

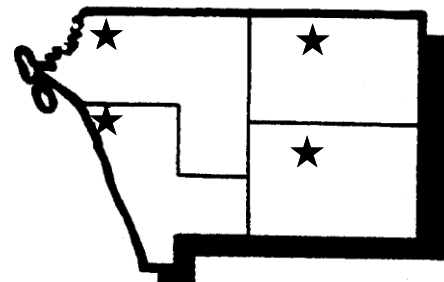
## West Central Citrus Letter

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



**November 13, 2017**

### Farm Service Agency Programs

By now, everyone has most likely cleaned up much of the damage caused by Hurricane Irma. As you review your time sheets or invoices, please be aware that Farm Service Agency (FSA) may be able to help with some of the cleanup costs under their Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). The program covers some costs associated with debris removal, filling gullies, restoring fences and conservation structures. The program does not include reimbursement for removing damaged citrus trees.

The FSA does have a “Tree Assistance Program” that was part of the 2014 Farm Bill that helps with citrus tree replacement. The program does have limitations and conditions.

For more information on either program, please contact the Paige Petteway at the Farm Service Agency in Wauchula for property located in Hardee, DeSoto, Manatee or Sarasota. Their address is 316 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100 and phone number is 863-773-4764.

USDA Disaster Contact in Florida for FSA, NRCS, and RD can be reached at 800-422-5629. The RMA can be contacted at 229-242-7235. Websites for each USDA agency are as follows:

- Farm Service Agency (FSA) – [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)
- Rural Development(RD) – [www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov)

- Risk Management Agency (RMA) –

[www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov)

Information on the Tree Assistance program can be obtained at: [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2017/tap\\_florida\\_citrus\\_greening\\_oct2017.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2017/tap_florida_citrus_greening_oct2017.pdf) and for the Emergency Conservation Program can be obtained at: [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2017/emergency\\_conservation\\_program\\_oct2017.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/2017/emergency_conservation_program_oct2017.pdf).

### Worker Protection Standards – Train the Trainer, December 12, Wauchula

A training session will be conducted from 1:00 to 5:00 PM at the Hardee County Extension Service Office in Wauchula on Tuesday, December 12. The session will cover the worker protection standards (WPS) information required under the rule to train employees as either 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.

If you were trained under the old rule (prior to 2017) as a trainer, you must be retrained under the new rule to be able to train your workers or handlers under the new WPS guidelines.

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. Preregistration is requested prior to December 7.

All attendees will be provided with a flash drive that contains WPS training materials as part of the training.

### **Citrus Research & Education Center 100 Year Celebration, November 29, 2017**

The Citrus Research & Education Center will be hosting the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on November 29. Registration can be made at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ufifas-crec-100th-anniversary-celebration-registration-36956748630>

The program is free to attend, but pre-registration is required.

### **Flower Bud Advisory**

Dr. Gene Albrigo is providing the flower bud advisory report and is available at: [http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/flowerbud/2018/11\\_08\\_17.shtml](http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/flowerbud/2018/11_08_17.shtml).

Dr. Albrigo is suggesting that this winter season is going to be a La Niña winter with lower than average cool temperature accumulation and lower rainfall. Therefore, growers should watch as the season progresses and determine if any production practices like withholding irrigation or making application of growth regulators or urea sprays may be applicable to aid in inducing bloom in the spring of the years. All these options will be discussed in this and future advisory reports that are available on the above-mentioned site.

### **CHMA Sectional Mapping**

The latest CHMA information is available for cycle 109 representing October 16-November 3, 2017. You can access the program by visiting the CHMA webpage at [www.flchma.org](http://www.flchma.org) and clicking on the banner that says "CHMA Sectional Mapping Program." Next then click the link that indicates "enter." If you have issues or questions regarding the CHMA mapping page, contact Brandon Page at 863-956-8653 or by email at [bpge@ufl.edu](mailto:bpge@ufl.edu).

### **Winter Weather Watch Program**

The 2017-18 edition of the Polk County Winter Weather Watch program will begin on November 15,

2017. The program provides growers with winter weather forecast information specifically geared toward agricultural interests in West Central and Southwest Florida. The program provides subscribers with an unlisted phone number for (24 hour/7 days a week) access to daily weather forecasts. The zone forecasts are from the National Weather Service (NWS) and are listed on the automated phone menu, so you can select the products you are interested in.

Forecasts include the zone forecasts, 6 to 10 and 8 to 14-day outlook forecasts. In addition to the forecasts, special weather narratives are provided as needed in the event of freezing temperatures and a weekly outlook is provided by meteorologist Fred Crosby.

When freezing temperatures are predicted in our area, additional updates will include the afternoon zone forecast and the modified sunset brunt minimum temperature equation. Additionally, weekly citrus leaf freezing temperatures and the 2017-18 Winter Weather Watch manual will also be provided as part of the subscription. You will also have access to weather data from seven Polk County Citrus Extension Weather Stations.

Subscriptions for the Winter Weather Watch program is \$100.00 for the entire 4-month period (November 15 to March 15).

The "Winter Weather Watch" area includes forecasts for Pasco, Hillsborough, Polk, Highlands, Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto, Charlotte, Lee, Glades, Hendry and Inland Collier counties.

To subscribe to the Winter Weather Watch program contact Chris Oswalt, Polk County Extension Agent, at 863-519-1052 or by email at [wcoswalt@ufl.edu](mailto:wcoswalt@ufl.edu).

### **Dates to Remember**

Nov. 29	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, CREC, Lake Alfred
Dec. 12	Worker Protection Standards, Train-the-Trainer, Wauchula, 1-5 PM

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Futch  
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