

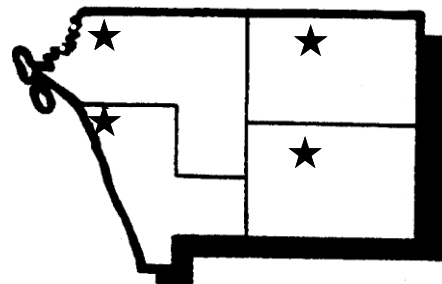
West Central Citrus Letter

DeSoto Extension Service
2150 NE Roan Street
Arcadia FL 34266
863/993-4846

Hardee Extension Service
507 Civic Center Drive
Wauchula FL 33873
863/773-2164

Manatee Extension Service
1303 17th Street West
Palmetto FL 34221
941/722-4524

Sarasota Extension Service
6700 Clark Road
Sarasota FL 34241
941/861-9900



April 9, 2018

Crop Insurance Deadline - April 15

Florida Citrus Mutual and others strongly recommend growers purchase some level of crop insurance by April 15, 2018 - the final date to apply for 2018-2019 coverage. Current policyholders who wish to make changes to their existing coverage also have until the April 15 sales closing date to do so. By purchasing at least catastrophic (CAT) insurance for the 2018-2019 season, you will obtain limited protection in the event of a major disaster.

USDA and Congress are both very keen on crop insurance to offset losses from agricultural disasters, such as Hurricane Irma. It is not known if recipients of relief dollars will have to purchase crop insurance for the next two "available" years and growers who had crop insurance at the time Irma hit will be eligible for greater relief payments than those who did not. Growers should take a hard look at their risk management portfolios prior to the April 15 deadline to determine the amount of coverage needed for their operation.

For more information on the 2018-2019 citrus fruit policy go to https://www.rma.usda.gov/fields/ga_rso/2019/2019flcitrus.pdf

To see the Risk Management Agency's press release regarding the April 15 closing date go to https://www.rma.usda.gov/fields/ga_rso/2017/fls_cd041517.pdf

A list of crop insurance agents is available online at <https://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html>

Growers can get a premium amount estimate at <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/>

Modified from information supplied by Mike Sparks at Florida Citrus Mutual

Grower Round Table & Diaprepes Management, May 15, Wauchula

Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association and UF IFAS Extension will be conducting a grower round table meeting on May 15, 2018 at the Hardee County Extension Service office, (507 Civic Center Drive, Wauchula) beginning at 8 AM. and with an update on Diaprepes management beginning at 9:30 AM.

The purpose of the round table meeting from is to allow growers to discuss their observations related to HLB, psyllid management, yields and current crop condition. The round table meeting will be followed by a presentation from Dr. Larry Duncan. Dr. Duncan will highlight his trials using parasitic nematodes to control Diaprepes larva in the soil as well as foliar sprays to manage adults in the tree canopy.

Crop Estimate

The National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS) will provide the next crop estimate on April 10 and May 10. The March estimate remains unchanged at 45 million boxes for oranges and at 4.65 million boxes of grapefruit. For more information from NASS, please visit their website at: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Publications/Citrus/Citrus_Forecast/2017-18/cit0318.pdf

Reminder of Upcoming Programs:

Private and Core Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, April 17, Wauchula

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be conducted on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at the Hardee County Extension Service Office, 507 Civic Center Drive, Wauchula. The class offers 3 CEUs (2 Core and 1 Private) for those that have a valid restricted use pesticide license.

Worker Protection Standards – Train the Trainer, April 24, Wauchula

A training session will be conducted from 1:00 to 5:00 PM at the Hardee County Extension Service Office, Wauchula, on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. The session will cover the worker protection standards (WPS) information required under the rule to train employees as pesticide handlers or workers.

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 11, 2018.

Food Safety Modernization Act, Produce Safety Rule

A number of workshops are being conducted around Florida over the next few months regarding the

Produce Safety Rule. If you haven't attended one of the training sessions, you may wish to do so to be in compliance with the rule. By attending the one-day training session, you will have satisfied the requirement that each farm have at least one person trained per the rule. Upcoming training are as follows:
4/26/18 – Balm <https://psa042618.eventbrite.com>
5/2/18 – Apopka <https://psa050218.eventbrite.com>
6/7/18 – Homestead <https://psa060718.eventbrite.com>

Stone Fruit Field Day

A stone fruit field day will be held at the UF Plant Science Research & Education Center, West Highway 31B, Citra, FL on May 29, 2018. The program begins at 9:00 AM. and concludes around 3:30 PM. For more information on the program or to register, please visit their website at:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/uf-stone-fruit-field-day-tickets-44406239257?utm_term=eventurl_text

Dates to Remember

April 17	Restricted Use Pesticide Review Class, Wauchula
April 24	Worker Protection Standards, Train-the-Trainer Class, Wauchula
May 15	Grower Roundtable, Wauchula
May 29	Stone Fruit Field Day, Citra, FL
June 10-12	Florida State Horticultural Society, Ft. Lauderdale

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Futch
 Extension Agent, Multi-County
 Office: 863-956-8644
 Email: shf@ufl.edu