

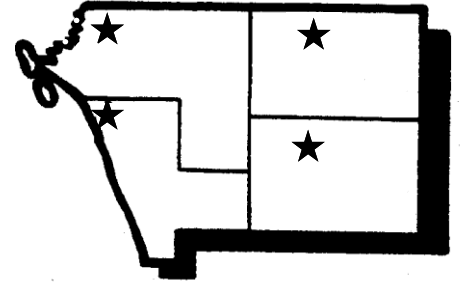
West Central Citrus Letter

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
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June 24, 2013

Oil Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Program, July 31, Arcadia

The EPA has developed the Oil Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) program to prevent oil spills into waters of the United States. The program calls for farmers and other facilities to have an oil spill prevention plan, called the SPCC Plan. These plans can help farmers and agricultural facilities be prepared to prevent and respond to oil spills and protect water resources needed for farming operations.

You are covered by the SPCC program if:

- a. Store, transfer, use or consume oil or oil products;
- b. Have an aggregate aboveground oil storage capacity greater than 1,320 gallons or completely buried storage capacity greater than 42,000 gallons; and
- c. It could reasonably be expected to discharge oil into or upon water of the U.S. or adjoining shorelines.

Oil of any type and in any form is covered, including, but not limited to: petroleum; fuel oil; sludge; oil refuse; oil mixed with wastes oils; and other oils and greases, including synthetic oils and minerals oils.

Under the act, a farm is "a facility or tract of land devoted to the production of crops or raising of animals, including fish, which produced and sold, or normally would have produced and sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products during the year."

To calculate oil storage, simply add up the container oil storage capacities and compare your totals capacities

to the SPCC thresholds. For these totals you would use the container maximum volume and not the actual amount of product stored in the containers. Count only containers that have a storage capacity of 55 gallons and above.

When trying to determine if your facility could reasonably discharge oil into or upon water of the US, consider the geography and location of our facility relative to nearby waters (such as streams, creeks, ditches, canals and lakes). You would need to determine if these structures or water bodies may transport an oil spill to nearby streams. You should also consider whether precipitation runoff could transport spilled oil off your site into waterways.

When considering the possibility of offsite movement, you should assume that man-made features, such as dikes, equipment or other structures that could prevent, contain, hinder or restrain an oil spill are not present.

To learn more about this program, the Extension Service will be conducting a 2-hour seminar beginning at 10 AM at the Turner Exhibition Hall, 2250 NE Roan Street, Arcadia on Wednesday, July 31 and will be repeated at the Citrus Research & Education Center, 700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred on Thursday August 1.

Preregistration is required for both locations and can be made by calling the DeSoto County Extension Service at 863-993-4846 or the Polk County Extension Service Office at 863-519-8677. Sponsored lunch will be provided at the Arcadia meeting.

Citrus Expo, Aug 14, 15, North Ft. Myers

The annual Citrus Expo will be held at the Lee County Civic Center in North Ft. Myers on August 14 and 15. Please visit their website to view this year's program at <http://www.citrusexpo.net/>. Remember the second day concludes after lunch. Preregistration is requested and can be done online at <http://www.citrusexpo.net/registration.html>.

Private and Core Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, Aug 21, 2013, Wauchula

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be held on Wednesday, August 21 at the Hardee County Extension Service Office at 507 Civic Center Drive in 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 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 \$38.00 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 14, 2013.

Escape HLB Trees

The citrus extension agents around the state are actively looking for citrus trees that appear to be less impacted by HLB as compared to adjacent trees. This process of locating and evaluating these trees is being supported by the Citrus Research Development Foundation (CRDF). By locating and evaluating escape or surviving trees, it may be possible to accelerate the discovery of potential genes that may offer tolerance to resistance to HLB. If you have trees in your grove that are doing well as compared to adjacent trees that are declining from HLB, please contact me at 863-956-8644 or by email at shf@ufl.edu. I will be glad to schedule a visit to evaluate your citrus trees and see how they may fit into this process.

Core CEUs

Agricultural restricted use pesticide license holders can obtain Core CEUs by reading articles written by Extension agents and published in *Citrus Industry* magazine. The articles are published on a quarterly basis (February, May, August, and November) and can also be found at the "Citrus Agents" website at <http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/info/CEU%20Testing.htm>. CEUs can be requested by completing the test set and submitting online or by sending the answer sheet by mail as noted at the bottom of the article. When renewing any restricted use pesticide license, you will need to obtain at least 4 CEUs in the Core category as well as additional CEUs for each of your licenses categories.

Ragweed Parthenium

Please be aware that I have begun to see ragweed parthenium (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) in Hardee County. Ragweed parthenium is a summer annual that can grow up to 4 feet tall with branching stems. The leaves are alternate, stalked and twice divided. Lower leaves form a basal rosette whereas the upper leaves are entirely to slightly lobed. The flowers are white, arranged on the stem tip and are less than one-fifth inch in size. The fruit is black, rounded nutlet and less than one-tenth inch in size. In many locations, this weed is becoming increasingly resistant to glyphosate. Controlling the weed in isolated locations and sanitation by cleaning mower between infested locations could minimize the spread.

Citrus Best Management Practices (BMP)

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) adopted a new statewide citrus BMP manual. This new manual incorporates the four regional manuals into a single document titled "Water Quality/Quantity Best Management Practices for Florida Citrus." Citrus growers on the ridge must resubmit under the new manual, whereas those in the other 3 regions are not required to resubmit to be covered under the previously submitted Notice of Intent (NOI).

The benefit of enrolling in the program provides a presumption of compliance with state water quality standards, a release from fines or damages related to pollutants addressed by the BMPs and/or eligibility for BMP cost-share funds, when and where available.

If you are not currently enrolled in the citrus BMP, you should strongly consider the benefits from participating in this program and enroll as soon as possible. Copies of the manuals are available at the local county extension service offices or from the Florida Department of Agriculture representative. A local contact for Hardee and DeSoto Counties is Matt Warren, 863-773-2164 or by email at Matthew.warren@freshfromflorida.com or Jessica Stempien for Manatee and Sarasota Counties, 813-985-7481 or by email at JessicaLeaStempien@freshfromflorida.com.

New Citrus Variety Options for Florida Growers

New Varieties Development & Management Corp. (NVDMC) has announced a schedule of statewide grower meetings supporting the launch of new FAST TRACK citrus evaluations program.

NVDMC has worked closely with the University of Florida's Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Plant Improvement team and Florida Foundation Seed Producers (FFSP), to establish a new and innovative program through which growers can register to plant 5-30 trees of experimental fresh citrus selections. Through FAST TRACK, commercial growers will participate in the trial process and provide feedback that will aid in release and commercialization decisions. Grower's comments will be an integral part to the release and commercialization process. FAST TRACK is intended to reduce the amount of time necessary to evaluate and release promising new varieties. The program is for fresh fruit varieties only. FAST TRACK Growers will receive benefits for their participation.

All interested commercial citrus growers should plan to attend one of the meetings. A presentation will explain details about the program and registration documentation will be distributed. Representatives from IFAS Plant Improvement Team and FFSP will also be present. Each meeting will last approximately 90 minutes.

Meetings will be held on July 31 at Lake County Extension Office, Tavares (9:30 AM) and Citrus Research & Education Center, Lake Alfred (2:00 PM), August 1 at Highlands County Extension Office, Sebring (9:30 AM) and Southwest Florida Research & Education Center, Immokalee (2:00 PM) and August 2 in Indian River Research & Education

Center, Ft. Pierce and Brevard County Extension Office, Cocoa (2:00 PM).

Seating is limited. RSVP is requested by fax to 321-214-0223 or email to Lucy.Nieves@ffva.com.

Hurricane Preparedness for Citrus Groves

It is wise for citrus growers to begin to think about hurricane preparedness before any storms with high winds impact your area. With preparedness in mind, a UF document written by Dr. Robert Rouse highlights both pre- and post-storm recovery tasks that citrus growers should consider. The document can be found at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ch178>.

Certified Pile Burner Course, Sept. 18, 2013

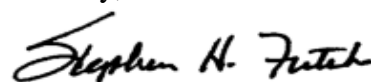
The Florida Forest Service and UF Extension Service will be conducting a Certified Pile Burner Course on September 18, 2013. The course will provide instruction on how to burn piles legally, safely and efficiently. With the certification, you will be able to obtain priority for authorization to burn during dry weather. Additionally, certified pile burners are allowed to burn up to two hours longer per day and able to obtain multiple day authorizations. The training will be conducted from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM on September 18 and will be held at the Turner Exhibition Hall, 2250 NE Roan Street, Arcadia. Registration is limited to the first 50 individuals to complete the registration process. Registration is \$50 per person. For more information on the course please contact the DeSoto County Extension Office at 863-993-4846 or their website at <http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu>.

Dates to remember:

July 31	SPCC program, Arcadia, 10 AM
Aug. 1	SPCC program, Lake Alfred 10 AM
Aug. 14-15	Citrus Expo, North Ft. Myers
Aug. 21	Restricted Use Pesticide License Review & Testing, Wauchula
Sept. 18	Certified Pile Burner Training, Arcadia

Pre-registration required for all noted meetings

Sincerely,



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