

Hendry County Extension, P.O. Box 68, LaBelle, FL 33975 (863) 674 4092

Flatwoods Citrus



Vol. 17, No. 4

April 2014

Dr. Mongi Zekri
Multi-County Citrus Agent, SW Florida



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Previous issues of the Flatwoods Citrus newsletter can be found at:
<http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/agents/zekri/index.htm>
<http://irrec.ifas.ufl.edu/flcitrus/>

IMPORTANT EVENTS

The Latest on Thermotherapy and its Effects on HLB Presentations and Field Demonstrations

Wednesday 04/30/2014

Location: USDA/ARS Fort Pierce, Time: 9:00 am - 2:15 pm

Lunch Provided

Register Before April 22nd

First 70 Guaranteed Transportation

Contact: Parker Platts, Phone: 772-462-1628, Email:

pplatts@ufl.edu

CITRUS & VEGETABLE BMPs

Bicarbonates in irrigation water, maintenance of microirrigation systems, fertigation

Date & time: Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 9:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

Location: UF-IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center

Program Coordinators: Mongi Zekri and Gene McAvoy, UF-IFAS

Speakers: **Drs. Kelly Morgan & Monica Ozores-Hampton, UF-IFAS**

2 CEUs for Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs)

Pre-registration is required. No registration fee and lunch is free. To reserve a seat, call 863 674 4092, or send an e-mail to Dr. Mongi Zekri at: maz@ufl.edu



2014 ANNUAL FARM SAFETY DAY in SW Florida

Date & Time: Saturday 17 May 2014, 7:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Immokalee IFAS Center

Coordinator: Mongi Zekri, Citrus Extension Agent, UF-IFAS

Detailed information is attached

The number of trainings offered and attendance at each training is LIMITED.

Don't wait. Class size is limited to the first 100 Spanish-speaking and 25 English-speaking people.



CITRUS COMPOST WORKSHOP

Date & time: Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Location: UF-IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center

Program Coordinator: Dr. Mongi Zekri, UF-IFAS

Speakers: Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton, Dr. Jim Graham, Dr. Phil Stansly, and Dr. Kelly Morgan, UF-IFAS

2 CEUs for Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs)

Pre-registration is required. No registration fee and lunch is free. To reserve a seat, call 863 674 4092, or send an e-mail to Dr. Mongi Zekri at: maz@ufl.edu



Florida State Horticultural Society (FSHS) meeting

<http://fshs.org/>

June 1-3, 2014

Clearwater Beach Marriott Suites on Sand Key
1201 Gulf Boulevard, Clearwater Beach, FL 33767
Located in Clearwater Beach, Florida
This FSHS meeting promises to be one of our best!



CITRUS EXPO

[IN FORT MYERS](#)

Wednesday, August 13 &
Thursday, August 14, 2014

2015 International Research Conference on Huanglongbing (HLB)

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the 4th International
Research Conference on HLB in Orlando, Florida USA
February 9-13, 2015

Please visit the IRCHLB website for more information - [Click here
for IRCHLB website](#)



Special Thanks to sponsors of the "Flatwoods Citrus" newsletter for their generous contribution and support. If you would like to be among them, please contact me at 863 674 4092 or maz@ufl.edu

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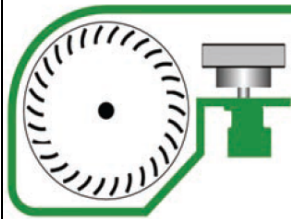
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Citrus Black Spot (CBS)



By Dr. Megan Dewdney

Chemical control up to 5 sprays during 4-5 months of rind susceptibility

- Fruit is susceptible for 5-6 months post-petal fall
- Control products
 - Copper - All formulations
 - Strobilurin fungicides (Abound, Gem, Headline)
 - Reserved for hot weather



For more information and more details go to: Florida Citrus Pest Management Guide: Citrus Black Spot at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/cg088>

WATER WATCH

Keeping an Eye on Water Resources

District-Wide Conditions for March 19, 2014

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is issuing the following briefing:

Showers and thunderstorms ahead of a cold front on Monday night, March 17, were responsible for nearly all the approximately 0.44 inches of rainfall District-wide during the past seven days. The event did not have a significant impact on water levels.

The District continues to operate the water management system to maximize water storage for the remainder of the dry season while providing flood control during periods of localized, intense rainfall.

Water Levels in Key Locations (March 19)

Location	Today's level	Water Supply Floor
WCA-1	16.29 feet	14.00 feet
WCA-2	10.70 feet	10.50 feet
WCA-3	9.53 feet	7.50 feet

Water Conservation

- South Florida is under the District's Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule that limits residential and business landscape irrigation to two or three days per week.
 - To determine watering days and times in your area, contact your local government or visit www.sfwmd.gov/2days.
- Permitted water users such as nurseries, agriculture, golf courses and utilities can find water use conditions in their permits online at www.sfwmd.gov/ePermitting.
- For tips and information about water conservation, visit www.savewaterfl.com.

Lake Okeechobee Operations

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages Lake Okeechobee water levels based on its regulation schedule and the best available science and data provided by its staff and a variety of partners, including SFWMD.
 - SFWMD makes an operational recommendation each week based on conditions. The most recent Operational Position Statement is available at www.sfwmd.gov/opsreports.

Lake Okeechobee Levels	
Today (March. 19)	13.71 feet
Historical Average for Today	14.41 feet
This Date One Year Ago	13.94 feet

#

Media inquiries can be directed to:

Gabe Margasak

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cell: (561) 670-1245

FOLIAR FEEDING

Foliar feeding is becoming very common on many horticultural crops including citrus. Economic and environmental considerations require the utilization of more efficient methods for nutrient applications.

It is usually assumed that foliar feeding refers to nutrient applications to the plants' leaves. In fact, it has been shown that all aboveground parts of a plant can absorb nutrients, including twigs, branches, buds, fruit, flowers, and stems. However, since leaves usually represent the largest surface area, they are the most important structures.

Foliar feeding is not intended to completely replace soil-applied fertilization of the macronutrients (nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorous). However, macronutrients can be foliarly applied in sufficient quantities to influence both fruit yield and quality. Some crops, such as citrus, can have a large part of the nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorous requirements met through foliar applications.

Foliar applications of other plant nutrients (calcium, magnesium, and sulfur) and micronutrients (zinc, manganese, copper, boron, and molybdenum) have proven for many crops to be an excellent means for supplying the plants' requirements.

Foliar feeding should be used as an integral part of the annual nutritional program. It can be used in other situations to help plants through short, but critical periods of nutrient demand, such as fruit set and bud differentiation. Foliar nutrition may also prove to be useful at times of soil or environmentally induced nutritional shortages. Foliar application of nutrients is of significant importance when the root system is unable to keep up with crop demand or when the soil has a history of problems that inhibit normal growth.

Foliar feeding is proven to be useful under prolonged spells of wet soil conditions, dry soil conditions, calcareous soil, cold weather, or any other condition that decreases the tree's ability to take up nutrients when there is a demand. Foliar feeding may be utilized effectively when a nutritional deficiency is diagnosed. A foliar application is the quickest method of getting the most nutrients into plants. However, if the deficiency can be seen, the crop might have already lost some potential yield.

Foliar fertilization is also efficient since it increases the accuracy of fertilizer application. Applications made to the soil can be subject to leaching and volatilization losses and/or being tied up by soil particles in unavailable forms to citrus trees.



While foliar feeding has many advantages, it can burn plants at certain rates under certain environmental conditions. It is important, therefore, to foliar feed within the established guidelines. There are a number of conditions that can increase the chances of causing foliar burn. A plant under stress is more susceptible to damage. Stressful conditions include drying winds, disease infestations, and poor soil conditions. The environmental conditions at the time of application are also important factors. Applications when the weather is warm (above 80°F) should be avoided. This means that during warm seasons, applications should be made in the morning or evening. Additionally, applications should not be at less than two-week intervals to give the plant sufficient time to metabolize the nutrients and deal with the added osmotic stress.

Another important factor when applying nutrient foliarly is to ensure that the pH of the material is in the proper range. The pH range of the spray solution should be between 6 and 7. Attention should be paid to the pH of the final spray solution. This is significant in areas where water quality is poor.

Foliar applications of low-biuret urea or phosphite in late December-early January are known to increase flowering, fruit set, and fruit production. **Postbloom foliar applications of potassium nitrate (KNO₃) or mono-potassium phosphate (MKP) have been found to increase fruit yield and size.**

FOLIAR POTASSIUM APPLICATIONS

BRIEF SUMMARY FROM A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

By Dr. Brian Boman at the University of Florida, IFAS

Potassium (K) in Citrus

- A primary component in cell walls
- K accounts for over 40% of ash from fruit
- 70% of fruit size is related to number of cells
- Cell division ceases by late April
- Size changes after April is mainly from cell enlargement
- Post-bloom K (applied in April) may increase cell numbers plus help cell enlargement
- Absorption of K into leaves after foliar application is very rapid

Grapefruit Summary

- Post bloom most important
- Late summer/fall applications successful in half of years
- 8 lb K₂O per acre per application
- 1/2 to 1 size increase due to foliar K applications
- Smaller fruit increased more than larger fruit

Foliar K Advantages on Valencia

- 25% more fruit**
- 28% more boxes/acre**
- 33% more size 80 and larger fruit**
- 28% higher gross returns for packed fruit**
- 23% more TSS/acre**



SUMMARY

Foliar K applications can increase fruit size and help return higher \$\$

- K source is not critical
- Salt index should be considered when using low gal/ac applications (MKP or DKP)
- Coverage is not as critical as for fungicides or insecticides
- At least 8 lb/ac K₂O per application recommended
- Foliar applications not a substitute for good nutrition program
- Potential results:
Grapefruit: 1/2 to 1 size increase
Valencia: Significantly more solids/acre
Sunburst: More larger-sized fruit



PESTICIDE RECORDKEEPING BENEFITS & REQUIREMENTS



BENEFITS

Exemption from pesticide contamination liability. As provided by section 487.081(6), Florida Statutes, if you keep records of all your pesticide use (general and restricted use products), and you have used pesticides legally, you may be exempt from proceedings by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to recover costs associated with damages, assessment, evaluation, or remediation of pesticide - contaminated property. Records must be kept indefinitely.

Evaluate effectiveness of controls. Use your records to analyze your pest management programs: what works and what doesn't. You can compare pesticides with other control tactics.

Resolve pesticide failures. If reduced pesticide product performance occurs, having record will help you determine the cause such as pest resistance or use of the wrong application rate.

Improve your ability to buy the right amount of pesticide. Records will help you buy the correct amount of pesticide the following year. You'll save money and eliminate excess pesticide disposal problems.

Provide buyers with required records of pesticide use. Nurserymen must document certain preventative applications before selling nursery stock. Other buyers may also require a report on pesticides used on crops or other commodities treated with pesticides.

Improve crop rotation decisions. With records, you know your crop rotation options. Some pesticides have restrictions on crops that can be planted within certain time frames after pesticide application.

Determine carryover injury. If your fields exhibit pesticide carryover injury, records will help evaluate the situation.

Document your legal use of pesticides. Records are your best defense if you are accused of an improper application that causes drift, personal injury, or other problems.

Provide necessary information in a medical emergency. If an accident or pesticide exposure occurs, records may be necessary for medical personnel to give treatment.

Support studies that identify critical pesticide registrations. Through surveys, your records can contribute data needed to preserve pesticide registrations.

Provide accurate data to respond to public concerns about pesticide use. Your records can be added to national databases that will accurately show pesticide use. Efforts to reduce pesticide use can be documented in the information.

Be prepared for requirements of lending institutions. Some lending institutions and buyers request field records to evaluate potential environmental liability when making land sales or loans.

Be in compliance with the law. The Florida Pesticide Law requires all licensed pesticide applicators to keep records of restricted use pesticides applied.

RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

The following information must be recorded for each application of a restricted use pesticide:

- Name and license number of licensed applicator
- Name of person who applied the pesticide (may be an unlicensed assistant)
- Date, start time, and end time of treatment
- Location of treatment site using one of the following methods:

1. County, range, township and section
2. Maps and/or written descriptions that accurately identify the treatment location and distinguish it from other sites

3. USDA identification system found in 7 CFR 110 which uses maps and numbering systems

4. Legal property description

5. Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) coordinates or longitude/latitude points that delineate the treatment site

- Crop, commodity or target site treated
- Total size of area treated
- Brand name and EPA Registration Number of product applied
- Total amount of product applied
- Application method
- Name of person authorizing the treatment, if the application was made to property not owned or leased by the licensed applicator

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- The required pesticide application information must be recorded within 2 working days after application.
- Records may be kept in any format that includes all the required information and may be incorporated into other business records.
- It is not necessary to record repetitive information that applies to all records, as long as the information is recorded one time and there is a written record that this information applies to other applications as well.
- Records must be kept for 2 years from application date and must be made available to authorized FDACS representatives upon request.
- Commercial applicators must provide a copy of the application record to the person for whom the application was made within 30 days of application.
- Pesticide application records and any available label information must be provided to licensed health care professionals or their designated agents in the event of a medical emergency or if the health care professional determines the information is necessary to provide medical treatment to an individual who may have been exposed to a pesticide included in the record information.

VIOLATIONS

Licensed applicators who violate any of the above requirements are subject to a fine imposed by

FDACS. Violators who are fined have the right to respond to the charges or request a hearing.

FORMS

A Suggested Pesticide Recordkeeping Form for Restricted Use Pesticides and WPS (Worker Protection Standard) is available from the FDACS Bureau of Compliance Monitoring or may be downloaded from <http://www.flaes.org>

CONTACT

For more information contact the FDACS Bureau of Compliance Monitoring, 3125 Conner Blvd., Bldg. 8 (L-29), Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1650, telephone (850) 488-3314.

WEB SITE

More information about Bureau pesticide programs and copies of various forms are available from the web site <http://www.flaes.org>

Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Division of Agricultural Environmental Services

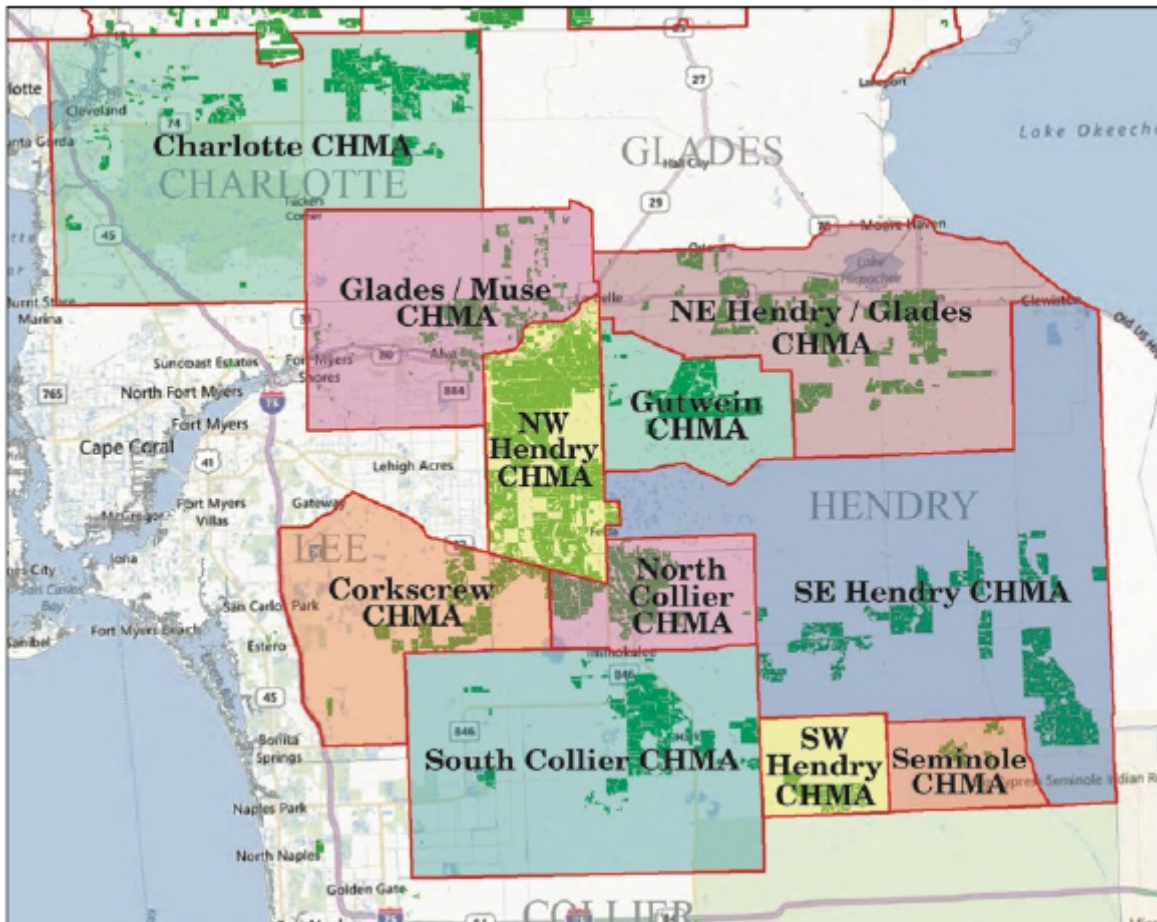
Pesticide Recordkeeping Benefits and Requirements

Make wiser, more
profitable decisions by
keeping records of
your pesticide use.

**ADAM H. PUTNAM, Commissioner
Florida Department of Agriculture &
Consumer Services**

ATTENTION 'Gulf" CITRUS GROWERS!!!

2014 Asian Citrus Psyllid Fight



The Gulf CHMA captains are planning a coordinated post-harvest spray for Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) control the first 2 weeks of June. While it is recommended not to repeat applications of pyrethroids or organo-phosphates used during the dormant season, there are many good alternatives to choose from, depending on budget, secondary pests targeted, and what might have already been sprayed this season. Options include Delegate or Exiril, both also effective for citrus leafminer (CLM), Movento, also effective against scales and citrus rustmite (CRM) and Apta or Portal, with activity on mites. Additional options include Agri-Mek and MicroMite, both effective against CLM and CRM with the latter also having activity on weevils, and Closer, with excellent aphid activity. So, pick your poison with the idea of rotating to something different later in the season. **Phil Stansly**

The "Gulf" citrus production region has been divided into 11 CHMA's. Each CHMA will be coordinated by volunteer Team Captain(s), who will follow-up with citrus growers within their respective CHMA to implement the plan. The "CHMA's", respective "Team Captains" AND their CONTACT INFORMATION are as follows:

CHARLOTTE

Steve Farr (863) 528-1273 sfarr@bhgriffin.com

GLADES / MUSE

Danny Pool (863) 673-2832 Dannypool73@yahoo.com

NE HENDRY / GLADES

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GUTWEIN

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SW HENDRY

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NORTH COLLIER

John Hoffman (239) 825-3286 jhoffman@barroncollier.com

SOUTH COLLIER

Paul Meador (239) 860-4600 Paul.meador@evergladesharvesting.com

AERIAL APPLICATORS will also serve as "key contacts" throughout the plan's implementation. They will be making contacts on their current "grower customers", as well as on growers within the "Sub-Regions" based on efficient aerial logistics. **AERIAL APPLICATORS** are: Steve Fletcher, Fletcher Flying Service (239) 860-2028 and Jeff Summersill, TRS AG Services (561) 722-4502.

"Pre" and "Post" testing for Psyllids will be coordinated through UF/IFAS/ SWFREC scientists and FDACS/DPI staff as to measure our program's effectiveness. Their phone numbers are: Dr. Phil Stansly – Office (239) 658-3400, Cell (239) 464-7395; Dr. Mongi Zekri – Office (863) 674-4092 and Paul Mears – Office (239) 658-3684.

**PLEASE CONTACT THE TEAM CAPTAIN(S) NEAREST YOUR GROVE, AND
YOUR AERIAL APPLICATOR TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR EFFORTS!
YOUR SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION WILL MAKE OUR EFFORT A SUCCESS!**

The Twenty Fourth Annual Farm Safety Day

Saturday, 17 May 2014

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO EMPLOYERS

Safe and competent equipment operators are important to you as an employer. Accidents, which cause damage, injury or death to employees, equipment and crops, are costly. We believe all types of accidents can be reduced with proper employee training. Our training has been designed to help your employees perform better, operate safely to prevent accidents, fulfill necessary training requirements and build pride in themselves and their farm company.

Certificates

The 2014 Southwest Florida Farm Safety Day is almost here. Farm Safety Day is an educational event designed to emphasize the importance of farm/equipment safety. Each participant is presented with a certificate of attendance and **the employer will be provided with a certificate of training that can be placed into the employee's file.**

Registration Info

The deadline for registration is May 2nd. It is the employer's responsibility to assure that the employee is present at 7:30 AM on Saturday, May 17th at the Immokalee IFAS Center, 2685 State Rd. 29 North, Immokalee, FL 34142 to receive their nametag. Upon arrival each participant will check in at the registration table and receive a packet containing their nametag, instructions (in both English and Spanish) session handouts, an evaluation form, rodeo cap and pencil. They will be directed to their respective course sessions.

Please give us the names of those who will be attending our 24th Farm Safety Day on **Saturday, 17 May 2014**. The cost is **\$25.00** per person, which will include educational sessions, handouts, pencils, refreshments, lunch, and a cap.

Make checks payable to: SW Florida Citrus Advisory Committee

Mail registration and checks to:
University of Florida, IFAS, SWFREC
Attention: Barbara Hyman
2685 State Rd. 29 North
Immokalee, FL 34142

Or fax registration to: 239 658 3469
Deadline is Friday, May 2, 2014

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact **Mongi Zekri** (maz@ufl.edu)
Phone: 863 674 4092

Don't wait. The number of trainings offered and attendance at each training is LIMITED. Class size is limited to the first 100 Spanish-speaking and 25 English-speaking people.

TWENTY FOURTH ANNUAL SAFETY DAY

Saturday, May 17, 2014

Location: University of Florida, IFAS, SWFREC
2685 State Rd. 29 North
Immokalee, FL 34142



SCHEDULE:

7:30-8:10	Check In, Coffee, Juice, Refreshments, Door Prices
8:10-9:00	Session 1 (Begin sessions)
9:00-9:10	Break (change session, door prices)
9:10-10:00	Session 2
10:00-10:10	Break (change session, door prices)
10:10-11:00	Session 3
11:00-11:10	Break (change session, door prices)
11:10-12:00	Session 4
12:00-1:30	Lunch and Adjourn

CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

1. [Tractor Safety](#)
2. [Farm Utility Safety](#)
3. [New Chemical Label Regulation: Global Harmonized System \(GHS\)](#)
3. [Field Sanitation and Food Safety](#)

The 2014 FARM SAFETY DAY REGISTRATION FORM

Please give us the names of those who will be attending our 24th Farm Safety Day on **Saturday, 17 May 2014** at the Immokalee IFAS Center, 2685 State Rd. 29 North, Immokalee, FL 34142. The cost is **\$25.00** per person, which will include educational sessions, handouts, refreshments, lunch, and a cap.

Make checks payable to:
SW Florida Citrus Advisory Committee

Mail registration and checks to:
University of Florida, IFAS, SWFREC
Attention: Barbara Hyman
2685 State Rd. 29 North
Immokalee, FL 34142

Or fax registration to: 239 658 3469
Deadline is Friday, May 2, 2014

Company Name:

Administrative Contact Person:

E-mail address:

Mailing Address:

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ County: _____

Please list the employees who will be attending our safety training and please check their language preference*. If there is not enough space to fill in all attendants, please attach an additional sheet with the necessary information.

	<u>English</u>	<u>Spanish</u>		<u>English</u>	<u>Spanish</u>
_____	.	.	_____	.	.
_____	.	.	_____	.	.
_____	.	.	_____	.	.
_____	.	.	_____	.	.
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***Please Note: It is very important that we know the language capabilities for each attendee.**
 Next to each attendee's name please mark in which language they are more fluent.
 If there are any questions, please contact **Barbara Hyman (hymarb@ufl.edu) at 239 658 3400.**
Don't wait. The number of trainings offered and attendance at each training is LIMITED. Don't wait. Class size is limited to the first 100 Spanish-speaking and 25 English-speaking people.

Sponsorship for the Annual Farm Safety Day



The Southwest Florida Farm Safety Day has been conducted annually since 1991. The program is strongly supported by area citrus, vegetable, sugarcane, and sod growers. Southwest Florida agricultural employers collectively send employees annually to receive training on various safety-related topics. The 2014 Annual Farm Safety Day will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2014 and will feature a very comprehensive farm safety program.

We ask you to consider sponsorship of the 2014 Annual Farm Safety Day to help make it a success. Any profits generated will support extension and other farm safety related programming, such as WPS training, agent in-service-training, teaching tools and related equipment, and travel for extension agents to approved conferences and meetings.

Annual expenses are estimated to be approximately \$3,000. Costs include breakfast, lunch, refreshments, handouts, hats, door prizes, and other supplies. Participants receive certificates of attendance and employers receive certificates of training that can be placed into the employee's file. The highlight of the Farm Safety Day is farm/equipment safety education.

We hope you will be able to help sponsor the 2014 Annual Farm Safety Day. We have enclosed a sponsorship form for your use. Please return the form and your sponsorship check as indicated on the form no later than May 2, 2014.

Thank you in advance for your generous support!

Dr. Mongi Zekri
Farm Safety Day Coordinator
Multi-County Citrus Agent, SWF
Hendry County Extension Office
P.O. Box 68
LaBelle, FL 33975



2014 Annual Farm Safety Day

WHEN: Saturday, May 17, 2014

WHERE: Southwest Florida Research & Education Center, Immokalee

AUDIENCE: Anticipate 125 farm workers, managers, equipment operators, and crew leaders from the 5-county area of Southwest Florida.

COST: Sponsorships: _____ \$300 Platinum
_____ \$200 Gold
_____ \$100 Silver

Sponsorship goes to support awards, expenses, and other extension programs.

SPONSORSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Business _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: FL _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Check here if you are a \$300 sponsor and desire an exhibit space.

Please make checks payable to: SW Florida Citrus Advisory Committee

Mail to:

Dr. Mongi Zekri
Multi-County Citrus Agent
Hendry County Extension Office
PO Box 68
LaBelle, FL 33975-0068

EL NIÑO/SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO) DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION

issued by

**CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER/NCEP/NWS
and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society**

10 April 2014

ENSO Alert System Status: El Niño Watch

Synopsis: While ENSO-neutral is favored for Northern Hemisphere spring, the chances of El Niño increase during the remainder of the year, exceeding 50% by summer.

ENSO-neutral continued during March 2014, but with above-average sea surface temperatures (SST) developing over much of the eastern tropical Pacific as well as near the International Date Line (Fig. 1). The weekly SSTs were below average in the Niño1+2 region, near average but rising in Niño3 and Niño3.4 regions, and above average in the Niño4 region (Fig. 2). A significant downwelling oceanic Kelvin wave that was initiated in January greatly increased the oceanic heat content to the largest March value in the historical record back to 1979 (Fig. 3) and produced large positive subsurface temperature anomalies across the central and eastern Pacific (Fig. 4). Also during March, low-level westerly wind anomalies were observed over the central equatorial Pacific. Convection was suppressed over western Indonesia, and enhanced over the central equatorial Pacific (Fig. 5). Although these atmospheric and oceanic conditions collectively reflect ENSO-neutral, they also reflect a clear evolution toward an El Niño state.

The model predictions of ENSO for this summer and beyond are indicating an increased likelihood of El Niño this year compared with last month. Most of the models indicate that ENSO-neutral (Niño-3.4 index between -0.5°C and 0.5°C) will persist through much of the remainder of the Northern Hemisphere spring 2014 (Fig. 6), with many models predicting the development of El Niño sometime during the summer or fall. Despite this greater model consensus, there remains considerable uncertainty as to when El Niño will develop and how strong it may become. This uncertainty is amplified by the inherently lower forecast skill of the models for forecasts made in the spring. While ENSO-neutral is favored for Northern Hemisphere spring, the chances of El Niño increase during the remainder of the year, and exceed 50% by the summer (click [CPC/IRI consensus forecast](#) for the chance of each outcome).

This discussion is a consolidated effort of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NOAA's National Weather Service, and their funded institutions. Oceanic and atmospheric conditions are updated weekly on the Climate Prediction Center web site ([El Niño/La Niña Current Conditions and Expert Discussions](#)). Forecasts for the evolution of El Niño/La Niña are updated monthly in the [Forecast Forum](#) section of CPC's Climate Diagnostics Bulletin. The next ENSO Diagnostics Discussion is scheduled for 8 May 2014. To receive an e-mail notification when the monthly ENSO Diagnostic Discussions are released, please send an e-mail message to: ncep.list.enso-update@noaa.gov.

Climate Prediction Center
National Centers for Environmental Prediction
NOAA/National Weather Service
College Park, MD 20740



CITRUS APRIL FORECAST MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751-7057
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/ff

April 9, 2014

Florida All Orange Production Down 4 Percent
Florida Non-Valencia Orange Production Unchanged
Florida Valencia Orange Production Down 7 Percent
Florida All Grapefruit Production Unchanged
Florida All Tangerine Production Down 9 Percent
Florida Tangelo Production Down 2 Percent
Florida FCOJ Yield 1.60 Gallons per Box (42° Brix)

FORECAST DATES – 2013-2014 SEASON
[Release time 12:00 p.m. EDT]
May 9, 2014 July 11, 2014 June 11, 2014

Citrus Production by Type and State – United States

Crop and State	Production ¹			2013-2014 Forecasted Production ¹	
	2010-2011 (1,000 boxes)	2011-2012 (1,000 boxes)	2012-2013 (1,000 boxes)	March (1,000 boxes)	April (1,000 boxes)
Non-Valencia Oranges²					
Florida.....	70,300	74,200	67,100	53,000	53,000
California.....	48,000	45,500	* 42,500	42,000	42,000
Texas.....	1,700	1,108	1,499	1,455	1,601
United States.....	120,000	120,808	* 111,099	96,455	96,601
Valencia Oranges					
Florida.....	70,200	72,500	66,500	61,000	57,000
California.....	14,500	12,500	* 12,000	12,000	12,000
Texas.....	249	311	289	370	404
United States.....	84,949	85,311	* 78,789	73,370	69,404
All Oranges					
Florida.....	140,500	146,700	133,600	114,000	110,000
California.....	62,500	58,500	* 54,500	54,000	54,000
Texas.....	1,949	1,419	1,788	1,825	2,005
United States.....	204,949	206,119	* 189,888	169,825	166,005
Grapefruit					
Florida-All.....	19,750	18,850	18,350	16,000	16,000
White.....	5,850	5,350	5,250	4,000	4,000
Colored.....	13,900	13,500	13,100	12,000	12,000
California.....	4,310	4,000	* 4,500	4,000	4,000
Texas.....	6,300	4,800	6,100	5,370	6,070
United States.....	30,360	27,650	* 28,950	25,370	26,070
Lemons					
California.....	20,500	20,500	21,000	20,000	20,000
Arizona.....	2,500	750	1,800	1,785	1,785
United States.....	23,000	21,250	22,800	21,785	21,785
Tangelos					
Florida.....	1,150	1,150	1,000	900	880
Tangerines					
Florida-All.....	4,650	4,290	3,280	3,250	2,950
Early ³	2,600	2,330	1,910	1,750	1,750
Honey.....	2,050	1,960	1,370	1,500	1,200
California ⁴	10,600	10,800	13,000	13,200	13,200
Arizona ⁴	300	200	200	200	200
United States.....	15,550	15,290	16,480	16,650	16,350

* Revised.

¹ Net pounds per box: oranges in California-80, Florida-90, Texas-85; grapefruit in California-80, Florida-85, Texas-80; lemons-80, tangelos-90; tangerines and mandarins in Arizona and California-80, Florida-95.

² Navel and miscellaneous varieties in California. Early (including Navel) and midseason varieties in Florida and Texas. Includes small quantities of tangerines in Texas and Temples in Florida.

³ Fallglo and Sunburst varieties.

⁴ Includes tangelos and tangors.

All Oranges 110.0 Million Boxes

The 2013-2014 Florida all orange forecast released today by the USDA Agricultural Statistics Board is 110.0 million boxes, down 4 percent from last month, and 18 percent less than last season's final production figure. The total includes 53.0 million boxes of non-Valencia oranges (early, midseason, Navel, and Temple varieties) and 57.0 million boxes of Valencia oranges. The hurricane seasons of 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 have been excluded from the usual 10-year regression analysis and from comparisons of the current season to previous seasons. For those previous 8 seasons, the April forecast has deviated from final production by an average of 2 percent with 4 seasons below and 4 above, and differences ranging from 3 percent below to 3 percent above. All references to "average", "minimum", or "maximum" refer to the previous 8 non-hurricane seasons unless noted.

Non-Valencia Oranges 53.0 Million Boxes

The forecast of non-Valencia orange production is unchanged at 53.0 million boxes. The Row Count survey conducted April 1-2 showed 99 percent of all non-Valencia orange rows harvested. The Navel portion of the non-Valencia forecast is final at 1.95 million boxes.

Valencia Oranges 57.0 Million Boxes

The forecast of Valencia production is lowered by 4.0 million boxes to 57.0 million. The Drop survey conducted in late March showed final droppage at 31 percent, the highest of any non-hurricane, non-freeze season since 1969-1970. Although the final size is slightly above last month's projection, requiring 240 pieces of fruit to fill a 1-3/5 bushel box, it is the second smallest fruit size in the series dating back to 1960-1961, surpassing only that of the 1976-1977 freeze season. The Row Count survey showed 18 percent of the rows harvested.

All Grapefruit 16.0 Million Boxes

The forecast of all grapefruit production is unchanged at 16.0 million boxes. Of the total grapefruit forecast, 4.0 million are white and 12.0 million are the colored varieties. The Row Count survey showed 82 percent of the white grapefruit and 92 percent of the colored grapefruit rows harvested.

All Tangerines 2.95 Million Boxes

The forecast of all tangerine production is lowered by 300,000 boxes to 2.95 million boxes. The early varieties (Fallglo and Sunburst) are final at 1.75 million. The reduction is in the Honey variety now at 1.2 million boxes. The Row Count survey showed 72 percent of the Honey tangerine rows harvested.

Tangelos 880 Thousand Boxes

The forecast of tangelo production is adjusted 20,000 boxes downward to 880 thousand boxes, including an allocation of 100,000 boxes for non-certified-use. Tangelo harvest is complete for the season and will be the lowest since the 750 thousand boxes harvested in the 1962-63 season. The Row Count Survey shows 98 percent of the rows harvested.

FCOJ Yield 1.60 Gallons per Box

The projection for frozen concentrated orange juice (FCOJ) is lowered to 1.60 gallons per box of 42° Brix concentrate. The projection for Valencia oranges remains at 1.69 gallons per box. The final yield for non-Valencia oranges is 1.521318 gallons per box, as reported by the Florida Department of Citrus (FDOC) in Report No. 23. Last season's final yield for all oranges was 1.587680 gallons per box, 1.508465 gallons per box for non-Valencia oranges and 1.692050 for Valencia oranges.

Forecast Components, by Variety — Florida: April 2014

[Survey data is considered final in December for Navels, January for early-midseason oranges, February for grapefruit, and April for Valencias]

Type	Bearing trees (1,000 trees)	Fruit per tree (number)	Droppage (percent)	Fruit per box (number)
ORANGES				
Early-midseason.....	23,660	918	23	288
Navel.....	985	429	19	144
Valencia.....	32,149	614	31	240
GRAPEFRUIT				
White.....	1,282	555	29	118
Colored.....	3,617	500	25	123



NEWS RELEASE

April 1, 2014

MEDIA CONTACT:

Randy Smith

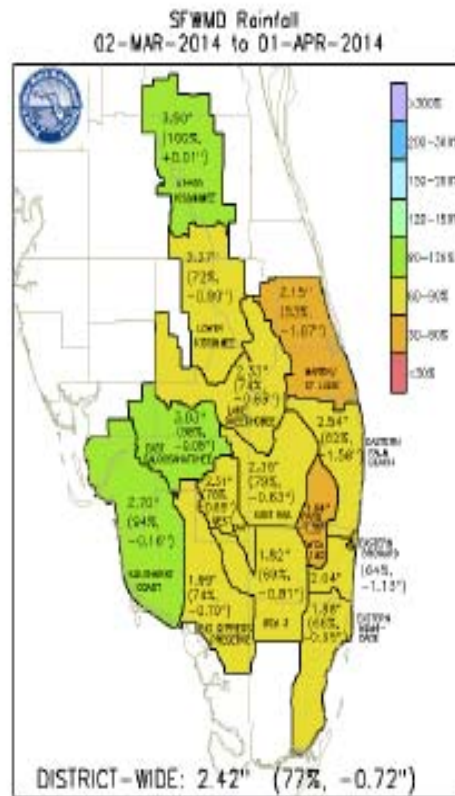
South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

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March Rain Falls Below Average *Water supplies remain adequate*



(Click on the map for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL – March mimicked February’s typical dry-season pattern of mainly dry days with a few widespread showers and thunderstorms during the month. Overall, most of the region had below-average rainfall, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) meteorologists reported today.

“Most of March’s rain fell on just four days, but it was enough recharge to keep water supplies in a good range,” said Susan Sylvester, Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. “As South Florida enters the final two months of the dry season, the agency continues to watch water levels across the region.”

District-wide rainfall for March averaged 2.42 inches, representing 77 percent of average, or 0.72 inches below average. Martin and St. Lucie counties were the driest areas in the District, receiving 2.15 inches of rain, representing 53 percent of average, or 1.87 inches below average.

The Upper Kissimmee Basin was the wettest area, with 3.50 inches of rain in March, which is average for this time of year. The Southwest Coast and the East Caloosahatchee Basin also received near-average rainfall.

Overall, South Florida’s dry season has seen near-average rainfall, with 10.74 inches District-wide representing 93 percent of average, or 0.85 inches below average.

<i>South Florida’s Dry Season</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>November – May</i>• <i>About 18 inches of rainfall is the average</i>• <i>May and October are important transition months</i>• <i>March, April and May are the driest months because evaporation is highest</i>

Lake Okeechobee stood at 13.59 NGVD today, which is 0.72 inches below its historic average for this date. The lake received 2.33 inches of direct rainfall in March, representing 74 percent of average, or 0.83 inches below average.

###

About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state’s five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.

Flatwoods Citrus

If you did not receive the *Flatwoods Citrus* newsletter and would like to be on our mailing list, please check this box and complete the information requested below.

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please check this box and complete the information requested below.

Please send: Dr. Mongi Zekri
Multi-County Citrus Agent
Hendry County Extension Office
P.O. Box 68
LaBelle, FL 33975

Subscriber's Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Racial-Ethnic Background

___ American Indian or native Alaskan

___ Asian American

___ Hispanic

___ White, non-Hispanic

___ Black, non-Hispanic

Gender

___ Female

___ Male