

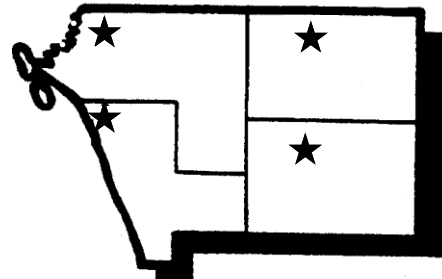
West Central Citrus Letter

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



Sept. 28, 2012

Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, Oct. 17, 2012

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2012 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 Oct. 10, 2012.

Farm Labor Supervisor Training Program – Arcadia, Oct. 23, 2012

The Farm Labor Supervisor Training Program will conduct training sessions in Arcadia on Oct. 23rd. Other training sessions in Central Florida include: Wimauma (Oct. 17) and Sebring (Oct. 30). Program topics include: Wage and Hour; HR Compliance; Worker Protection Standards; and Safe Driving.

Each session is scheduled for 2 hours and will be

divided into sessions for English or Spanish speakers. Participants can register for any combination of the above 4 classes, with each 2-hour class costing \$10. Lunch will be provided for those registering for at least 2 sessions.

For more information on the training program or to register, please contact Marcela Rice at 239-658-3400 or by email at mlrice@ufl.edu.

Citrus Research Field Day, Dec. 13, 2012

In the last citrus newsletter we announced registration for the Citrus Research Field Day to be held on Dec. 13. The program will highlight new citrus variety evaluations and advanced citrus production systems.

The program will begin at the UF-IFAS Citrus Research & Education Center in Lake Alfred at 7:30 AM and the buses will leave promptly at 8:15 AM. A sponsored lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the field day. Pre-registration is required and limited to the first 200 people.

If you have not registered, please contact Jane Wilson at 863-956-8643 or by email at wilsonmj@ufl.edu.

Citrus Summary Data

The Florida Crop and Livestock Reporting Service has provided the annual citrus summary for the 2011-12 season. Of the citrus producing counties, DeSoto ranked as the 4th largest citrus producing county with 18.6 million boxes produced and Hardee as the 5th largest citrus producing county with 13.8 million boxes.

The total on-tree value for all citrus produced in the 4 county area (DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota) totaled 309.2 million dollars for the 2011-12 crop season.

For a complete listing of values and boxes produced, please view the USDA report at www.nass.usda.gov/fl.

County	Production in boxes	On-tree value
DeSoto	18,579,000	\$150,652,380
Hardee	13,760,000	\$105,524,010
Manatee	6,398,000	\$50,210,300
Sarasota	344,000	\$2,791,310
	39,081,000	\$309,178,000

Soil pH and Liming

The fall season is the time of the year that many growers will begin to test the soil to determine the soil acidity. Citrus prefers the soil pH to be between 6.0 and 7.0 with citrumelos and citranges rootstocks doing better near the lower pH range.

Soils that have high copper levels (25-50 mg/kg or ppm range) when tested using Mehlich 1 extractant, should be adjusted to a soil pH above 6.0 to minimize copper bioavailability. When the copper levels are above 50 mg/kg or ppm, the soil pH should be raised to 6.5 to make copper toxicity less likely.

Each soil sample should consist of one soil core taken to a depth of about 8 inches deep at the dripline from 15 to 20 trees. All core samples should be from within the area wetted by the irrigation system in the zone of maximum root activity.

The soil samples should be collected in a non-metal bucket to form a composite sample. From this composite sample, a smaller subsample can be taken and placed into a labeled paper bag for submission to the lab.

The sample areas should correspond with grove blocks where leaf samples were collected. The area should contain similar soil types with trees of roughly uniform size and vigor.

Worker Protection Standard, Quick Reference Guide

Worker Protection Standard is a rule that was adopted by the EPA back in the early 1990s and enforced on a local level by the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumers Services. The rule is designed to protect agricultural workers (people involved in the production of agricultural plants) and pesticide handlers (people mixing, loading, or applying pesticides or doing other tasks involving direct contact with pesticides).

Agricultural employers must take a number of steps to ensure they are in compliance of the rule, including: 1) have information posted in a central location, 2) conduct safety training for all workers within 5 days of employment and for handlers, conduct the training before any handling tasks, 3) provide decontamination supplies, 4) provide emergency assistance, and 5) employer information exchange.

To make sure everyone is up-to-date on the latest information on WPS, I am enclosing an EPA flyer that addresses the rule's requirements.

If you have questions or are in need of training regarding the rule, please contact me and I will be glad to provide training at your location.

Dates to remember:

- Oct. 17 Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, Wauchula
- Oct. 23 Farm Labor Supervisor Training, Arcadia
- Dec. 13 Citrus Research Field Day, Lake Alfred

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Futch

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Enc: EPA WPS Quick Reference Guide