

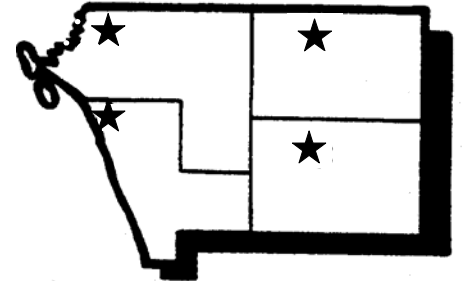
West Central Citrus Letter

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

Hardee Extension Service
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February 14, 2011

Safety Morning, March 8th

The annual safety training program will be conducted at the Turner Agri-Civic Center in Arcadia on Tuesday, March 8th beginning at 7:00 AM with registration and training sessions beginning at 7:30 AM. Topics covered during the morning program will include: Worker Protection Standards, equipment safety, emergency first aid, fire safety, and safe mix-load practices. The program will conclude at 11:00 AM.

Registration for the program is \$3.00 per person and must be done in advance by completing the enclosed registration form. Sessions will be conducted in both English and Spanish. Pre-registration is required prior to March 1, 2011. Please see the attached registration form for additional information.

CHMA Meetings, March 9 and 10

The Extension Service will be conducting several grower meetings to discuss the formation of citrus health management areas (CHMAs) in Hardee and DeSoto Counties. These meetings will highlight the need to cooperatively work together in controlling the psyllids to minimize the spread of HLB or greening. Each meeting will begin at 10 AM. The Hardee County meeting will be at the Hardee County Extension Service office on March 9 at 507 Civic Center Drive, Wauchula. The DeSoto County meeting will be conducted on March 10 and take place at the Turner Exhibition Hall adjacent to the Turner Agri-Civic Center, 2160 NE Roan Street, Arcadia. It is highly encouraged for all citrus growers and caretakers to attend one of these meetings to achieve maximum control of psyllids.

The CHMA concept has been promoted as an essential tool for growers to use to maximize the suppression of psyllids on an area wide basis by the National Academy of Sciences and other agencies.

Flower Bud Induction Advisories

Dr. Gene Albrigo continues to post his flower bud advisories at:

<http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/flowerbud> . His current advisory (Feb. 3) indicates that full bloom dates for the first wave of flower buds are about February 19 to 27 from Sebring south including the flatwoods. Central and northern areas should have full bloom around March 3 to 7. The second wave of bloom will occur around March 1 to 9, which is 2 to 3 days earlier than the model projected in January. With bloom being in late February or early March, growers need to complete the dormant psyllid sprays prior to bloom to minimize impact to bees during pollination period.

Brazil Citrus Tour, June 11-18

The Extension Service will be conducting another trip to visit the Brazilian citrus industry. The trip will take place on June 11 – 18. The price per person with single occupancy is \$3,225 with 10 participants and \$2,725 with 15. These prices are with departure from Miami. Departure from other locations or double occupancy rooms can be arranged and will impact price. Deposit is \$300 per person with the balance due by April 11, 2011. If you wish to participate in the citrus tour, please contact me for a full tour agenda and how to make your payments.

Quadris Top

Quadris Top, new fungicide with a new mode of action has been registered for use in Florida citrus. Quadris Top is a strobilurin (azoxystrobin) and DMI (difenoconazole) mixture. Last year it had activity against strobilurin resistant *Alternaria* and it gives us new options on this front along with Pristine (strob; pyraclostrobin and SDHI; boscalid), another new addition.

Please be aware that these new MOAs are just as vulnerable as the other strobilurins to resistance development. Products must be rotated and managed with care so that we do not start to have pesticide resistance problems.

Sweet Orange Scab

The USDA has reported confirmation that sweet orange scab, a fungal disease of citrus, has been found in three locations within Florida. The three locations are in north Lakeland and a location in both Sarasota and Broward counties. Sweet orange scab has been confirmed earlier in groves in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

While these tests are in the early stages, if you find suspicious looking scab symptoms on sweet orange varieties, it would be wise to have additional testing done.

Movento

Bayer CropScience has released a new formulation of Movento and the product is listed as Movento MPC 150SC. The recommended rate of the new formulation is 16 ounces per acre and replaces Movento 240SC which was recommended at 10 ounces per acre. The pre-harvest and restricted entry interval for the new formulation is 24 hours. The product is recommended to be applied with a high-quality spray adjuvant such as a non ionic surfactant or horticultural spray oil.

Florida Citrus Growers' Institute, April 6

The citrus agents are conducting their annual Citrus Growers' Institute in Avon Park on April 6th at the South Florida Community College. Registration will begin at 8 AM with the program presentation beginning at 8:30 AM.

This year's Institute program will focus on HLB (Huanglongbing), management of the Asian citrus psyllid and genomics and cultural management. Pre-registration is required using the enclosed registration form on the program flier or by emailing the required information to Jane Wilson at mjw@crec.ifas.ufl.edu.

Continuing education units will be offered for both the restricted use pesticide license and certified crop advisor licenses.

Please see the enclosed program flier for a complete listing of topics and registration information.

Blueberry Meeting, March 3

The annual Florida Blueberry Growers Association meeting will be held at the campus of Hillsborough Community College in Plant City on March 3. Pre-registration for members is \$15 and non-members is \$30 per person. Research and educational talks will be presented throughout the morning session, followed by lunch and then a tour of Sunny Ridge packinghouse. For more information on the program, please visit their website at <http://www.floridablueberrygrowers.com/>.

Aquatic Weed Short Course, May 3-5

The annual Aquatic Weed Control Short Course will be conducted in Coral Springs on May 3-5. Registration fee for attending the course is \$240 if by February 25 and increases to \$290 by April 8 and then to \$340 if registration is received after April 8th. For more information on the program, please go to their website at <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw/index.html>.

Dates to Remember

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| March 3 | Blueberry Growers Association meeting, Plant City |
| March 8 | Safety Morning, Arcadia |
| March 9 | CHMA meeting, Wauchula |
| March 10 | CHMA meeting, Arcadia |
| April 6 | Citrus Growers' Institute, Avon Park |
| May 3-5 | Aquatic Weed Short Course, Coral Springs |

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Futch

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Enclosures: Safety Morning Registration Form
Citrus Growers' Institute Program Flier