

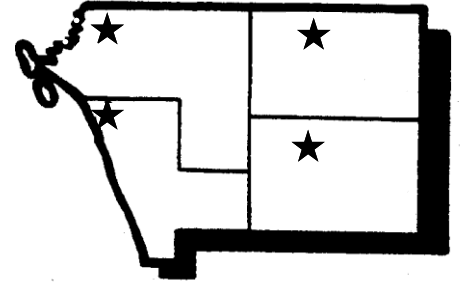
West Central Citrus Letter

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



January 2, 2014

Annual Citrus Production School, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 2014

The annual citrus production school will be held at the Family Service Center, 310 W. Whidden Street, Arcadia, FL on Feb. 4, 11, and 18. Each session will begin at 7 PM and conclude at or before 9 PM. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered in both Private and Ag Tree Crop categories.

For more information about the production school, please see the enclosed flier with list topics, speakers, dates and registration information. Registration fee is \$20.00 per person and requested in advance of the program.

Florida's Minimum Wage

Florida's minimum wage increases by 14 cents from \$7.79 to \$7.93 per hour on January 1, 2014. The annual adjustment is based upon the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index. Employers are required to post both Florida's and the Federal minimum wage in a conspicuous and accessible place in each establishment where employees work. Florida's minimum wage poster is available in both English and Spanish at the Department of Economic Opportunity's website at: <http://www.floridajobs.org/business-growth-and-partnerships/for-employers/display-posters-and-required-notice> .

Advanced Citriculture 1 Class

The three hour course is designed to provide an overview of the physiological processes essential to biomass and fruit production in citrus, and how the biotic and abiotic environment facilitates or impedes productivity. The class will address many of these issues by focusing on specific problems growers face on a daily and seasonal cycle, and how research has led to new management or breeding practices to overcome those problems.

The course will be taught at the UF Citrus Research & Education Center in Lake Alfred. The course can be taken via Polycom video conferencing with the permission from the instructor.

Class meetings will be a combination of lectures by Dr. Brodersen and other citrus experts at CREC and student led discussion sessions aimed at providing a comprehensive understanding of the pertinent scientific literature. Each meeting will discuss 2 to 4 papers related to that week's topic. Starting 2/26/14(or earlier depending on course enrollment) individual students or groups will lead the discussion and are responsible for selecting the papers (to be approved one week in advance).

Prerequisite for the course include FRC3212 and FRC4223 or equivalent. Students that haven't taken the above courses and would like to enroll should contact Dr. Craig Brodersen at 863-956-8846 or by email at brodersen@ufl.edu .

Certified Pile Burners Course, Immokalee, Feb. 4, 2014

The Certified Pile Burners Course will be held at the Southwest Florida Research & Education Center on Tuesday, Feb. 4 beginning at 8 AM and concluding at 5 PM. For more information about the course and how to preregister, contact Dr. Mongi Zekri at 863-674-4092 or by email at maz@ufl.edu.

2013-14 Citrus Leaf Freezing Point Temperatures

Chris Oswalt will be providing weekly citrus leaf freezing point temperatures again for the 2013-14 winter season. Weekly samples are collected from 7 locations (Balm, Ft. Meade, Frostproof, Green Swamp, Lake Alfred, Avalon and Umatilla) around central Florida. Information regarding the weekly results can be accessed from the FAWN website: http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/tools/coldp/crit_temp_select_guide_citrus.php.

Information on leaf freezing temperatures can be used to aid in determining cold protection requirements on freeze events. The information is provided with support from the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

My Florida Farm Weather

The Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) weather network has a new feature this year which includes numerous grower weather stations. These stations can be found under "My Florida Farm Weather" link on the left side of the FAWN site. The site will allow you to select these new grower sites as well as the historical FAWN sites around the state. To navigate to the new grower weather stations, please visit: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/mffw/>.

Cost share funding is still available for additional grower weather stations by contacting Ms. Susie Bishop sbishop@highlandsswdc.org or by phone at 863-402-7020. Ms. Bishop is located at the Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District Office, 4505 George Blvd in Sebring.

Citrus Black Spot

Citrus black spot is caused by the fungus *Guignardia citricarpa* and causes blemishes to the peel and can result in significant yield losses. Black spot affect all commercial citrus species and cultivars grown in Florida. Sweet oranges, especially mid to late maturing types such as Valencia, are highly susceptible to the disease. The disease has been primarily found in south Florida, with the exception of one find in Polk County. Growers should be paying close attention to their groves as fruit approaches maturity as that is when symptoms are most visible. Black spot fruit symptoms are wide ranging and are characterized by four different names: hard spot, false melanose, cracked spot and virulent or freckle spot. To get a quick review of citrus black spot, please see the YouTube video which can be found at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-PWWl8c_Sc.

Dates to remember:

Feb. 4, 11, 18 Citrus Production School, Arcadia
 Feb. 4 Certified Pile Burner Course, Immokalee
 March 4 Safety Morning, Arcadia
 (Information in next newsletter)

Sincerely,



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

Enc: Citrus Production School brochure

Citrus Production School

February 4, 11 & 18, 2014

Family Service Center

310 W. Whidden Street

Arcadia, FL

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Feb. 4, 2014

- Thermotherapy for HLB-Infected Citrus Trees, Dr. Duan Yongping, USDA ARS, Ft. Pierce
- Use of Antibiotics to Maintain HLB-Infected Trees, Dr. Bob Shatters, USDA ARS, Ft. Pierce
- Resistance and Tolerance to HLB in Citrus, Dr. Ed Stover, USDA ARS, Ft. Pierce
- RNAi: New Plant Protection Technology for Citrus Production, Dr. Wayne Hunter, USDA ARS, Ft. Pierce

Feb. 11, 2014

- Managing Psyllids in Florida Citrus, Dr. Michael Rogers, CREC, Lake Alfred
- Bee Management Practices to Minimize Injury While Making Pesticide Applications in Citrus Groves, FDACS

Feb. 18, 2014

- Managing Root Health in an Era of HLB & Citrus Canker Management Programs, Dr. Jim Graham, CREC, Lake Alfred
- Diaprepes Management, Dr. Larry Duncan, CREC, Lake Alfred

Registration Fee is \$20 per person.

***** REGISTRATION FORM *****

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Registration Fee: \$20 per person and checks should be made payable to **Citrus Advisory Committee**.

Mail registration form and check to:

Citrus Advisory Committee, Hardee County Extension Service, 507 Civic Center Drive, Wauchula, FL 33873.

Registration requested prior to January 27, 2014.