

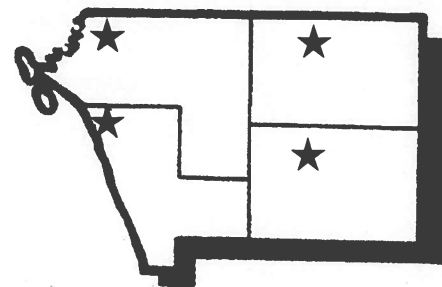
West Central Citrus Letter

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April 11, 2017

IRCHLB Grower Day, April 21, Lake Alfred

The 2017 Grower Day will be held on Friday, April 21st, at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred from 9 am to 12 pm. Lunch will be provided afterward by Florida Citrus Mutual. Please RSVP to Clark Baxley at clarkb@flcitrusmutual.com by April 17th.

A clear advantage of holding the International Research Conference on HLB (IRCHLB) every two years is the intense immersion that is made possible by several hundred scientists from around the world spending several days exchanging information and results of their research. Such a large collection of scientists focused on the topic of HLB results in information sharing and coordinated efforts going forward, which should lead to earlier solutions and best use of funding support.

A more important advantage of the meeting being held in Florida is the opportunity to share the outcomes of these technical presentations and discussions with citrus growers so that they, too are made aware of results coming from the research. Separating the grower day from technical discussions has proven beneficial.

The April date allows participants in the IRCHLB to capture and summarize outcomes important to growers, and to prepare a program that is

truly focused on communicating results to growers. This year the grower day will be built around current challenges to growers in managing citrus in the presence of HLB.

Program content and agenda is currently being prepared and will be disseminated upon completion.

Private and Core Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, April 25, Wauchula

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class is being conducted on Tuesday, April 25 at the Hardee County Extension Service Office at 507 Civic Center Drive in Wauchula. The class will review the materials contained in the test to obtain a Private Applicator pesticide applicator license. The class will begin at 9:00 A.M. and conclude at noon with the test at 1:00 P.M.

Three CEUs (2 Core and 1 Private) are offered to individuals that have a current pesticide license and will be renewing using CEUs. A registration fee of \$55.00 per person is charged to cover the study manuals (Core and Private) 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 prior to April 19th.

H-2A Basics – Part 1 and Part 2, April 27, Immokalee

The UF/IFAS Farm Labor Supervisor Training Program will be conducting a free program on H-2A basics. The program will be conducted from 9 AM – 2 PM at the Southwest Florida Research & Education Center, Immokalee.

For more information on the program, please see the enclosed flyer. Advanced registration is required by contacting Barbara Hyman at 239-658-3461 or at hymanb@ufl.edu.

Ag Tree Crop Pesticide License Review and Testing, May 3, Wauchula

A two-hour pesticide license review and testing class for the commercial ag tree crop license will be conducted at the Hardee County Extension Service office in Wauchula on May 3. The Review class will begin at 9 AM and conclude at 11 AM with the test being given at 11 AM.

Two CEUs in the ag tree crop category will be given to individuals that have a valid ag tree crop license. A registration fee of \$28.00 per person is charged to cover the study manual (Ag Tree Crop) and refreshments. If you wish to attend the class to obtain CEUs the registration fee is \$5.00 per person. If you wish to attend the class to take the test or to obtain CEUs, please contact the Hardee County Extension Service Office at 863-773-2164 to register. Pre-registration is requested prior to April 28.

Please note you must already have a pesticide license to add the ag tree crop category or take the core exam before being able to obtain a commercial license. The core exam will be given in the review class on April 25.

Citrus Grower Roundtable Meeting, May 4, Wauchula

The Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association and UF IFAS Extension will be hosting a citrus grower roundtable discussion on Thursday, May 4 at the Hardee County Extension Service Office, 507 Civic Center Drive, Wauchula. The program will begin at 8 AM. The purpose of the meeting is to allow growers to discuss their HLB and other pest management programs.

Donuts and juice will be provided. Please come and share what you and your fellow growers are doing and what seems to be working at your location.

Dates to Remember

April 21	HLB Grower Day, Lake Alfred
April 25	Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing for Private License, Wauchula
April 27	H-2A Basics – Part 1 & 2, Immokalee
May 3	Restricted Use Pesticide License and Testing for Ag Tree Crop, Wauchula
May 4	Citrus Grower Roundtable, Wauchula
June 4-6	Florida State Horticultural Society, Tampa

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Futch
Extension Agent, Multi-County

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Enclosure: H-2A Basic Flyer

The UF/IFAS Farm Labor Supervisor Training Program Presents:

H-2A BASICS – PART 1 AND PART 2

Thursday, April 27
UF/IFAS Southwest FL Research & Education Center, Immokalee
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The classes are free and a sponsored lunch will be provided

H-2A Basics Part 1: Bringing in a temporary legal workforce under the H-2A program.

This class covers the processes related to gaining approval as an H-2A employer. It includes items you will need to prepare for the application form; the flow of the paperwork; protections for U.S. workers; foreign worker recruitment; H-2A employee rights; and additional guarantees for U.S. workers. The class emphasizes the importance of dedicating internal personnel to the program and bringing in outside experts to help. The class ends with a Department of Labor review of top compliance issues related to H-2A, followed by a panel of experts on the H-2A application and recruitment process.

H-2A Basics Part 2: Managing workers under the H-2A program.

Managing workers according to contractual obligations of the H-2A program after they are here is even more complicated than the recruitment process, and it is more likely that employers will be visited by DOL because H-2A employers are identified to the enforcement arm. Paperwork and recordkeeping are more critical than ever, including the additional task of tracking hours offered and hours worked. Timely re-payment of travel costs, transportation to the workplace and housing regulations are some of the important topics covered in this class, and cautions about treating U.S. workers differently from foreign workers. The class will end with a discussion of potential pitfalls by a panel of H-2A growers and labor contractors.

Please contact Barbara Hyman to register at hymanb@ufl.edu or call 239-658-3461.

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