

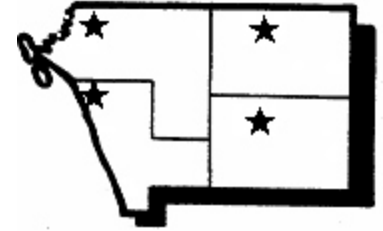
West Central Citrus Letter

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

Manatee Extension Service
1303 17th Street West • Palmetto FL 34221
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Sarasota Extension Service
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February 9, 2007

Safety Morning, March 6, 2007

The annual farm worker safety event will be held in Arcadia on Tuesday morning (7:30 AM until 11:00 AM), March 6 at the Turner Exhibition Hall. The safety training will cover numerous safety related topics including: worker protection standards (WPS), mix load pesticide spill cleanup, farm first aid, equipment safety, and personal protective equipment.

Pre-registration is \$3.00 per person and is requested prior to March 1, 2007. Sessions or translation will be provided for Spanish speaking employees. Please see the enclosed program flier for a complete listing of topics, times and registration form.

Brazil Greening

A field study trip for growers is being planned for April 21-28, 2007 to view citrus greening and other diseases in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Visits will be conducted with Fundecitrus and numerous growers in the Araraquara, Matao, Itirapina, and Limera areas. The cost for the week is \$2,200 per person and includes hotel, bus and air transportation from Orlando. If you would like more information on the field study to Brazil, please contact me at the Citrus Research & Education Center in Lake Alfred at 863-956-1151. The trip is limited to 15 participants.

Greening and Sample Submission

With increasing concerns for greening or Huanglongbing (HLB) and its continued spread, early detection remains one of the most important strategies growers must incorporate into their standard grove practices. Trees with greening will include vein yellowing and variegated chlorosis which is commonly referred to as 'blotchy mottle'. These infected leaves may be smaller than normal, upright, and may have mineral deficiencies. Early symptoms may appear on single or multiple shoots within the tree. As the disease spreads within the tree, a greater portion of the tree will exhibit symptoms and may also include dieback and reduced yields. Fruit may also be affected and are usually smaller, contain aborted seeds, and have a lopsided central core.

Once trees are identified as greening or HLB positive, growers should remove the infected or symptomatic tree or trees. Growers will need to develop programs to manage the Asian citrus psyllid as well to aid in the long-term control of the disease. Chemical products to control the psyllid are available in the annual pest management guide or online at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IN686>.

U.S. Sugar/Southern Gardens Diagnostic Laboratory in cooperation with USDA and IFAS are providing a service to test samples that are greening suspect. Samples must be properly collected, sent overnight mail and accompanied with a release and a completed sample submission form. Copies of the sampling protocol and forms are available by calling me or the local Extension Service office in DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee or Sarasota as well as other county offices.

If you need assistance in collecting samples, field symptom identification, worker trainings, or have other questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 863-956-1151.

2007 Aquatic Weed Control Short Course, May 14-18, 2007

The annual aquatic weed control short course will be held at the Coral Springs Marriott Hotel. The course highlights aquatic weed control, natural area weed control, aquatic plant identification and right-of-way weed control. To find out more about the event, please visit the short course web site at <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw>. Pre-registration is \$225 prior to February 28 and increases to \$325 at the meeting.

Dates to Remember –

- March 6 Safety Training, Arcadia
- April 18 Mechanical Harvesting Field Day, Immokalee (information in next newsletter)
- May 14-18 Aquatic Weed Control Short Course, Coral Springs

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Futch, Ph.D.
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Enc: Safety Morning Registration Form