

West Central Citrus Letter

DeSoto Extension Service

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Hardee Extension Service

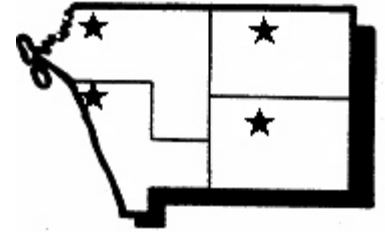
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September 8, 2010

Citrus Management Strategies in a New Disease Era Program Series, Arcadia, October 12

The citrus extension agents will be conducting a program series on citrus management at six locations around central Florida during late September and October. The Arcadia session is October 12 and begins at 8:30 AM and concluding with a sponsored lunch. Topics for the program include: citrus black spot management; Asian citrus psyllid management; growing young trees in the presence of greening; and, foliar feeding and SAR for citrus trees.

The program will grant three (3) CEUs for the restricted uses pesticide licenses in Ag Tree, Private or Demo & Research. Certified crop advisor license CEUs will be offered as well.

Additional program sessions covering the same topics will be conducted in Tavares (9/29), Sebring (9/30), Ft. Pierce (10/5), Immokalee (10/7) and Bartow (10/14).

To register for the Arcadia session on October 12, please contact the DeSoto County Extension Service at 863-993-4846. Advance registration is requested prior to October 8. Lunch in Arcadia is being sponsored by Crop Protection Services, Florida Fertilizer and Helena.

Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing (Core & Private), October 6

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be held on Wednesday, October 6, 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 review session 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 having 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 September 30, 2010.

CHMA

Citrus Health Management Areas (CHMAs) is being actively discussed within the citrus industry as an effective tool growers should be utilizing to combat citrus greening and psyllids. These areas, when properly developed, will maximize the management of pests and diseases and are highly favored by the National Academy of Sciences in their report on control actions in the war against citrus greening. For the areas to be effective, growers need to cooperate with neighbors in their immediate area with the coordination and timely application of pesticide(s) to maximize psyllid suppression. When areas are timely targeted with a selected pesticide for the control of psyllids, greater suppression will occur as compared to isolated blocks being sprayed in a random fashion.

In addition to timely targeting areas with pesticide applications, it is suggested that growers use selected pesticides of the same mode of action to minimize pesticide resistance and then rotate on subsequent applications to a different pesticide class.

The Extension Service will be actively assisting growers with the development of CHMAs and providing assistance

in selecting pesticide materials to offer the greatest potential for psyllid control while minimizing pesticide resistance.

If you have questions regarding CHMAs or pesticide selection, please contact any of the citrus extension agents.

International Citrus Economics Conference, October 28-29, Orlando

The University of Florida is sponsoring a conference on citrus economics in Orlando on October 28-29 at the Gaylord Palms Hotel. The program will cover five major program areas and are as follows: 1) markets and marketing; 2) greening issues; 3) outlook and supply; 4) international producers other than Brazil; and, 5) grove values, FCOJ futures and options economic impact, a potential economic solution to greening.

Registration for the conference is \$360 prior to September 10 and then increases to \$500 and is subject to availability. Registration form and agenda for this conference is available at the CREC web site at <http://crec.ifas.ufl.edu> and can be viewed from the right hand side of the home page.

If you have questions regarding this program, please contact Allen Morris at 863-956-1151 ext. 1310 or by email at ramorris@ufl.edu.

Soil and Leaf Tissue Testing

Each year growers are urged to determine the nutritional status of both soil and tissue from their groves. The timing of both soil and tissue testing is an important consideration in this process.

For soil testing, samples should be collected once per year at the end of the rainy season and before the fall fertilizer application. The normal sample size is one soil core taken to a depth of 8 inches at the drip line of 15 to 20 trees and from within the wetted area by the irrigation system. Each composite sample should represent a grove block not to exceed 20 acres and should be from similar soil type, rootstock and variety.

The leaf sample is taken from 4- to 6-month-old spring flush leaves that are on non-fruiting twigs. The sample size consists of a total of 100 leaves from 15 to 20 uniform trees of the same variety and rootstock. Extra effort should be made to avoid leaves which are younger or older than the 4- to 6-month-old age or are damaged by insects or diseases.

For more information on citrus nutrition, please consult "Nutrition of Florida Citrus Trees" by Drs. Obreza and Morgan. The entire publication can be viewed at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss478>. A limited number of printed copies are also available at the Extension Offices in Arcadia and Wauchula.

Temik Use

Bayer Crop Sciences recently announced that all uses of Temik will be cancelled in 2011. This cancellation includes citrus as well as all other crops. Limited supply of product will be available for use in late 2010 and early 2011 for citrus. No additional product is being manufactured. However, only about 50% of the amount used in the 2009-10 application season will be available, thus if you used Temik last season and wish to apply the material this year, you should be making arrangements with your supplier for material allocation.

Sweet Orange Scab

On July 23, 2010, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the detection of sweet orange scab (*Elsinoë australis*) on lemon and tangerine trees on a single residential property in Spring, Texas (near Houston). This is the first confirmation of sweet orange scab in the United States. Since that detection, APHIS has confirmed the disease on citrus trees (sweet orange, grapefruit, and other citrus species) on four other residential properties in Harris County and on Satsuma mandarin trees on a small farm in Orange County.

Sweet orange scab is a fungal disease of citrus caused by *Elsinoë australis* that results in unsightly, scab-like lesions developing on fruit rinds and, less often, on leaves and twigs. The damage produced is superficial and does not affect internal fruit quality. The disease mainly attacks sweet orange and tangerine varieties, disfiguring the fruit and making it a potentially significant problem for the production of unblemished citrus fruit for the fresh fruit market. It also can be found on other citrus varieties, including grapefruit. Infected fruit are more likely to drop prematurely. In addition, the disease may stunt young citrus seedlings. Sweet orange scab is spread slowly by microscopic fungal spores that are produced in the scabs. Trees are more susceptible to infection when there is new shoot growth and the petals begin to fall. As the growing tissue matures, it becomes less susceptible. Spores can spread the disease to susceptible plants if there is a sufficient level of moisture in the environment. The fungus can live through the winter in the tree canopy on limbs and on fruit that were infected during the previous season. Symptoms of the disease can be detected visually at any time of the year. The disease produces symptoms within a few days to 1-week.

It does not pose a threat to human health.

Source: USDA

Exotic Fruit Flies found in Pinellas County

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services' Commissioner Charles H. Bronson said two male Oriental fruit flies have been found in a trap in a grapefruit tree in the Pinellas County community of Safety Harbor. The flies, *Bactrocera dorsalis*, were found during routine surveillance activities earlier this month conducted by the department's Division of Plant Industry.

"This is a disturbing find because of the extreme risks associated with exotic fruit fly infestations," Bronson said. "However, it is a clear indication that our fruit fly detection and monitoring program is working well and, fortunately, we have developed effective emergency response plans that in most cases allow us to quickly eradicate these dangerous pests. The state, along with our federal partner (U.S. Department of Agriculture), are pouring all available resources to address the fruit fly find in Pinellas County."

The Oriental fruit fly is considered one of the most serious of the world's fruit fly pests due to its potential economic harm. It attacks more than 100 different fruits, vegetables and nuts, including citrus, apples, guava, mango, tomatoes and peppers. As with other fruit flies, it is not safe to rule out many plants as potential hosts. The fruit flies lay their eggs in the fruits and vegetables. In a few weeks, the larvae or maggots hatch and render the fruits or vegetables inedible.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has launched an intensified trapping program in an 81-square-mile area surrounding the fruit fly find in Pinellas County until mid-December. If any more flies are found, the trapping will continue and an insecticide will be applied to telephone poles along with a substance that attracts the flies. As of this date, no additional flies have been found.

Twenty-four hours prior to the application of any pesticides or other treatment activities, public notification and treatment area maps will be published in local newspapers. Additional public outreach activities will be conducted as more information becomes available.

Agricultural officials are attempting to determine the source of the fruit that carried these flies into Florida. Report any information on the possible origin of these flies to the USDA's anti-smuggling hotline at 1-800-877-3835.

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 web site at www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/ento/exoticfruitflies.html for maps of the infested areas and detailed information on the Oriental fruit fly, or call the toll-free help line at 1-888-397-1517.

Source: FDACS

Dates to remember:

- Oct. 6 Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, Wauchula
- Oct. 12 Citrus Management Strategies in a New Disease Era Program Series, Arcadia
- Oct. 28-29 International Citrus Economics Conference, Orlando

Sincerely,

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