

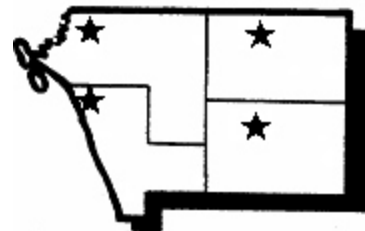
# West Central Citrus Letter

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  
2900 Ringling Blvd • Sarasota FL 34237  
941/316-1000



**September 4, 2007**

## **Citrus Greening Identification & Worker Survey Training**

During the month of October, a series of greening identification and survey training sessions will be conducted around the state. The purpose of these sessions is to aid workers in properly identifying greening. These 2-hour training sessions will discuss the current known locations of greening, scouting recommendations, greening symptom identification, and conclude with hands-on identification of samples.

The training will be conducted at 6 locations in major citrus producing areas. While the training is free to attend, pre-registration is required. To register, please contact one of the noted Extension Service offices. Please see the enclosed flier for times, locations and contact phone numbers to register.

## **Iodine-Based Starch Test**

Researchers at the Citrus Research & Education Center in Lake Alfred have developed a grower testing method to be used with suspect greening infected leaves. This-easy to-use test indicates when high levels of starch are present in the leaves. Trees with greening will have higher than normal starch levels. When using this method, the treated surface will be stained a dark color with the iodine solution.

What does this test mean? A darkly stained leaf from an undamaged branch indicates above normal starch accumulation, it does not indicate that the leaf is positive for greening. This test should be used to assist you in selecting leaves that indicate that they should be tested further. It is a useful tool to help you avoid submitting

nutrient deficient leaves or other leaves that may superficially resemble greening but are not. This test should be used only as a pre-screening tool. IFAS does not recommend making any decision to remove or otherwise destroy trees without a PCR positive test.

Please note that other factors can cause high starch levels to accumulate in the leaf. These factors can include cultivar, damaged branch, diseases, or from trees that have a limited rooting area like potted trees.

For more information on the iodine testing method, please see the enclosed color copied flier. If you have questions about the use of this testing method, please do not hesitate to call me at 863-956-1151.

## **Scouting for Greening**

It may be hard to believe that fall is just around the corner, but it is. As we enter the fall season, you may see more visible greening symptoms. These symptoms may include: blotchy mottle leaves, yellow veins, abnormal or lopsided fruit, aborted seeds inside the fruit, yellow shoots, and/or a section of the tree with yellowing foliage. All these symptoms are noted in the enclosed flier with this newsletter.

Growers are urged to visually inspect trees within their grove, test suspect trees, remove infected trees and, of course, control psyllids. These management steps will suppress the spread of greening and aid in having your grove remain productive.

Please note that some other factors may cause some of the above noted symptoms like foot rot (yellow veins), citrus blight, and nutritional deficiencies.

**Pesticide License Review and Testing, October 3, 2007**

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be held on Wednesday, October 3, 2007 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 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 with a current pesticide license and will be renewing using CEUs. A registration fee of \$20.00 per person is charged to cover the study manuals and refreshments. To attend the class for only CEUs, the registration fee is \$3.00. 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 26, 2007.

**State vs. Federal Minimum Wage**

Florida's minimum wage is \$6.67 per hour, effective January 1, 2007. This is up from the \$6.40 per hour minimum wage in 2006. On November 2, 2004, Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment which created Florida's minimum wage. The minimum wage applies to all employees in the state who are covered by the federal minimum wage.

Florida law requires the Agency for Workforce Innovation to calculate a new minimum wage each year and publish the new minimum wage on January 1. The current minimum wage represents a 4.2 percent change in the federal consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers in the South Region for the 12-month period prior to September 1, 2006. Florida's minimum wage is \$.82 more than the current federal minimum wage of \$5.85.

In deciding whether the federal or state minimum wage applies, federal law directs that businesses must pay the higher of the two. The Florida minimum wage will prevail over the federal rate until such time as the federal minimum wage becomes higher than the state rate.

Employers must pay their employees the hourly state minimum wage for all hours worked in Florida. The definitions of "employer," "employee" and "wage" for state purposes are the same as those established under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

Florida Statutes require employers who must pay their employees the Florida minimum wage to post a minimum wage notice in a conspicuous and accessible place in each establishment where these employees work. This poster

requirement is in addition to the federal requirement to post a notice of the federal minimum wage. Florida's minimum wage poster is available for downloading in English and Spanish from the Agency for Workforce Innovation's website at:

[http://www.floridajobs.org/resources/fl\\_min\\_wage.html](http://www.floridajobs.org/resources/fl_min_wage.html)

The federal poster can be downloaded from the U.S. Department of Labor website at:

<http://www.dol.gov/esa/regs/compliance/posters/flsa.htm>.

The federal minimum wage will increase again on July 24, 2008 and again one year later on July 24, 2009. The state minimum wage will increase on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to reflect adjustments in the federal consumer price index.

Source: Agency for Workforce Innovation

**Dates to Remember**

- Oct. 3 Pesticide License Review and Testing, Wauchula
- Oct. 11 Greening Identification Training, Bartow
- Oct. 17 Greening Identification Training, Arcadia
- Oct. 30 Greening Identification Training, Sebring

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Futch, Ph.D.  
 Extension Agent, Multi-County, Citrus  
 Phone: 863-956-1151  
 Email: [shf@crec.ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:shf@crec.ifas.ufl.edu)  
 Nextel: 158\*17\*31393

Enc.: Citrus Greening Identification Program  
 Iodine-Based Starch Test  
 Scouting for Greening Update