

West Central Citrus Letter

DeSoto Extension Service

2150 NE Roan Street • Arcadia FL 34266
863/993-4846

Hardee Extension Service

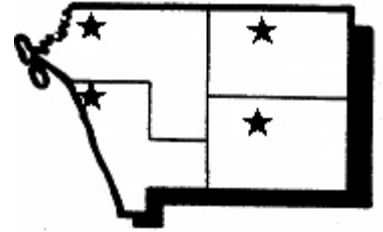
507 Civic Center Drive • Wauchula FL 33873
863/773-2164

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



July 2, 2010

Citrus Management Areas

A number of citrus management areas are being developed locally to coordinate pesticide applications between area growers. The program goals are to actively and collectively control the Asian citrus psyllid over a regional or selected area where citrus is being grown. By growers working together to schedule and target psyllid control programs, actions will be enhanced and slow the spread of greening within and between groves. Additionally, growers should ensure that proper pesticide selection is being coordinated between growers and pesticide classes or mode of action to minimize the potential for pesticide resistance to develop within the psyllid population.

These area wide programs must be locally driven within the grower community if they are to succeed. Statewide programs will not be able to meet all the needs of local growers, harvesting schedules or coordination with various production practices. Locally, these activities can be coordinated to ensure success and meet necessary management decisions.

When you discuss psyllid management, I believe that some growers just want the problem of citrus greening to go away. They may also want someone else to fix the problem. However, we know this will not happen. It is up to each individual citrus grower or citrus area to actively participate in greening and psyllid management strategies with their neighbors if we are to collectively succeed as a viable industry.

We all know the power of ONE! The power ONE person has perpetuated our past individual practices or the power that the same ONE has to contribute to the workable solution. Collectively we can achieve greater good than

individually. It is ONE grower working with another that will provide greater success in this battle.

It is not about just winning this greening battle; we must ultimately win the war. It cannot be just about winning either. If we only want to win, then someone must be the loser. It has to be about the big picture and about moving our industry forward together.

Greening management and psyllid control is complicated, difficult and personal. It also has many shades of gray. Then, there is reality. Reality is what we have to work with and the power of ONE grower to work with his neighbors to collectively, cooperatively and jointly address greening must take place if we expect to win this war.

Citrus Expo, August 18-19, 2010

The annual Citrus Expo will be held at the Lee Civic Center in Ft. Myers on August 18 and 19, 2010. The program format has changed slightly and is now 1.5 days in length. The second day will adjourn at noon with a steak lunch. Additional activities are also being implemented to include a Casino Night FFA Fundraiser and a prayer breakfast.

Please see the enclosed brochure or the Citrus Expo website for more information at <http://www.citrusexpo.net/>. Pre-registration is requested at the Citrus Expo website.

Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, August 11, 2010

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be held on Wednesday, August 11, 2010 at the Hardee County Extension Service Office at 507 Civic Center Drive in Wauchula. The class will review the materials contained

in the tests to obtain a private applicator pesticide license. The class will begin at 9:00 A.M. and conclude at noon with the test being given at 1:00 P.M. Three CEUs (2 Core and 1 Private) will be offered to individuals that have a current pesticide license and will be renewing using CEUs. A registration fee of \$25.00 per person is charged to cover the study manuals 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 August 5, 2010.

Citrus BMP

The Citrus BMP team is still active in assisting growers in signing up for the Peace River Valley Citrus growing region by enrolling area citrus groves in the BMP program. Participating in the program would provide you with being in presumption of compliance with state water quality standards. Enrollees will be provided benefits if water at your location was found to be impaired. To contact the local representative to enroll in the BMP program, please call Darren Cole at 863-993-4846, by cell phone at 941-915-1936 or by email at dc32@ufl.edu.

Nutrient Water Quality Criteria for Florida

EPA is proposing numeric nutrient criteria for Florida pertaining to nutrient concentrations to protect aquatic life in lakes and flowing waters, including canals. This rule will have a significant impact on Florida's agricultural production systems.

To gain a better understanding on this rule and how it will impact our agricultural industry, please download the UF fact sheet that discusses the proposed rule from: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss528>. If you do not have access to the web, I will be glad to provide you with a copy of the publication.

USDA/FSA Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

FSA announces TAP for commercial orchardists and nursery tree growers. To be eligible for TAP, producers must have suffered greater than an 18% death loss per individual stand due to a natural disaster. The deaths must have occurred in the same calendar year as the disaster. Natural Disasters include plant disease, insect infestation, drought, fire, freeze, flood, lightning, or other occurrence of such magnitude or severity so as to be considered disastrous, as determined by FSA. TAP is a cost-reimbursement program, with payments covering up to 70 percent of replant costs and 50 percent of pruning, removal and other salvaging costs for replacing or salvaging damaged trees. Producers can receive assistance

for up to 500 acres of trees, bushes or vines. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011. Signup deadlines are as follows: Losses occurring for Calendar Year 2008, 2009, and January 1, 2010 to May 7, 2010 deadline is July 6, 2010, May 8, 2010 to September 30, 2011 is within 90 calendar days of the disaster event or date when the loss of trees, bushes, or vines is apparent. Producers must have purchased a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, or for 2008, obtained a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through the buy-in provision. There are limited exceptions to this rule.

For more information on the new TAP program, please contact your local county FSA office at 863-773-4764 or the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

It appears that citrus canker or greening losses may not qualify for this program as the tree does not die within the year of the disaster.

Citrus Black Spot

I am enclosing, with this newsletter, a citrus black spot identification sheet for your use. As we approach the fall season the symptoms will become more evident, if present in your grove. Remember that symptoms are generally not readily apparent on citrus foliage. Fruit symptoms will be your best source to visually diagnose the disease. For more information on citrus black spot, please go to the following link:

http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/black_spot/citrus_black_spot.htm

If you suspect citrus black spot, we will be glad to assist with sample collection and testing to confirm the disease.

CEUs in Trade Magazines

For individuals that need continuing education units (CEUs) to renew their restricted use pesticide license with either core or other category units, you have numerous options by utilizing various trade magazines articles for this renewal process. Both *Citrus Industry* and *Florida Grower* magazines offer CEUs by reading an approved article and submitting answers to questions. When using these magazines as an option to obtain CEUs, please make sure they were published within the last 12 months from the time you submit the application for CEUs. Articles that are older than 12 months are no longer approved to grant CEU credits.

For CEUs in *Citrus Industry* magazine, please see the articles in the following issues: September 2009, December 2009, February 2010 or June 2010. For *Florida Grower* magazine, please see the November 2009 or March 2010 issues.

These articles are also available on the Citrus Agents web site at www.citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu .

Mediterranean Fruit Flies Found in Palm Beach County

During routine fruit fly monitoring, a trap containing suspect Mediterranean fruit flies was collected in the 6600 block of N.E. Seventh Avenue in Boca Raton, Palm Beach County, by a Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services inspector, Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles H. Bronson announced. The find was later confirmed to be wild Mediterranean fruit flies by a state entomologist.

The Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) is considered the most serious of the world's fruit fly pests due to its potential economic harm and threat to our food supply. It attacks more than 250 different fruits, vegetables and nuts, including oranges, grapefruit, lemons, apples, guava, mango, tomatoes and peppers. The flies' eggs are laid in the fruit and develop into maggots causing the fruit to rot. They then emerge as adults once the fruit falls to the ground. Medflies breed continuously when host fruits are available. Population growth may be explosive, as females are capable of producing hundreds of eggs.

Appropriate control measures can be launched in short order. These include foliar spot treatment of host trees with Spinosad, an insecticide derived from a naturally occurring soil organism, and approved for use on organic crops. Other treatments include soil drenching and fruit stripping of infested trees. Another important tool is the sterile insect technique, a biologically based reproduction control method.

State and federal agencies will work with local governments to keep the public involved and to provide updated and accurate information. Visit the Department's website at

<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/ento/exoticfruitflies.html> for maps of the infested areas and detailed information on the Medfly, or call the toll-free help line at 1-888-397-1517.

Source: FDACS

Dates to remember:

July 31-Aug. 1 Small Farm Alternative Enterprises Conference, Kissimmee

Aug. 11 Pesticide License Review and Testing, Wauchula

Aug. 18-19 Citrus Expo, Ft. Myers

Aug. 26 Citrus Packinghouse Day, Lake Alfred

Aug. 27 Indian River Postharvest Workshop, Ft. Pierce

Sincerely,

Steve Futch

Stephen H. Futch, Ph.D.
Extension Agent, Multi-County, Citrus
Phone: 863-956-1151
Email: shf@crec.ifas.ufl.edu
Nextel: 158*17*31393

Enc.: Citrus Expo Brochure
Citrus Black Spot ID Sheet