

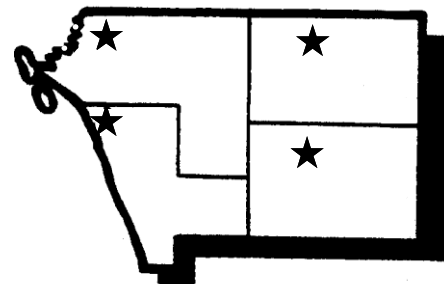
West Central Citrus Letter

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June 8, 2018

Citrus Canker

With all the recent rains, growers should be on the lookout for increasing incidences of citrus canker being found in their groves.

If canker is found, applications of copper are effective in preventing fruit infection but less effective for reducing leaf infections. While application to young leaves provides only limited control, control is quickly lost due to the rapid expansion of leaf surface leaving areas with insufficient copper to provide adequate control.

Fruit grows more slowly and is easier to protect than leaves. Oranges are susceptible to infection after the stomates open when the fruit are 0.25 to 0.5 inch in diameter. Oranges will develop some resistance by mid to late July. Valencia oranges require less protective sprays than Hamlin. Grapefruit are susceptible from 0.5 to 0.75 inch size to full expansion in late September to mid-October.

For oranges, most of the infection will occur from April until July; therefore, control measures are most likely required during the next few months where canker is endemic due to recent wet, rainy conditions. Fruit infected early in the growing cycle are more likely to drop from the tree than fruit infected later in the growing cycle.

For control, copper sprays at 21-day intervals are usually recommended during the

susceptible time period and application frequency will vary with variety and weather conditions.

During the rainy season, applications of 1 pound metallic copper per acre may be required to provide adequate control.

For more information on timing and chemical rates for citrus canker control, please see the 2017-18 Florida Citrus Production Guide at <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/pest/PDF/2017/Canker.pdf>.

Citrus Renovation Irrigation Support Program (CRISP)

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service (FDACS) Office of Agricultural Water Policy has a new citrus cost share program to assist with irrigation improvements in groves that are being replanted. The application period opens on June 15, 2018 and will close at 4 PM on July 31, 2018. This program can be combined with NRCS and TAP funding, if applicable.

A few of the program requirements are as follows:

- Land designated for cost share must have previously been planted in citrus
- Land must be cleared at the time of application of any trees/livestock

- Trees must have a confirmed deliver date of no later than March 30, 2019
- Trees must be in the ground by May 31, 2019 and prior to reimbursement

For more information on the new cost share program from FDACS, please contact Kayla Nickerson at 850-688-5628 (cell), 863-451-3423 (office), or by email at kayla.nickerson@freshfromflorida.com.

Hurricane Preparedness in Citrus Groves

With Hurricane Irma still fresh in our memory, now is the time to begin to plan for the upcoming 2018 hurricane season.

Your hurricane farm plan should include having a list of all phone numbers (both cell and land lines) for all personnel to make contact with them after the storm to ensure their safety as well as to schedule recovery efforts. Phone numbers for utility service providers and insurance companies along with policy numbers should be easily accessible. With the likelihood of no electrical service, a printed copy could prove helpful as records on computers may not be accessible for days until power is restored.

Prior to the hurricane, all storage tanks should be filled and secured to minimize their movement from wind.

Fuel Tanks: Fuel tanks should be filled with fuel to allow for recovery efforts to begin once the hurricane has passed. We all remember the shortage of fuel and the lines at many gas stations for numerous days after Hurricane Irma.

For fuel tanks, make sure you have alternative methods to remove fuel from the tanks during periods when you lack electric service to pump the fuel. Hand pumps are effective but make sure you have adequate connecting pipes on the hand pump to allow them to reach the fuel in the storage tank.

Ditches: Ditches should be pumped down to help maximize water removal efforts. Test the

pumping systems to make sure they operate properly and the fuel tanks are secured and located in an area where they will not be submerged with rising water.

Emergency Equipment: Make sure you have necessary equipment and spare parts on hand to aid in the recovery efforts. Chain saws should be properly serviced and have sharp chains as well as spare chains in adequate supply along with bar oil.

Alternative Power Supply: Make sure all generators are in working order and supplemental fuel is on-hand to power them until electrical service has been restored.

Once the storm has passed, inspect all areas for downed powerline or other hazards that could cause injury to workers in the recovery efforts prior to workers entering any area.

For more tips on hurricane recovery, please see <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ch178> on the web.

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.

Registration for the event is now open at CitrusExpo.net/Registration.

Dates to remember:

June 28 Citrus Youth Day, Lake Alfred
Aug. 15-16 Citrus Expo, Ft. Myers

Sincerely,

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Enc.: Youth Field Day