

West Central Citrus Letter

DeSoto Extension Service

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Hardee Extension Service

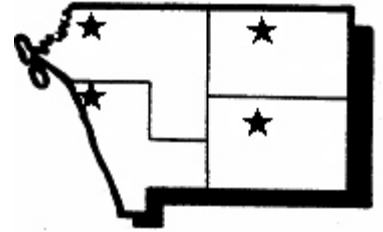
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863/773-2164

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April 24, 2008

New Citrus Web Site

In an effort to keep growers up-to-date on the latest information provided by the citrus extension agents, a new web site is being developed. This web site will host all citrus agents' newsletters and events schedule. This schedule or calendar will list citrus programs throughout the state. Viewing the web site is easy and can be found by entering <http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu> into your web browser in Google, Yahoo or other sites.

Greening Summit Presentations

The Greening Summit was held in Avon Park at the South Florida Community College on April 8th. The event was one of the largest citrus programs in years with over 350 growers, managers and allied industry representatives attending the day-long program. In an effort to allow individuals to view or review the presentations, all PowerPoint presentations that the speakers provided are now posted to the web at <http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu>. We are also in the process of converting the video presentations to allow them to be posted to the same web site. Hopefully, both the PowerPoint and oral presentations will be of benefit to citrus growers as they develop plans to address citrus greening state wide.

Brazil Citrus Tour, August 12-19, 2008

The Extension Service will be taking a group of 15 growers to visit Brazilian citrus groves in the State of Sao Paulo. The group will depart from Miami on August 12 on a direct flight to Sao Paulo, Brazil. The entire

week will be spent visiting citrus groves, meeting with growers and research agencies with a major emphasis on programs related to citrus greening. Cost including airfare, ground transportation and hotels is approximately \$2,500 per person based upon a single room. Departure from Orlando will be at a slightly higher cost per person. The current tour dates are August 12-19, 2008.

For more information on the tour and locations visited, please contact Steve Futch at the Citrus Research & Education Center at 863-956-1151 or by email at shf@crec.ifas.ufl.edu.

Citrus Canker

By now almost all growers have seen citrus canker in area groves. With our recent heavy rains when the spring flushes were emerging, it would be expected that these conditions may contribute to disease development in area groves. While our spring is usually relatively dry with long periods without rain, this spring has had several good rains that may contribute to increased infection. Remember that infection can cause defoliation, shoot die-back, and fruit drop. Also, the feeding galleries of the citrus leafminer on leaves and stems can contribute to the increased incidences of canker.

When canker is present in a grove location, the use of copper sprays and the control of citrus leafminer are very important. Copper sprays have been evaluated for numerous years and been found to be quite effective in preventing infection of fruit, but are much less

effective for reducing leaf infection. While copper can offer some leaf protection, it is quickly lost due to the rapid expansion of the leaf surface area.

Fruit grows more slowly and is easier to protect. Fruit becomes susceptible when it is about ¾ inch in diameter and the stomates begin to open. Some orange varieties will develop resistance in mid to late July; whereas, varieties like Early Gold and grapefruit will be susceptible later into the summer and fall requiring additional sprays.

Programs are being developed but a minimum of three sprays are recommended for early oranges grown for processing and should be applied at 21-day intervals beginning in May. Valencia and midseason varieties may be able to be protected with two properly timed applications. Varieties like Early Gold, Westin, Ruby, Itaborai and grapefruit are more susceptible than Hamlin and may require additional sprays beyond July.

Over the years, copper fungicides have been the product that has offered the best suppression of canker. When using copper, as well as any pesticide, please read the label and follow the directions.

For more information on canker and canker management, please visit – <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/CG040> .

Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, May 12, 2008

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be held on Monday, May 12, 2008 at the Hardee County Extension Service Office at 507 Civic Center Drive in Wauchula. The class will review the materials contained in the tests to obtain a private applicator pesticide license. The class will begin at 9:00 A.M. and conclude at noon with the test being given at 1:00 P.M. Three CEUs (2 Core and 1 Private) will be offered to individuals which have a current pesticide license and will be renewing using CEUs. A registration fee of \$20.00 per person is charged to cover the study manuals and refreshments. To attend the class for only CEUs, the registration fee is \$3.00. 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 May 5, 2008.

Florida State Horticultural Society

The annual meeting of the Florida State Horticultural Society is scheduled for June 1-4 at the Ft. Lauderdale Marriott North. The meeting will host presentations on citrus, vegetables, tropical fruits, ornamentals and handling/processing. For more information regarding the program or a list of the scheduled presentations, please visit www.fshs.org .

Citrus Industry Update, March/April

The citrus industry update is published by the University of Florida, IFAS with the mission of keeping the Florida citrus industry informed of current research concerning canker and greening. The electronic newsletter is published every two months and the latest edition is located at http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/publications/ciu/PDF/2008/ciu_03_08.pdf . The newsletter can also be linked to from the Citrus Research and Education Center web page.

Citrus Economics

Citrus economic reports prepared by Ron Muraro including annual caretaking costs were recently updated and published at – <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/economics/index.htm> . These reports include: citrus caretaking rates, summary budget costs for 2006-07, planting and cultural maintenance costs for reset replacement trees and more.

Dates to Remember –

- May 12 Pesticide License Review and Testing, Wauchula
- June 1-4 Florida State Horticultural Society annual meeting, Ft. Lauderdale

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Futch

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Enc: Citrus Greening Article