UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA | IFAS EXTENSION

West Central Citrus Letter

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Palmetto FL 34221
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Hardee Extension Service
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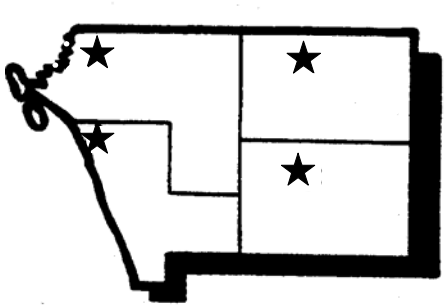
Wauchula FL 33873
863/773-2164

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



June 25, 2012

Citrus Growers Round Table, Aug. 7, Arcadia

The Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association and the Extension Service will be conducting a grower meeting to discuss citrus tree rejuvenation and other timely HLB or greening topics. The meeting will be held at the Family Service Center, 310 W. Whidden Street in Arcadia and begins at 11:30 AM. Lunch is being provided.

Tissue and Soil Analysis

It is again that time of the year to begin to think about collecting tissue samples to determine nutritional needs of any given citrus area. When collecting a sample, you should select a management unit that is representative of the portion of the grove from which it is collected. Samples should be grouped to represent areas of like variety, tree age, and soil conditions. The leaves should be collected from 15 to 20 trees. The collected leaves should be from four-to-six month-old spring flush from nonfruiting twigs and total approximately 100 leaves collected. By collecting the spring flush leave during July through September should allow the leaves to be the correct age.

Any leaves that have recently been sprayed with micronutrients for fungicidal or nutritional purposes should be avoided. All leaves should be washed to remove soil and dust particles prior to analysis.

Soil samples should be collected to measure soil pH, phosphorus (P), magnesium (Mg), calcium (Ca) and copper (Cu). The samples should be collected at the end of the summer rainy season and before the fall fertilization application. Each sample should consist of one soil core taken from 15 to 20 trees to a depth of 8 inches near the dripline of the tree. Be aware that samples collected within the irrigation wetted area may have significantly different values as compared to samples collected outside the wetted zone which is especially true for soil pH.

Once the soil and leaves have been collected and properly analyzed, the results can be compared to established standards. These standards can be found in the UF publication "Nutrition of Florida Citrus Trees", SP253, Second Edition or online at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss531 .

2012 Florida Citrus Pest Management Guides

Copies of the annual citrus pest management guides are available at the extension offices in Wauchula, Arcadia, Palmetto and Sarasota. The guides are free, but will not be mailed. If you would like a free copy please visit one of the above Extension offices during normal business hours. Citrus pest management guides are available at most county Extension Service offices where a citrus agent is housed.

Citrus Expo, August 15 & 16, Ft. Myers

The annual Citrus Expo is currently accepting on-line registration at http://citrusexpo.net/ . Advanced registration is requested to adequately prepare for meal and meeting room requirements. The program listing should be posted to the above noted website in early July. Continuing education units (CEUs) will be available for those who attend the program and have a valid restricted use pesticide license.

CEU articles

The citrus agents website (http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/) currently has 4 CEU articles that when completed will grant CEUs in the core category that can be used to renew your restricted use pesticide license. These articles can be read and then answer each 20 question test set. Completed tests should be mailed as noted to obtain 1 CEU in the core category. This article series is free of charge and an efficient way to obtain CEUs to aid in license renewal.

Copper Model

The updated copper model is now available at the AgroClimate website (http://agroclimate.org/tools/cudecay/). This web-based spray application tool is designed to help growers make better management application decisions regarding copper applications. The program will consider rain events and predicts the level of copper residue available for disease control. The information will be displayed graphically as well as in table format to aid in making decisions on when the next copper application would be required for disease control. You can insert your own weather data or use data from a nearby FAWN weather station in running the program. More information about the tool is available on the University of Florida EDIS site at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp289 .

Citrus Economics

If you are looking for citrus economics information, an excellent site to find the necessary data is at the Citrus Research & Education Center website at http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/ . Once at the site look for the economic heading under Extension (http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/economics/)and then it will take you to the site that will allow you to download the latest summary budget costs for the Indian River, Southwest Florida and the Central Florida (Ridge) area for 2010-11. Also, at the site you will be able to find average charges for picking, estimated hauling cost, citrus custom rate and the annual cultural maintenance cost. These economic publications are developed on an annual basis by Ron Muraro who is located at the CREC.

Hurricane Preparedness

It has been a number of years since a major hurricane has hit our area. Many of us remember the hurricane season of 2004 when Charlie, Francis, Ivan and Jean all visited our area. Many of us were without electric power for many days or had limited access to normal supplies.

As we begin our hurricane season, citrus growers need to develop a plan and be prepared. The plan should address personnel issues that would formulate a plan how employees can be contacted to address critical farm issues. Tanks should be secured in a manner to minimize movement. Those tanks that are empty could be filled to reduce movement due to wind or rain.

Adequate fuel supplies should be available to operate emergency equipment and pumps to remove excess water. After the hurricanes of 2004, we all remember the problem of obtaining fuel either due to availability or the lack of electricity to pump the fuel from tanks to equipment.

Remember water that remains in a field for more than 72 hours will cause damage to feeder roots of citrus trees due to insufficient oxygen in the soil. Ditches and canals should be inspected to ensure that these structures are in good operations conditions allowing for the maximum amount of water to be removed from the property. Cleaning ditches during flood conditions is dangerous and difficult.

Make sure you have adequate emergency equipment like chain saws, torches and generators. All these items should be serviced to ensure they are operational and in adequate supply.

Hazardous materials should be secured prior to a storm. Dry pesticides in storage areas should be placed on pallets or other material to raise them above the floor in the event of leaks or other water intrusion into the storage area.

Proper planning before the hurricane will greatly increase the chances of a successful and timely recovery.

Citrus Health Management Areas (CHMAs)

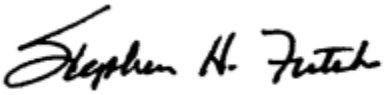
CHMAs have been developed for all citrus production areas in Hardee, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota as well as most of the State of Florida. All CHMAs have designated area captains to assist with the timely coordination of area sprays. CHMA information is posted to http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/chmas/index.shtml . At this site you can find an overview of CHMAs, contact information, toolkits and websites.

One of the more interesting features of the CHMA site is where you can see the active psyllid count survey results for any given CHMA. To see the psyllid count results at any active CHMA website select the psyllid scouting report and then the report date. After selecting the date a map will appear that shows if the citrus psyllid numbers are increasing, decreasing or no change in numbers were found in the 3 week survey cycle.

Dates to remember --

Aug. 7	Citrus Growers Round Table, Arcadia
Aug. 15-16	Citrus Expo, Fort Myers

Sincerely,



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