

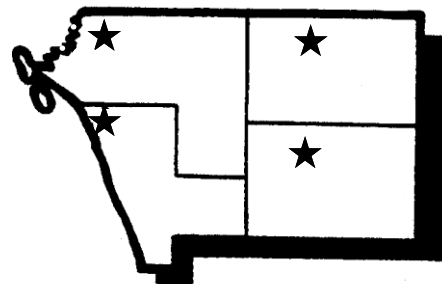
West Central Citrus Letter

DeSoto Extension Service
2150 NE Roan Street
Arcadia FL 34266
863/993-4846

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

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

Sarasota Extension Service
6700 Clark Road
Sarasota FL 34241
941/861-9900



January 14, 2019

Worker Protection Standards – Train-the-Trainer, January 29, 2019, Wauchula

A training session will be conducted from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Hardee County Extension Service Office, Wauchula on Tuesday, January 29th. The session will cover the worker protection standards (WPS) information required under the rule to train employees as pesticide handlers or workers.

If you wish to attend the class to obtain a WPS Training Certificate or for four CEUs, please call the Hardee County Extension Service Office at 863-773-2164 to register. Registration fee is \$10 per person.

If you were trained as a trainer under the WPS rule prior to 2017, you will need to be trained under the new rule that was implemented in late 2016 prior to conducting either ‘handler or worker’ training sessions unless you have a valid restricted use pesticide license.

Citrus Grower Roundtable Meeting, January 30, 2019, Arcadia

The Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association and UF/IFAS Extension will be hosting a citrus grower roundtable discussion on Wednesday, January 30th at the DeSoto County

Extension Service Office. The program will begin at 8:00 AM on January 30th. The purpose of the roundtable meeting is to allow growers to discuss their HLB and other pest management programs as well as observation of the 2018-19 crop season.

Donuts and juice will be provided. Please come and share what you and your fellow growers are doing and what seems to be working in your groves to enhance tree health and yields.

Citrus Production School, February 12, 19, & 26, 2019, Arcadia

The annual citrus production school will be conducted on Tuesday evenings, February 12, 19 and 26, 2019 at the Family Service Center in Arcadia. Each class will begin at 7:00 PM and conclude prior to 9:00 PM.

Continuing education units (CEUs) will be offered for each session for both private and ag tree crop licenses.

Registration fee is \$20 per person.

Please see the enclosed flyer for a listing of topics and how to register for the program.

Brazil Citrus Tour, June

I will be putting together a trip for citrus growers to travel to Brazil in late May or June 2019 to visit

citrus operations in the State of Sao Paulo. The trip will depart Florida on a Saturday evening and return the following Saturday morning.

I am working on dates and costs for the trip and hope to have that information within the next few weeks. If you would be interested in traveling to Brazil in May or June 2019 to visit citrus operations, please let me know to allow your name to be added to a list to receive information on the trip as it becomes available.

Florida Minimum Wage

The minimum wage for Florida workers increased from \$8.25 to \$8.46 per hour effective January 1, 2019. Each year the minimum wage may be adjusted due to the 2004 constitutional amendment in which the state minimum wage is tied to inflation. The federal minimum wage remains at \$7.25. H2A employees have a higher minimum wage based upon program requirements.

Proposed New Requirements Related to the Use of Paraquat

Changes are being proposed for the use requirements for paraquat later in 2019. The major changes include:

- new closed-system packaging designed to prevent transfer or removal of the pesticide except into the application equipment
- new specialized training for certified applicators
- restrict the use of paraquat to allow application only to certified pesticide applicators

With these changes in mind, it would be wise to begin work on getting all applicators trained to obtain their own restricted use pesticide license if they will be applying paraquat. Remember as the proposed rules are implemented it will no longer be allowed for applicators to work under the supervision of a certified applicator when applying paraquat.

For more information on the proposed changes, please see the University of Florida EDIS document titled “New Paraquat Requirements” by Dr. Fred Fishel at:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/PI/PI27900.pdf>

Flower Bud Advisory

The latest flower bud advisory issued by Dr. Gene Albrigo is now available at: <https://crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/flowerbud/2019/1719.shtml> . Per the report, it is estimated that flowering will occur during the last week in February or early March. The actual flowering time can be impacted by cooler than normal weather during the next few weeks, thus check the above mentioned site for future updates.

Weekly IFAS Extension Agricultural Weather Report

IFAS provides a weekly weather report that lists temperature and rainfall data as well as the National Weather Service 6-10 day outlook related to forecasted temperature and precipitation. If you would like to receive this weekly report, please contact Rick Lusher at rlusher@ufl.edu .

Dates to remember:

Jan. 23-24	Florida Citrus Show, Ft. Pierce
Jan. 29	Worker Protection Standards Train-the-Trainer, Wauchula
Jan. 30	Citrus Grower Roundtable, Arcadia
Feb. 12, 19, 26	Citrus Production School, Arcadia
March 5	Safety Morning, Arcadia

Sincerely,

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

Enc.: Citrus Production School program flyer

Citrus Production School

February 12, 19, 26, 2019
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Family Service Center
310 West Whidden Street
Arcadia, FL

The annual citrus production school will be conducted on three consecutive Tuesday evenings at the Family Service Center in Arcadia on February 12, 19, and 26. Each class will begin at 7:00 PM and will conclude prior to 9:00 PM. Each session will grant continuing education units (CEUs) which can be applied to your restricted use pesticide license at time of renewal.

Topics for the production school are as follows:

- Feb 12: **Managing foliar citrus pests** – Dr. Lauren Diepenbrock
 Managing foliar citrus diseases – Dr. Megan Dewdney
- Feb 19: **Rootstock and scion combinations for future planting** – Dr. Jude Grosser
 Review of citrus herbicide programs – Dr. Steve Futch
- Feb. 26: **Managing HLB-affected trees with irrigation and nutrition** – Dr. Arnold Schumann
 Managing soil pH in both the irrigated zone and outside the irrigated zone, enhancing citrus tree root growth – Dr. Evan Johnson

All speakers are University of Florida faculty and located at the Citrus Research & Education Center in Lake Alfred, FL.

To register for the program, please send a check to the Citrus Advisory Committee, 700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred, FL 33850 or register online at <https://citrusproductionschool2019.eventbrite.com>

Registration fee is \$20 per person and requested prior to February 5, 2019.



Registration: Citrus Production School, February 12, 19, 26, 2019

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Registration Fee: \$20 per person

To register by mail, please send registration form and check made payable to the Citrus Advisory Committee, 700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred, FL 33850.