



Citruslines

February 2007

Winter Production Practices for Peaches, Nectarines, and Plums - Winter Garden	February 1st, 2007
Irrigation Scheduling: Improving Nutrient Use Efficiency & MIL -Tavares	February 13th, 2007
Review & Exam for Pesticide Applicators License -Sanford	February 24th, 2007
Greening Identification and Sampling -Cocoa	March 6th, 2007
Controlled Release Fertilizers for Citrus & Agricultural Water Policy -Tavares	March 13th, 2007
BriteLeaf Citrus Nursery Tour -Lake Panasoffkee	March 27th, 2007
Small Farms Conference -Cocoa	March 31st, 2007

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. Alison and I enjoyed watching our two children Lillian (almost 3 years old) and Elijah (almost two years old) open their presents, what a blessing the holidays can be. The first month of winter has been down right spring like. I have observed some trees blooming already this year. We are in the mist of an El Nino which is supposed to bring Florida cooler temperatures with above average rainfall. So much for climatologist...just when they think they have mother nature figured. Speaking of weather California has suffered a major freeze with estimated losses of 700 million dollars. Damage to trees will effect next years citrus crop as well, one would think we will be seeing higher fruit prices next year.

I have been hearing a lot of people saying they believe citrus greening is most likely spread all over Florida. Greening positive psyllid have been found as far north as Jacksonville, and trees showing the disease seem to be occurring in new areas of the state. Scouting your groves for symptoms of citrus greening is extremely

important. If you find a tree or trees with greening symptoms sending leaf samples to be tested is advised. If it is found that you have greening positive trees, removal is vital to keep the inoculum levels low. The more infected trees that are present in your grove the more likely non-infected trees could be exposed. I would wait a before doing any resetting of trees until you were certain the grove did not have any more infected trees. I would not recommend resetting trees in a greening positive grove because they would never bear marketable fruit and the tree would die if it became infected with the bacteria.

You may have read recently in the news about the USDA interest in guava trees to combat citrus greening. This idea came from Vietnam. Farmers in Vietnam have inter-planted guava and citrus trees on a one to one ratio, and have trees that have lived to be fifteen years old in areas with the greening disease. However, is no greening present due to the guava trees or just random chance due to the location? The USDA is planning on testing the idea of inter-planting guava and citrus in south Florida. The theory is that the naturally occurring volatile compounds maybe repelling the psyllid. One of the projects looks to utilize these compounds as a spray for citrus. So should you rush out and plant guava trees? No, there is a lot of unknowns about the potential positive aspects of guava trees however, there are some known negatives about Guava's which include high levels of fruit fly infestation and a tendency to become a pest species.

A new citrus pest is on the horizon called the Lime Swallowtail. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – Division of Plant Industry has issued an advisory on its site about the lime swallowtail, *Papilio demoleus* L. This swallowtail, found in the Caribbean in 2004 in the Dominican Republic, has spread to Puerto Rico. Since it is a strong flier, it is expected to reach Florida. After arrival and establishment in Florida, spread of the lime butterfly through the entire southern United States to the West Coast is very likely within a few years. Lime swallowtail larvae feed on all species of citrus, as well as related plants in the plant family Rutacea.

Winter Production Practices for Peaches, Nectarines, and Plums will be held in Winter Garden on February 1st at Water Conserv II from 9:30-11:30 am. Dr. James Ferguson a horticultural specialist will be showing participants proper pruning techniques on peach trees. This demonstration allows active participation for some “hands on” experience. There is growing interest in stone fruits and an attempt is being made to develop a profitable and sustainable stone fruit industry in Florida. If you are interested in learning more about stone fruits I encourage you to attend. For directions please see the attached flyer. For more information or to RSVP please contact Maggie Jarrell at 352-343-4101 or mjarrell@ufl.edu.

We will be having an OJ Meeting in Tavares at the Lake County Agricultural Center on February 13th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Dr. Kelly Morgan from UF/IFAS will discuss Irrigation Scheduling: Improving Nutrient Use Efficiency. Also included will be an overview of irrigation tools on the Florida Automated Weather Network. Bobby Brown from the Lake County Mobile Irrigation Laboratory (MIL) will be demonstrating their procedures for assisting landowners with irrigation system efficiencies. The MIL will show the type of information they collect from irrigation systems, how they analyze the data, and the types of recommendations given for system improvements. Efficient water application is essential for crop production, water conservation, water quality, and financial savings.

There will be a Citrus Greening Identification and Sampling workshop in Cocoa on March 6th, 2007 from 10 AM to 11:30 AM. The class should aid growers, managers, and supervisors in the field identification of greening and procedures for getting samples tested. Speakers for the class include Holly Chamberlain and Ryan Atwood both from UF/IFAS. CEUs will be offered for individuals with valid restricted use pesticide license in

the agricultural tree crop category. Please contact the Brevard County Extension agency at (321) 633-1702 to register for this workshop.

We will be having an OJ Meeting in Tavares at the Lake County Agricultural Center on March 13th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Dr. Tom Obreza from UF/IFAS will discuss Controlled-Release Fertilizers for Citrus Production in the BMP Era. Also, Carol Johnson from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service-Office of Agricultural Water Policy will discuss Complying with State Quality Standards for Lake County through BMP's.

A Review & Exam for Private Applicator Agricultural License will be held on February 24th at the Seminole County Extension office in Sanford. A license is required for persons who apply or supervise the application of restricted use pesticides for agricultural production. The class begins at 8:30 AM to enroll please contact Seminole county extension office at 407-655-5551.

We will be touring BriteLeaf Citrus Nursery in Lake Panasoffkee on March 27. BriteLeaf like all of the Florida citrus nurseries have been investing heavily in their infrastructure so they can be compliant with the new regulations of the Citrus Health and Response Plan (CHRP). Nate Jameson owner of BriteLeaf and former president of the Florida Citrus Nurserymen Association will be sharing his thoughts on the new challenges faced by citrus nurserymen. Also, bureau chief Michael Kesinger from the Division of Plant Industries Bureau of Citrus Budwood Registration will update us on the citrus budwood supply and the measures being undergone to protect that supply. We will be leaving the Lake County Agricultural Center at 8:00 am and returning at noon. We will provide some transportation, but space is limited. Please contact Maggie Jarrell at 352-343-4101 if you plan on attending, please include if you need a ride or will be driving yourself.

NRCS Offers Water Management Incentive Payments in an effort to improve irrigation water management. The payments are a flat rate of \$50.00 an acre for those producers who follow a USDA water management plan. The previous rate was \$5.00 an acre. This program can be up to three years. The irrigation water incentive program is being offered thru the environmental quality improvement program (EQIP). The deadline for signing up for this or any other Farm Bill program is December 15, 2007. For more information about this program you can contact your local NRCS district Conservationists.

Operation Cleansweep is a program that provides farmers, nursery operators, golf course operators, and pest control services a one-time safe and economical way to dispose of their cancelled, suspended, and unusable pesticides. Some of these materials are very old and may be in containers that are deteriorating. If you have need or know you will have a future need to dispose of old chemicals the Department of Agricultural & Consumer Services will pick them up at your location. For more information contact Robin Waddell at waddler@doacs.state.fl.us or 877-851-5285.

US Sugar has established the Southern Gardens Diagnostic Laboratory for Greening Sampling. US Sugar is working with citrus growers throughout the state to diagnose suspect trees that may have citrus greening disease. Included in this newsletter is the sampling protocol for the submission of samples to the southern gardens diagnostic laboratory. Read the directions carefully as time of year, type of tissue, and properly filled out paper work are important. Typically results take about 7-10 days from the time the samples are received, the amount of time is dependent on the amount of samples the lab has to process.

A new Florida citrus rootstock wheel has been created and is available at the UF/IFAS bookstore. The wheel contains newer rootstock varieties such as US-852, US-897, US-802, Kinkoji, and Goutou. The wheel can be ordered at 1-800-226-1764 or online at <http://www.ifasbooks.ufl.edu> for \$10.00.

For more information on any of these programs please contact us at:

Phone: 352-343-4101

Fax: 352-343-2767

mjarrell@ufl.edu or

raatwood@ufl.edu

1951 Woodlea Rd.

Tavares, FL 32778.

Sincerely,

Ryan Atwood
County Extension Agent – Fruit Crop
December 1st, 2006

Maggie Jarrell
Office Associate III
December 1st, 2006



Field Day: Winter Production Practices for Peaches, Nectarines, and Plums

A two hour Workshop on Winter Production Practices for Peaches, Nectarines, and Plums has been planned for February 1, 2007 at Conserv II. Program starts at 9:30 a.m. and runs till about 11:30 a.m. Call Maggie Jarrell at 352-343-4101 to register

Directions to:
Waterer Conserv II
www.waterconservii.com
17498 McKinney Road
Winter Garden, FL 34787

- **From I-4 & US 27:** North on US 27 (8 Miles) to US 192. Right on US 192 (1½ Miles) to CR 545 (Avalon Road). Left on CR 545 (10 Miles) to McKinney Road. Left on McKinney Road (½ Mile) to Distribution Center (On Your Left).
- **From I-4 & US 192:** West on US 192 (5 Miles) to CR 545 (Avalon Road). Right on CR 545 (10 Miles) to McKinney Road. Left on McKinney Road (½ Mile) to Distribution Center (On Your Left).
- **From SR 50 & US 27:** East on SR 50 (10 Miles) to CR 545 (Avalon Road). Right on CR 545 (7 Miles) to McKinney Road. Right on McKinney Road (½ Mile) to Distribution Center (On Your Left).
- **From I-4 Westbound Into Orlando:** West on SR 408 (East-West Expressway) (9 Miles) to Florida Turnpike. North on Florida Turnpike (6½ Miles) to Exit 272 (SR 50 Exit). East on SR 50 (1½ Miles) to CR 545 (Avalon Road). Right on CR 545 (7 Miles) to McKinney Road. Right on McKinney Road (½ Mile) to Distribution Center (On Your Left).
- **From Northbound on the Florida Turnpike:** Exit the Turnpike at Exit 272 (SR 50 Exit). East on SR 50 (1½ Miles) to CR 545 (Avalon Road). Right on CR 545 (7 Miles) to McKinney Road. Right on McKinney Road (½ Mile) to Distribution Center (On Your Left).
- **From Southbound on the Florida Turnpike:** Exit the Turnpike at Exit 272 (SR 50 Exit). East on SR 50 (1½ Miles) to CR 545 (Avalon Road). Right on CR 545 (7 Miles) to McKinney Road. Right on McKinney Road (½ Mile) to Distribution Center (On Your Left).

Field Day: BriteLeaf Citrus Nursery Tour



Field Day will be on March 27, 2007.

BriteLeaf like all of the citrus nurseries has been investing heavily in their infrastructure so they can be compliant with the Citrus Health and Response Plan (CHRP). Nate Jameson owner of BriteLeaf and former president of the Florida Citrus Nurserymen Association will be sharing with us the new challenges faced by citrus nurserymen. Also, bureau chief Michael Kesinger from the Division of Plant Industries Bureau of Citrus Budwood Registration will update us on the citrus budwood supply and the measures being undergone to protect that supply.

We will be leaving the Lake County Agricultural Center at **8:00 a.m.** and returning at **12 noon.**

BriteLeaf Citrus Nursery is located in Lake Panasoffkee. We will provide some transportation, but space is limited. Please contact Maggie Jarrell at 352-343-4101 if you plan on attending, please include if you need a ride or will be driving yourself.

Write clearly and fax to: 352-343-2767

Name: _____

Address: _____

Ride Needed: Y N (Circle only one)

Contact Number: _____ (Required Field)