recently received label changes to the Remedy Ultra product to clearly allow it to be applied to citrus tree stumps. The product label changes were approved by Florida Department of Agriculture in August 2008.

In trials I have conducted, Remedy Ultra provided excellent control of all citrus sprouts when properly applied in sufficient spray volume to cover the cut surface. Delay in application timing and/or rains may reduce efficacy of the product.

From observations in grower fields, I have noticed reduced control when the product application was delayed or incomplete coverage of the stump was made. To aid the worker in making sure complete coverage was achieved, you may want to place a chemical dye into the spray mixture. When making application to the stump, you need only to cover the cut surface. Applications that allow runoff of the product to the soil surface are unwarranted and unnecessary.

Please be sure you have an updated pesticide label in your possession when making any chemical applications. Updated labels can be obtained from your chemical distributor or from various web sites.

International HLB Conference, December 1-5, 2008

The mission of this conference is to assemble the greatest number of researchers as possible from the international research community, plus regulatory agency representatives, and commercial industry leaders with specific expertise on HLB for the express purpose to exchange the latest information, knowledge, ideas and concepts relative to HLB. The conference will provide a venue for increased international collaboration as well to deal with a disease that does not respect the political or physical

boundaries of states or countries. Invited scientists and participants will be asked to reach beyond current information, thinking, scientific disciplines, and dogma in an attempt to broaden our global knowledge, provide new researchable goals and horizons and foster progress toward new and innovative solutions to HLB.

The theme of this International Research Conference on Huanglongbing is ***Reaching Beyond Boundaries***, indicating our determination and need to reach beyond political, scientific and national boundaries in an attempt to find commercially feasible solutions to this devastating disease.

For more information on the conference, please see their web site at – http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/hlb_conference.

Agricultural Theft

With the increasing price of diesel fuel, a number of growers have been experiencing problems with fuel theft. Your local Sheriff's Agricultural Units need your help in reporting any and all crimes located at your property.

The Hardee County Sheriff's office is providing the enclosed 4-page flier to promote things you may be able to do to deter or help catch individuals that may be stealing fuel or other agricultural equipment. While the flier is from Hardee County, other Sheriff Offices are encouraging growers to implement many of the same theft deterrent practices. For more information contact your local Sheriff Office or Sgt. James Adler at 863-773-0304 ext 322 at the Hardee County Sheriff Office.

Citrus Brown Rot

With the recent heavy rains from several tropical storms, it would be wise to check your groves for citrus brown rot. While the disease can affect all citrus varieties, it is usually most severe on early maturing varieties like Hamlin and Navels. Brown rot is caused by *Phytophthora nicotianae* or *P. palmivora* and usually a localized problem that is associated with restricted air and/or water drainage. Brown rot usually appears between mid-August through October following periods of excessive and extended rainfall.

The decay on the fruit usually begins a light brown discoloration of the rind. The affected area is firm and leathery. As the disease develops, a white mycelium will form on the affected area. Fruit will have a characteristic pungent, rancid odor.

When treating for brown rot, an application of copper fungicide or Aliette in late August will provide protection. Once infection is visible, an application of copper is your best choice of control products.

Flooding Injury

With the August heavy rains some growers may find areas within their grove to be damaged by excessive water that did not properly drain from their grove. Flooding injury may be seen where the root zone was saturated for 3 or more days during the summer. Flooding in the winter will take longer to cause damage.

Symptoms of flooding injury may not be readily seen within days of the event but may take weeks or months to fully express the damage. Leaf wilting, fruit drop, twig dieback and root death may develop with time. In extreme flooding cases the entire tree may die.

To aid the trees in recovering from flooding, you should apply frequent, small amounts of irrigation as the water is depleted from the soil instead of longer, less frequent irrigation cycles. Application of various fungicides may be beneficial if it has been determined via soil samples that the soil has high propagule counts of *Phytophthora*.

Dates to remember:

- Sept. 22 Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, Wauchula
- Oct. 8 Mini Greening Summit, Arcadia
- Dec. 1-5 International HLB Conference, Orlando

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Futch

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Enc.: Ag Crime Flier
Mini Greening Summit Program
Recommended Pesticide Table