

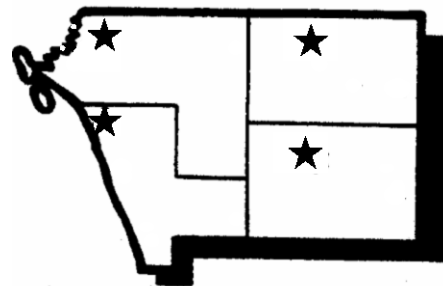
West Central Citrus Letter

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 3, 2018

New Citrus Compliance Agreements

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has updated the citrus compliance agreements for commercial growers, caretakers and processors. The new compliance agreements are required to be signed and returned to the Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP). The new compliance agreement still requires all parties to implement self-survey, psyllid control, decontamination programs and to adopt the latest recommendations for pest and disease control available from the University of Florida.

Trip tickets for fruit moving from non-quarantine areas must be clearly written and serially numbered and include the grove name, block identification, landowner or agent's name, lessee, harvester, number of boxes, fruit variety, vehicle tag number, destination and date of harvest along with the compliance agreement number of the owner of each block harvested. Additional language has been added to the compliance agreement regarding movement of fruit from Citrus Black Spot (CBS) regulated areas.

New compliance agreements are available from the CHRP offices in Avon Park (863-317-5900), Immokalee (239-675-4001), Tavares (352-609-6190), Vero Beach (772-778-5069) or Winter Haven (863-298-3000) or by email at DPI-CHRP@freshfromflorida.com. Copies of the

compliance agreements are also available from the Citrus Agents website at <http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/fdacs/>. Once at the site, look under the information tab in the lower left side for a copy of the new compliance agreements.

Private and Core Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, January 30, Wauchula

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be conducted on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at the Hardee County Extension Service Office, 507 Civic Center Drive, Wauchula. The class will review the materials contained in the test to obtain a Private Applicator pesticide license. The class will begin at 9:00 A.M. and conclude at noon with the test at 1:00 P.M.

Three CEUs (2 Core and 1 Private) are offered to individuals that have a current pesticide license and will be renewing using CEUs. A registration fee of \$55.00 per person is charged to cover the study manuals (Core and Private) and refreshments. To attend the class for only CEUs, the registration fee is \$5.00. 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 January 25.

Worker Protection Standards – Train the Trainer, February 1, Wauchula

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

Four (4) continuing education units (CEUs) will be offered to individuals with restricted use pesticide licenses in the private, ag row, ag tree, forestry, ornamental & turf, or soil & greenhouse fumigation categories.

To register for the class, please call the Hardee Extension Service Office in Wauchula at 863-773-2164. A registration fee of \$10.00 per person is required. Pre-registration requested prior to January 30. Minimum registration to conduct the class is 5 and if minimum is not obtained prior to January 30 the class will be rescheduled for a later date.

Florida Citrus Show, January 24 & 25, 2018, Ft. Pierce

The annual Florida Citrus Show is being conducted in Ft. Pierce on January 24 and 25 at the Havert L. Fenn Center, 2000 Virginia Ave.). The program begins each day at 8:30 AM and will address the major topics of:

- Postbloom Fruit Drop (PFD)
- Best Management Practices to Maximize Bactericide Performance
- Fresh and Processed Citrus Varieties Update
- HLB Management
- Exploring Emerging Genetic Technologies to Fight HLB
- Water Farming in South Florida
- And more

To register or obtain more information on the program, please see their website at: <http://www.citrusshow.com/>

Operation Cleansweep

This program offers a safe, convenient, and effective mechanism for agricultural operations to properly dispose of canceled, suspended, and unusable pesticides. The program is administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

(FDACS) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

The program has limitation requirements and can dispose of up to 1,000 pounds of unusable products free of charge to qualifying operations.

For more information and how to register for the program, please contact Shannon Turner, FDACS at 877-851-5285 or by email at cleansweep@freshfromflorida.com.

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training, January 16, UF/IFAS CREC, Lake Alfred

The Produce Safety Alliance Grower training will be conducted at the UF/IFAS CREC in Lake Alfred on January 16. Additional training locations will be offered around the state in February through June. The course provides a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and co-management information, and Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule requirements.

For more information on the program or training, please contact Travis Chapin, 863-956-8642 or at tkchapin@ufl.edu. Registration for the 7-hour training program is \$25 per person and registration can be made at: <https://psa011618.eventbrite.com>

Florida Minimum Wage for 2018

The new 2018 Florida minimum wage is \$8.25 per hour, effective January 1, 2018 which is a slight increase over the 2017 minimum. The minimum wage applies to all employees in the state who are covered by the federal minimum wage.

Employers must pay their employees the hourly state minimum wage for all hours worked in Florida. Employees that receive tips have different minimum wage requirements.

Florida Statutes require employers who must pay their employees the Florida minimum wage to post a minimum wage notice in a conspicuous and accessible place in each establishment where these employees work. This poster requirement is in addition to the federal requirement to post a notice of the federal minimum wage. Florida's minimum wage poster is available for downloading in English, Spanish, and Creole from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's website at <http://www.floridajobs.org>. The federal poster can be downloaded from the U.S. Department of Labor's website at:

<https://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/posters/flsa.htm>

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Flower Bud Advisory for the 2018 Bloom Period

Dr. Gene Albrigo is posting his flower bud advisory about every three weeks for the 2018 bloom season to the Citrus Research & Education Center website at:

<http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/flowerbud/2018/index.shtml>.

Once at the site, click the 2018 season and then all current postings will be available for review. For the 2018 season, advisories have been posted for November 18, December 1, and 20.

These advisories will aid you planning your sprays to enhance bloom as well as targeting psyllid management sprays.

FAWN Tools for Citrus Growers

The Florida Automated Weather Network is available for use and may come in real handy with the forecasted cold weather for the first weekend in January. The site can be viewed at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/tools/coldp/>.

The following are just a few of the programs that may be helpful in the event freezing temperatures are forecasted.

FAWN Freeze Alert Tool – Using this tool, you will receive a text and/or email message when certain conditions are met at a FAWN site.

NWS Forecast Interactive Map – This tool uses interactive Google Map that allows the user to select any location for an NWS graphical forecast. Included on the map are the NWS Fruit Frost Stations locations and FAWN sites.

Minimum Overnight Temperature – Minimum temperature estimates are provided based upon the

Brunt equation and air and dew point temperatures at sunset.

Forecast Tracker for FAWN sites – Plots the actual temperature and forecasted temperature for the previous twenty four (24) hours and the forecasted temperature for the next twenty four (24) hours in order to show how well the forecast is tracking the actual temperature. The Forecast Tracker is easy to use with a drop down menu to select the desired FAWN site.

Evaporative cooling potential - Determines the risk of using irrigation for cold protection, and provides the risk calculated at FAWN stations.

Wet-bulb Based Irrigation Cutoff Temperature – This tool will estimate the safe cutoff temperature based on current FAWN conditions.

Dates to Remember

Jan. 16	Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training, Lake Alfred
Jan. 24-25	Florida Citrus Show, Ft. Pierce
Jan. 30	Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, Wauchula
Feb. 1	Worker Protection Standards, Train-the-Trainer, Wauchula
Feb. 13, 20, 27	Citrus Production School, Arcadia
March 6	Safety Morning, Arcadia

Sincerely,

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