

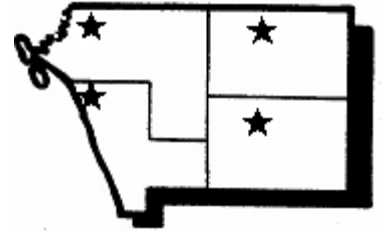
West Central Citrus Letter

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April 28, 2010

Citrus Black Spot

The USDA recently announced that citrus black spot has been confirmed in several south Florida citrus groves. USDA APHIS is continuing to survey area groves to determine the area currently infested with the fungus.

Black spot is a major disease of fruit. All commercial citrus cultivars are susceptible with lemons being highly susceptible. Late maturing varieties (Valencia) can experience excessive fruit drop. Symptoms can appear in later stages of fruit development or even after harvest when fresh fruit is in storage or transit to market. While black spot is unacceptable for fresh fruit, infested fruit can be used for processing.

Symptoms on leaves are rarely seen, but when present will appear as small necrotic spots. These spots will have a gray center surrounded by a brown ring and a yellow halo.

Fruit symptoms can be classified into four categories: hard spot, virulent spot, false melanose and cracked spot. Symptoms will vary with infection level and season making the fungus difficult to identify.

The casual organism is *Guignardia citricarpa*. Spores of the fungus are released from decomposing leaves or infected fruit. When spores are released, they will be splashed to susceptible tissue and result in later symptom development.

Black spot development is influenced by availability of inoculum, climatic conditions, and growth stage of the citrus tree and age of the fruit.

Infection can start at fruit-set and last for up to 5 months. The fungus can remain in a quiescent state until the fruit is nearly fully grown or mature and then begin to cause the classical black spot symptoms to appear on the rind.

Control options include properly timed sprays with copper or strobilurin fungicides (Abound, Gem or Headline).

More information on black spot can be found on the University of Florida's electronic document information system at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp135> or Florida Department of Agriculture's CHRP at <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/chrp/index.html>.

Citrus Black Spot Polycom Broadcast, May 6

To provide more information on citrus black spot, a program will be conducted via polycom and simultaneous broadcasted to 6 locations around the state on May 6th beginning at 10 AM. The local broadcast will be at the DeSoto County Extension Service Office in Arcadia. Other broadcast sites include: Lake Alfred, Immokalee, Ft. Pierce, Dade City and Sebring.

Citrus Growers' Institute

The Citrus Growers' Institute was conducted on April 13th at the South Florida Community College. This program discussed many issues related to psyllid and greening management. All presentations were recorded and hopefully will be available on the web by mid May at the Citrus Agents web site. To get to the site, just use your search engine on your computer and type in Citrus Agents or by going to: http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/Citrus_Agents_Home_Page/Citrus_Agents_Home.html.

Planning for the Future of Your Family's Land

The University of Florida IFAS/Hillsborough County Extension in cooperation with the Conservation Trust for Florida, Tampa Bay Conservancy and the Tampa Bay Watershed Forest Working Group is offering an interactive seminar for landowners to learn practical steps for passing their land from one generation to the next. The first of these seminars, *Planning for the Future of Your Family's Land*, will be held on Tuesday May 11, at the Trinkle Center, Plant City, Florida.

Many landowners are faced with the challenge of finding ways to provide for their retirement and for their heirs, while insuring that their land is kept in the family for future generations. Farmers, foresters and ranchers tend to have a lot of value sitting in real estate with limited revenue to support all of one's family members. Furthermore, there is often pressure to sell off land to development. Often family members are not certain if or how they may participate in the future management of their land. The *Planning for the Future of Your Family's Land Seminar* is designed to help landowners begin discussions with their family regarding long-term hopes and goals for their property and to understand options for keeping land in agriculture and/or forest production.

The seminar is scheduled for May 11, 2010, 9:00 am - 2:30 pm, at the Hillsborough Community College Trinkle Center, Plant City, FL 33563. Cost is \$15 per person. More information and registration online at <http://pfyfl.eventbrite.com/>

FAWN Irrigation School, May 13

Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) will host an irrigation school at the Hillsborough Extension Service from 9 am until 1 pm on May 13. Lunch will be provided with pre registration. This seminar is free and is being funded by the Alafia River, Coastal Rivers, Hillsborough River, Manasota, Northwest Hillsborough, Peace River, Pinellas-Anclote River, and Withlacoochee River Basin Boards, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Topics covered will include urban water use, estimating evapotranspiration (ET) rates and how ET affects plant water supply, using ET-based irrigation controllers, using the FAWN Urban Irrigation Scheduler, agricultural irrigation, and citrus irrigation scheduling.

FAWN is a program of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), and provides weather data and weather-related services to a wide variety of users in Florida.

The Hillsborough Extension Service is located at 5339 County Road 579 Seffner, FL 33584.

To register, contact Rick Lusher at 352-392-0429, or rlusher@ufl.edu.

Dates to remember:

- May 6 Citrus Black Spot Polycom broadcast to DeSoto County Extension Office, Arcadia
- May 11 Planning for Family's Land, Hillsborough Community College, Plant City
- May 13 FAWN Irrigation School, Hillsborough Extension Service, Seffner

Sincerely,

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Enc.: Polycom sessions for Citrus Black Spot