

Central Florida Fruit Production News

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Grapefruit Rootstock Survey

The Indian River Citrus League is interested in locating grapefruit groves planted on rootstocks other than sour orange or Swingle citrumelo to make observations on tree performance and response to HLB. Evaluations are needed to aid growers in assessing whether other rootstock[s] may be suited for planting in the Indian River area and elsewhere. Currently, both sour orange and Swingle citrumelo are performing less than desired and alternative rootstocks need to be evaluated to enhance productivity for future plantings.

If you have grapefruit blocks grown on other than sour orange or Swingle citrumelo rootstock that you would be willing to share information on, please contact any of the citrus extension agents (Steve Futch, Laurie Hurner, Garima Kakkar, Chris Oswalt, Juanita Popenoe, or Mongi Zekri).

Pile Burn Class

I will not be having a Pile Burn class in Tavares this year, but the Florida Forest Service and UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County will be conducting a Certified Pile Burner's Course on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 from 8:30am to 5:00pm at the West Central Florida Agriculture Center in Bushnell, FL (Sumter County Fairgrounds). This course will allow a landowner to burn piles legally, safely and efficiently. When the weather is dry, certified pile burners will receive priority for authorization to burn. In addition, certified pile burners can burn up to two hours longer per day and get multiple authorizations.

The cost of the class is \$50 and includes lunch, materials and exam. Please register early; this class usually is to capacity by mid-August. All attendees must pre-register by September 15, 2017 in order to reserve your spot. To register call DarLinda Duteau of the UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County Office at 352-569-6865.

Citrus Production Guide

The new 2017-18 Florida Citrus Production Guide is now available. Stop by the office or call to get your copy. We will also be handing them out at the Citrus Expo and they are available [online](#).

Upcoming Programs:

September 28: Fruit Grower Day. Blueberries in the morning, citrus in the afternoon. Lunch sponsored by Florida Citrus Mutual. [Details and online registration.](#)

October 27: Farm Safety Day. 8:00 a.m. - noon. UF/IFAS Lake County Extension Center. Worker protection standards (WPS) annual training for workers and handlers in Spanish and English, transporting ag equipment safely, fire extinguisher safety, heat related illness. Certificate of attendance and lunch provided. [Details and online registration.](#)

November 14: Produce Safety Training. 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. UF/IFAS Lake County Extension Center. For: fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in learning about produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety. The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement. [On-line registration.](#) [Flyer.](#) [Flyer with details of other food safety training programs.](#)

November 15: Winter Weather School. FAWN, climate outlook and forecast, critical temperatures and monitoring farm conditions. [Details and online registration.](#)



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