

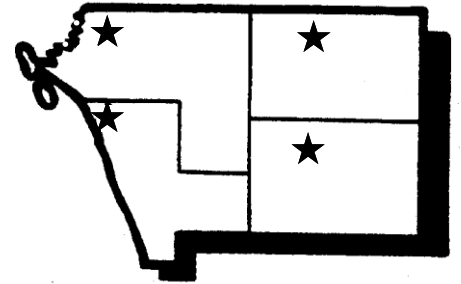
West Central Citrus Letter

DeSoto Extension Service
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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
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Sarasota Extension Service
6700 Clark Road
Sarasota FL 34241
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July 10, 2018

The Economics of Planting New Citrus Groves in Florida in the Era of HLB

Dr. Ariel Singerman led the efforts to develop an analysis that describes the establishment and production costs for a new grove in Florida under endemic HLB conditions for three tree planting densities under different market conditions. Excel files containing the analysis and a companion file describing the assumptions and results are free and publicly available for anyone to download.

Key findings include the following. Establishing a new grove with a tree density similar to that of the state's average was found to be not profitable under current market conditions. Moreover, such tree density only attains a modest return under potential higher prices. Despite the higher level of investment required for planting 220 and 303 trees per acre, the analysis shows that under the assumptions and scenarios analyzed, those investments yield higher returns and is economically viable.

The results should prove useful not only to citrus growers but also to other industry stakeholders and policy makers for designing new incentive planting programs as part of the industry's response to deal with HLB.

The Excel and companion files can be downloaded at:

http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/economics/economic_tools.shtml

Private and Core Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, August 7, Wauchula

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be conducted on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at the Hardee County Extension Service Office, 507 Civic Center Drive, 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 at 1:00 P.M.

Three CEUs (2 Core and 1 Private) are offered to individuals that have a current pesticide license and will be renewing using CEUs. A registration fee of \$55.00 per person is charged to cover the study manuals (Core and Private) 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 August 1.

WHIP

By now, many of you have attended one of the recent WHIP (Wildfire, Hurricane Indemnity Program) meetings. This program is being administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and provides disaster assistance related to Hurricane Irma for citrus and other crops.

Since this is a FSA program, you will need to contact your local office for information and program requirements as well as to schedule an appointment to begin the application process. The local office for Hardee, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota is located in Wauchula at 316 N. 7th Street, Suite 100, Wauchula, FL 33873. The County Executive Director is Ms. Paige Petteway and can be reached at 863-773-4764 ext. 2 or by email at paige.petteway@fl.usda.gov.

The WHIP program officially begins on July 16, 2018 at which time they will begin to provide fact sheets and printed program information.

For a full listing of other FSA offices, please go to <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=fl&agency=fsa>

In addition to WHIP, the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) will offer block grants that contains \$340 million for citrus growers that conduct specific programs. DEM personnel will also be located at FSA offices to assist with their programs.

CRDF Lunch and Learn Program, July 24

After the CRDF Board of Directors meeting on July 24 beginning with lunch at noon, two presentations and a post-presentation discussion will be presented. The purpose of these presentations and discussions are to provide growers with an opportunity to learn about ongoing research and to discuss this work with the researchers.

Presentations are as follows:

- **Dr. Ed Stover** will discuss his research efforts breeding HLB resistant citrus varieties: **“Advances in identifying and developing resistance and tolerance to HLB.”**
- **Dr. Arnold Schumann** will discuss his research efforts addressing citrus nutrition:

“Citrus nutrition studies for improved survival of HLB-affected trees.”

Presentations begin at 12pm and will be followed by a discussion with growers. **Lunch will be provided.**

If you plan on attending please register by July 20 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/crdf-research-presentation-and-grower-discussion-tickets-47471778367>

If you have any questions regarding these presentations, please contact Brandy Brown at the CRDF office at 863-956-8817 or by email at brandy.brown@citrusrdf.org.

Citrus Expo, Aug 15-16, 2018

The annual Citrus Expo is being expanded this year to include sessions with vegetables and specialty crops. Additional meeting space will be provided to allow presentations in these new topic areas. The location of the Expo remains the same at the Lee Civic Center in North Fort Myers.

Continuing education units (CEU) will be offered each day. August 15 will offer 2 CEUs and August 16 will offer 4.5 CEUs and the CEUs are granted in either private or ag tree crop. CEUs have also been submitted for the Certified Crop Advisor license.

Registration for the event is now open at CitrusExpo.net/Registration and the program will be posted at <http://citrusexpo.net/program/> in the near future.

Saw Palmetto Harvesting

The Florida Department of Agriculture has issued new regulations related to the harvesting of saw palmetto berries on both public and private lands. These new regulations take effect on July 17, 2018. For more information on the new rule, please see the attached flyer.

Citrus Leaf Tissue Testing

Tissue testing is normally done in citrus for nitrogen, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, manganese, zinc, copper, iron and boron. This analysis is a useful tool to detect problems or to make adjustments in your nutrition program.

The sample should consist of approximately 100 leaves taken from non-fruiting twigs of

approximately 15 to 20 uniform trees of the same variety and rootstock. This sample should represent an area of no larger than 20 acres.

The sample should be taken at the correct time of the year as the nutrient concentration varies with leaf age. The best time to collect spring flush leaves that are four- to six-month-old is during July – August time period.

The results provided from the laboratory can then be compared to standardized tables to determine if your leaf nutritional status is within the optimum range or if adjustments are needed.

For more information on leaf tissue testing please see:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/SS/SS53100.pdf>

Dates to remember:

Aug. 7 Restricted Use Pesticide review and testing, Wauchula
Aug. 15-16 Citrus Expo, Ft. Myers

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Futch
Extension Agent, Multi-County
Office: 863-956-8644
Email: shf@ufl.edu

Enc.: Saw palmetto regulation



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

SAW PALMETTO

After receiving input from public and private landowners, conservation interests, and other interested parties, the Endangered Plant Advisory Council unanimously recommended adding saw palmetto to the Department's commercially exploited plant list. The recommendation was adopted by Department rule which results in new requirements for the harvesting of saw palmetto berries. These new requirements, outlined below, take effect July 17, 2018.

What are the new requirements for a landowner harvesting palmetto berries for sale from their property?

- If the landowner is harvesting saw palmetto berries for sale, a Native Plant Harvesting Permit (no fee required) must be obtained from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry. The permit application must be submitted fourteen (14) prior to the intended date of harvest.

What are the new requirements for a contract harvester of palmetto berries on public or private land?

- The contract harvester must possess written permission from the landowner or the legal representative prior to harvest.
- The contract harvester must also possess a Native Plant Harvesting Permit from the Department prior to harvest. The permit application must be submitted fourteen (14) prior to the intended date of harvest.

What are the new requirements for any person transporting for sale, selling, or offering for sale saw palmetto berries?

- A person transporting for sale, selling, or offering for sale saw palmetto berries must possess a Native Plant Harvesting Permit from the Department. The permit application must be submitted fourteen (14) prior to the intended date of harvest.

What enforcement action can be taken if these requirements are not followed?

- If found by law enforcement officials to not meet the requirements above, the harvester or person transporting for sale, selling, or offering for sale saw palmetto berries may be charged with a misdemeanor.
- The illegally harvested berries will be confiscated and returned to the owner. If the owner cannot be located, the berries will be destroyed.