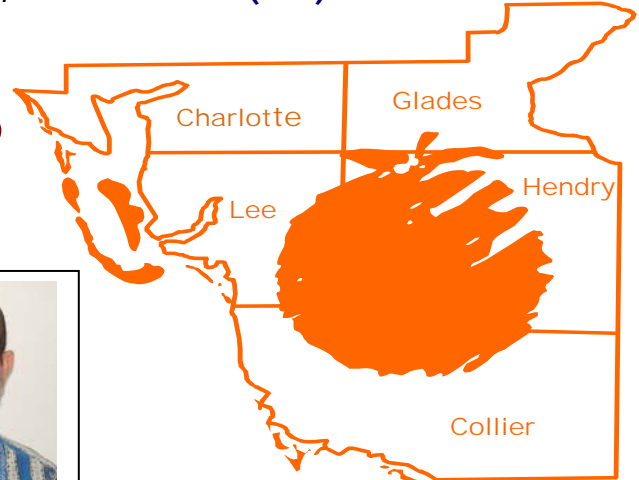


Hendry County Extension, P.O. Box 68, LaBelle, FL 33975 (863) 674 4092

Flatwoods Citrus



Vol. 14, No. 12 **December 2011**

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



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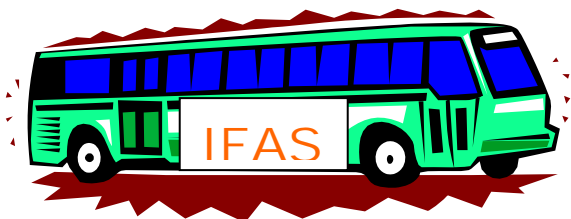
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Previous issues of the Flatwoods Citrus newsletter can be found at:
<http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/agents/zekri/index.htm>
<http://irrec.ifas.ufl.edu/flcitrus/>

Please take a moment to rate the quality and usefulness of the information presented in the Flatwoods Citrus newsletter this year. Go to Page 23.

I M P O R T A N T E V E N T S

HENDRY COUNTY EXTENSION AG TOURS



Saturday, 4 February 2012
For more information or to sign up,
call Debra at 863 674 4092

The Florida Citrus Show in Fort Pierce, January 25-26 2012

For more information and registration, go to: <http://www.citrusshow.com/>

-- [Workshop](#) on CITRUS SCOUTING AND PEST MANAGEMENT

Date: Thursday, February 16, 2012, Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Location: Southwest Florida REC (Immokalee).

No registration fee and lunch is free, but **pre-registration is required.**

2 CEUs for Pesticide License Renewal; 2 CEUs for Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs)

Annual Certified Pile Burners Course in SW Florida

Tuesday, 21 February 2012, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

If you burn piles regularly, don't put off registering for this training. Don't wait.

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

This training will be held at the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center located in Immokalee, Florida. **See below for more details and registration.**

International Symposium on Mechanical Harvesting & Handling Systems of Fruits & Nuts

April, 2-4, 2012, Lake Alfred CREC

For more details and registration, go to:

<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/harvest/>

ANNUAL FLORIDA CITRUS GROWERS' INSTITUTE

Date & Time: Tuesday, 10 April 2012, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Location: Avon Park Campus of South Florida Community College

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

Citrus Extension: <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/>

Citrus Health Management Areas (CHMAs):

http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/chmas/chma_overview.shtml

Florida Citrus Extension Agents:

http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/Citrus_Agents_Home_Page/Citrus_Agents_Home.html

Southwest Florida Research and Education Center (SWFREC):

<http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Citrus Research & Education Center:

<http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Florida Citrus Resources: <http://irrec.ifas.ufl.edu/flcitrus/>

Florida Citrus Pest Management Guide:

http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_book_florida_citrus_pest_management_guide

Citrus Greening (Huanglongbing)

<http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/greening/index.shtml>

[History](#) | [Regulations](#) | [Transmission](#) | [Pathogen](#) | [Alternate Hosts](#) | [Symptoms](#) | [Nutrient Deficiencies Compared to Citrus Greening](#) | [Diagnostics](#) | [Management](#) | [Photo Gallery](#) | [Links](#) | [Contacts](#)

Citrus Canker

<http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/canker/index.shtml>

[History](#) | [Eradication](#) | [Decontamination](#) | [Pathogen Symptoms & Susceptibility](#) | [Diseases Commonly Mistaken for Citrus Canker](#) | [Spread](#) | [Management](#) | [Links](#) | [Contacts](#)

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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CURRENT FLOWER BUD INDUCTION ADVISORY #1 for 2011-2012-11/23/11

[L. Gene Albrigo](#), Horticulturist Emeritus

Citrus Research & Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL

This is a service to our citrus growers posted on the CREC website. The indicated Expert System on intensity and time of bloom can be accessed at the designated Web Site.

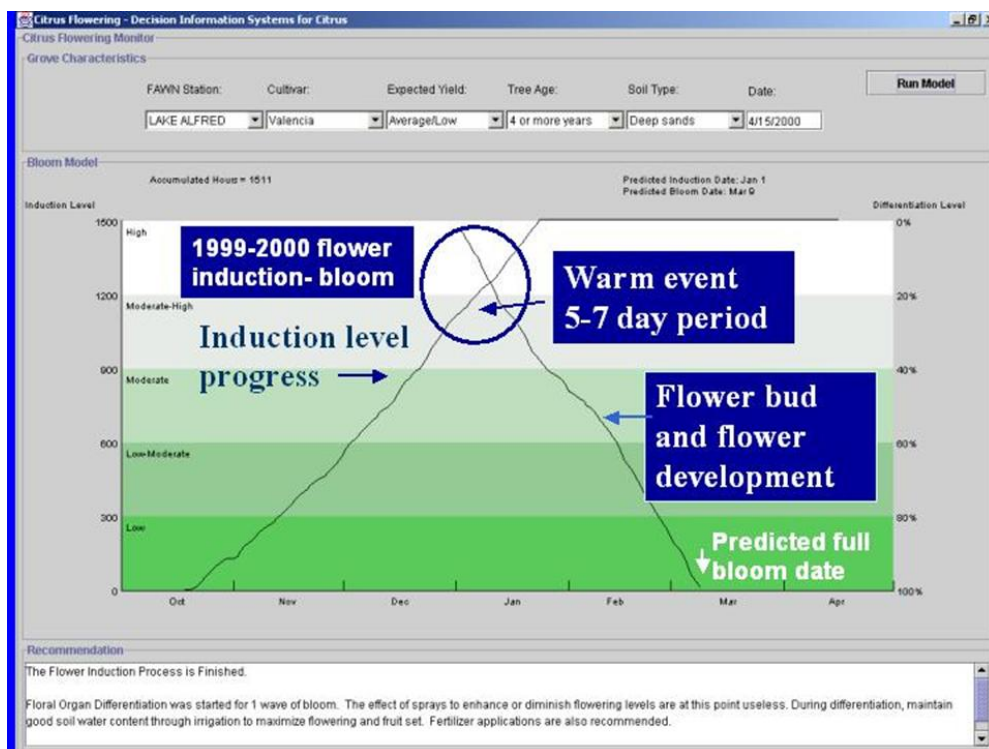
Overview of flower bud induction in Florida – Citrus flower bud induction starts in the fall and usually is completed by early January. Low temperatures first stop growth and then promote induction of flower buds as more hours of low temperatures accumulate (below 68 degrees F, 19C). Periods of high temperatures in winter can then initiate bud differentiation which after sufficient days of warm springtime temperatures leads to bloom. The meteorologists predict that this winter in Florida will be an ENSO-La Niña year, above average temperatures and lower than average rainfall. Under these conditions, enough hours of low temperatures below 68 degrees F. still usually accumulate to induce an economic level of flower buds. Conditions that can interfere with good flower bud induction include: 1) several warm periods interrupting the induction process or 2) the previous crop was exceptionally high or 3) leaf loss from hurricanes, freezes or other causes (canker) were excessive and tree recovery was not complete. Excessive leaf loss leads to low carbohydrate levels in developing buds which reduces their ability to become flower buds. None of these adverse conditions appear to be in play for the coming season's flower bud induction. The biggest concern should be too many warm periods causing early initiation of bud growth before good flower induction.

Under normal Florida weather conditions but with a moderate to heavy previous crop, sufficient flower bud induction should be achieved when total accumulated hours of low temperatures exceed 800 hours below 68 degrees F. If the crop load is light, sufficient flower bud induction may occur after 700-750 hours of accumulated low temperatures. A warm period of 7 to 12 days, with maximum temperatures > 80 to 85 degrees F., can trigger growth (bud swelling) if a minimum total hours of low temperatures have accumulated (300-400 hours below 68 degrees F). Later in the winter when the accumulated cool temperature induction hours are high, fewer days and lower daytime highs (75 degrees F.) are required in a warm period to stimulate growth of buds. Weather information relative to Florida citrus flower bud development for the current and several previous years (back to 1998) can be obtained from the Florida Automated Weather System (fawn.ifas.ufl.edu) for locations near you. An 8 day forecast from the National Weather Service predicts Florida weather for several sites around the citrus belt for the next week. Find this information at: <http://www.nws.noaa.govmdl/forecast/text/state/FL.MRF.htm>. This is an easy way to see if a warm period, which could trigger flower bud growth, is predicted for your specific area in Florida.

Some flower buds will be induced in the range of 300 to 450 accumulated hrs < 68 degrees F. Warm events just after these levels of induction result in weak flowering intensity, and therefore many buds remain that can be induced by later cool periods, or these buds may sprout as vegetative shoots if warm weather continues and the trees are well watered. The first situation

results in multiple cohorts of flower buds developing to different bloom dates. The second condition leads to low flowering-fruit set and excessive early spring vegetative growth. During the years from 1963 to 2003, multiple blooms occurred in over half of the years. Historically, the time period in which an early warm period (7-12 day) can lead to an initial low number of buds growing and flowering is roughly mid-November to mid-December. Then after more cool temperatures additional flower buds are induced and a later warm period starts their growth and repeats of this process result in multiple blooms. Presently, the only management tool available to eliminate or reduce the chance of multiple blooms is sufficient drought stress to stop growth. This water stress may be provided by stopping irrigation well before these predicted warm periods occur. If the warm periods(s) are of the typical 7 to 10 day duration, a coincident short period of drought stress will have little impact on current crop development or quality. Sufficient drought stress may be interpreted as leaf wilt observed by 10 or 11 am, but leaves recovering by early the next morning. If no rains interrupt a drought stress condition in citrus trees, buds will not grow in response to high temperatures. If a warm period has passed, trees again can be irrigated to minimize current crop stress. Although no weather prediction is guaranteed, rains in the winter usually come on the fronts for cool periods. Sufficiently cool temperatures after a cold front rain will usually prevent growth even though soil moisture is adequate for growth. Since winter rains usually occur just before cool temperatures, the chances that drought stress will prevent an early flower bud differentiation event are reasonably good for many warm periods. Even so, growers in some growing districts have often found it difficult to maintain winter drought stress.

In the shallow soils of bedded groves, it is relatively easy to create sufficient water stress to suppress growth by withholding irrigation for a few days if no rains occur. In deeper, sandy soils, 2 or more weeks without irrigation or rainfall may be required. To minimize the time required for soil to dry sufficiently to initiate water stress, the soil should be allowed to dry out by mid-November so that trees show wilt by mid-day. For bedded groves, minimum irrigation can then be applied at low rates as needed until a weather prediction indicates a warm period is expected. At this time, irrigation should be shut down. For deep sands, the soil needs to be dried out and kept nearly dry below 6 to 8 inches of depth until at least Christmas so that no growth can occur. Minimum irrigations that re-wet perhaps the top 6 to 8 inches of the root zone may minimize excessive drought, while allowing quick return to a water stress condition if a high temperature period is forecast. Soil moisture monitoring can help to achieve these goals. Prolonged late-fall, early-winter drought may be risky for 'Hamlin' or other early maturing cultivars not yet harvested that tend to drop fruit near harvest. In recent studies, Valencia trees in Central Florida have had good flowering and no apparent impact on current crop when irrigation was stopped in early December and resumed in the Spring. Much of what has been stated above has now been incorporated into a 'Flowering Expert System for Florida Citrus'. Figure 1 represents the different aspects of flower induction as depicted by the software program. The program gives an average bloom situation represented by the shades of green to white, vegetative to heavy flowering, respectively. If the current crop is very heavy, then more cool induction is needed to compensate for the crop load effect. If the current crop is lighter or tree condition better, then fewer total cool temperature hours are needed for an equal level of flowering. Recommendations (bottom text) do consider the current crop level in assessing when action should be taken to try to prevent or to promote initiation of the flower bud growth process. The system is available on-line: <http://orb.at.ufl.edu/DISC/bloom>.



Additional advisories will follow this preliminary one, roughly bi-weekly) and update the reader on accumulating hours of related cool or warm temperatures and other weather effects on flower bud induction. Methods for enhancing (urea or PO3 sprays) or reducing (GA3 sprays) flowering intensity as conditions and cultivars dictate will be discussed in later advisories. Read the archived advisories from previous years (link at top of this page) for more background.

Previous responses – In the winter of 2001-2002 following a good crop, cool temperature accumulation was very slow and few hours accumulated (640 hours), warm temperatures persisted and most buds started to grow by 20 December, particularly in well irrigated blocks, leading to excessive vegetative buds. This resulted in few buds remaining for a second flowering wave and a relatively small crop occurred in the 2002-03 harvest season. By late December in the winter of 2002-2003, 850 hours of uninterrupted cool inductive temperatures had accumulated with a low current crop on the trees. The subsequent warm period initiated growth of almost all the buds on all of the spring and summer flush with bloom in early March. We had a fairly leafy bloom of very short duration (slightly more than 2 weeks). In spite of the high temperatures during and following bloom, an excellent fruit set occurred in all round oranges resulting in the highest Florida citrus crop forecast by the Florida Agric. Statistical Service (2003-04 crop). In the winter of 2003-2004, there was good flower bud induction and reasonably good fruit setting conditions, although the heavy previous crop probably reduced flowering levels and set. Even though fruit size was small, it looked like we were headed for a 220 million box orange yield before the 2004 hurricanes significantly reduced the 2004-05 yield. Since then, we have had Hurricane Wilma in 2005 and a long period of tree recovery from the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes. Since the hurricanes, flowering levels have been lower and appeared to require more hours to get adequate bloom. This has usually resulted in the main bloom occurring later (late March). There is some indication that tree recovery after the multiple hurricanes took several years. For the 2008-2009 crop season, accumulated hours below 68 degrees F were more than acceptable by the second warm period

(over 1000 hours) but flowering and crop per tree was still low resulting in an estimate of only 134 million boxes of oranges. This low yield probably indicates that the trees still were not fully recovered from hurricane effects. Some details of the hurricane effects can be reviewed in the 11/01/2006 summary-introduction for the previous year's flower induction cycle.

Current status for 2011-12 Fall-Winter - The medium crop and general tree recovery without a hurricane have finally led to more typical flowering responses in Florida. This is supposed to be an **ENSO-La Niña** winter with below average cool temperature accumulation and less rainfall. Warm periods can interrupt the accumulation process but lower than average rainfall could make it easier to impose drought stress to prevent an early flowering wave. Currently, citrus locations have accumulated low temperatures < 68 degrees F of 240 to 510 hours from southern to northern areas, respectively. The next 7 days will be moderate for cool temperature accumulation with another 100 hours. Continued accumulation of cool temperatures and prevention of growth during a winter warm spell are important for good 2010-11 citrus production. Therefore, start to monitor irrigation amounts so drought stress can occur if a warm period occurs between now and Christmas or occurs before reaching an acceptable level of over 750-800 hours of cool temperatures. Prepare to make groves relatively dry by withholding irrigation if a warm period is predicted. Keep track of induction hours in your area and watch for the next advisory after December 5th.

If you have any questions, please contact me (albrigo@ufl.edu).

ADVANCED CITRICULTURE II - HOS 6546 will be offered this coming Spring of 2012 at the Citrus Research and Education Center and at UF Distance Education locations on the main campus and in citrus production areas. The Spring semester course, on regulation of reproductive growth of citrus, will be offered on Tuesdays, 3-6 pm, starting January 10th. The in-person site will be CREC, Lake Alfred or students can participate in class by interactive Internet Video-Audio Conferencing. . Students will review literature on climatic, physiological, production practices and other factors as they influence reproductive development of citrus. Student will read assigned literature, prepare short reports on several papers and then participate in a lecture-discussion session on the assigned topic each week. This is a 3 unit course that will cost \$1494.27 for in-state students. This course is available in Continuing Education for credit or audit or as regular Graduate School offerings. Interested students should have taken basic plant physiology, citrus production courses or have several years of citrus production experience. **Please contact Dr. L. Gene Albrigo (863) 956-1151 or albrigo@ufl.edu for further information and procedures for class enrollment.**

COLD HARDINESS AND COLD PROTECTION

Two major environmental factors in Florida citrus that regulate cold hardiness are temperature and water.

At 55° F, citrus plant growth slows. As temperatures remain below 55° F, citrus trees will continue to acquire acclimation to these cooler temperatures. This process is reversible during warm winter periods, and de-acclimation (loss of acclimation) can occur. The greatest amount of citrus acclimation occurs during consistently cool fall and winters. Once de-acclimation occurs citrus trees will generally not re-acclimate to the same level prior to the onset of de-acclimation.

Irrigation and fall/winter rainfall can have a pronounced effect on the citrus acclimation process. Drought induced stress has been shown to increase the tolerance of citrus trees to freezing temperatures when compared to well watered or over watered citrus trees in Florida. However, excessively drought stressed trees are more susceptible to freeze damage.

Critical Temperatures for Florida Citrus

It is very important to know the critical temperature at which freezing temperatures can damage citrus. Minimum temperature indicating thermometers are a wise investment for any grower concerned with freeze/frost protection. Thermometers should be installed in the coldest grove locations. They should be placed at a height of 42 inches (4.5 ft) on a stand, sheltered at the top and facing north. In citrus trees, there can be a great deal of variation in the minimum temperature at which plant damage will occur.

The reference temperature and duration for the initiation of the freezing process in round oranges is 28° F for four hours. Tangerines and fruit with smaller mass would receive freeze damage after shorter durations, while grapefruit would require longer durations.

Minimum temperatures of 26° F will damage fully mature, harden-off leaves that have not received any acclimation. Minimum temperatures of 30° F can significantly damage unhardened new flush leaves. Leaves that have received extensive acclimation have been shown to survive temperatures as low as 20° F in Florida.

Protecting citrus trees from cold damage

Cultural practices can have a major influence on the cold hardiness of citrus trees. A clean, hard-packed soil surface intercepts and stores more solar radiation during the day and releases more heat at night than a surface covered with vegetation or a newly tilled area. Irrigation should be applied minimally during the fall and winter. Reducing irrigation results in an increase in the cold tolerance of citrus trees and enhances tree stress resulting in an increase in the formation of flower buds. Excessive application of nutrients should be avoided late in the fall especially with young citrus trees. Heavy hedging or topping during the winter can reduce citrus cold hardiness by reducing canopy integrity that would trap heat released by the soil. This should be avoided.

Water from micro sprinkler irrigation protects young trees by transferring heat to the tree and the environment. The heat provided is from two sources, sensible heat and the latent heat of fusion. Most irrigation water comes out of the ground at 68° to 72° F, depending on the depth of the well. The major source of heat from irrigation is provided when the water in the liquid form changes to ice (latent heat of fusion).

As long as water is constantly changing to ice, the temperature of the ice-water mixture will remain at 32° F. The higher the rate of water application to a given area, the greater is the amount of heat energy that is applied. When expecting a freeze, turn on the water early before the air temperature reaches 32° F. Remember that in cold pockets, the ground surface can be colder than the air temperature reading in a thermometer shelter. Once irrigation has begun, the system must run for the duration of the time plant temperatures are below the critical temperature. Growers are recommended to use the information at the FAWN website (<http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu>) to determine when it would be safe to turn off or on their micro-sprinkler irrigation system. For more details, go to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/HS179>, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/CH182>, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/CH054>

In bedded groves to provide additional cold protection, water should also be pumped high in the ditches the day before and during the time of freezing weather.



FAWN (Florida Automated Weather Network)

Go to <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Click on Tools, then click on Cold Protection Toolkit or go directly to

<http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/tools/coldp/>

Then Select a Tool.

New! Graphic Forecast data for FAWN sites

National Weather Service (NWS) forecast data for next 96 hours. Updated hourly.

Fruit Frost Station Forecasts

With the demise of the NWS agricultural program in April of 1996 the minimum temperature forecast and winter summaries went away. An opportunity now exists to once again provide temperature forecasts for the old Fruit Frost locations with the development of the Point forecast by NWS.

Minimum Overnight Temperature

Estimates based on the Brunt equation and the air & dew point temperatures at sunset.

Forecast Tracker for FAWN sites

Plots the actual temperature and forecasted temperature for the previous twenty four (24) hours and the forecasted temperature for the next twenty four (24) hours in order to show how well the forecast is tracking the actual temperature. The Forecast Tracker is easy to use with a drop down menu to select the desired FAWN site.

FAWN does not make weather forecasts, but utilizes the National Weather Service products, especially the pin point forecasts. For more information see **JETSTREAM, an online weather school, Pinpoint Forecasts.**

Evaporative cooling potential

Determining the risk of using irrigation for cold protection, and see the risk calculated at FAWN stations.

There is always a risk when using water systems, micro-sprinkler or conventional sprinkler, for cold and/or frost protection. Low humidity and wind can produce evaporative cooling which can chill plant surfaces to the wet bulb temperature. Dry and windy conditions can result in wet bulb temperatures 5F to 6F degrees lower than air temperature. Therefore, wetted plant surfaces that experience evaporation would be 5F to 6F degrees cooler than air temperature. Evaporative cooling may result in plant damage when water is used for cold protection during dry windy conditions. Evaporative cooling should always be taken into consideration.

It is possible that, on nights when temperatures are close to critical levels, introduction of water could produce more damage than would result if no action was taken!

Wet-Bulb Based Irrigation Cutoff Temperature

The safe cutoff temperature based on current FAWN conditions.

2011 – 2012 WINTER WEATHER WATCH PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 15, 2011 TO MARCH 15, 2012
REGISTRATION FEE: \$100.00



It's once again time to register for the upcoming 2011 - 2012 Winter Weather Watch Program. Upon receiving your \$100.00 registration payment, you will be sent an unlisted telephone number with which you can retrieve the latest Ag Forecasts, 24 hours a day. **Please do not give this number to others.** The *Winter Weather Watch Program* is funded by the registration fees to pay for telephone equipment rentals, long distance calls, repairs and our meteorologist.



2011 – 2012 Winter Weather Watch Program

NAME: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

COMPANY: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

REGISTRATION FEE \$100.00

PLEASE RETURN THIS REGISTRATION FORM AND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

**POLK COUNTY CITRUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PO BOX 9005, DRAWER HS03
BARTOW, FL 33831-9005**

Information for the next Certified Pile Burners Course:

The Florida Division of Forestry and University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service will be conducting a Certified Pile Burners Course on Tuesday, **21 February 2012**. This course will show you how to burn piles *legally, safely and efficiently*. Most importantly, it could save a life. If you burn piles regularly, don't put off registering for this training. When the weather is dry, certified pile burners will receive priority for authorization to burn. Also, certified pile burners are allowed to burn up to two hours longer per day and get multiple day authorizations. Don't wait. The number of trainings offered and attendance at each training is LIMITED. This training will be held from 8:00 am till 5:00 pm at the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center located in Immokalee, Florida. Included are a registration form and program agenda. See <http://www.imok.ufl.edu/> for directions to facility.

Registration is required to attend and class size is limited to the first 50 people. To attend please send the following information (see form on next page):

1. Your full name (as wanted on your pile burning certificate).
2. Your mailing address (where you want the certificate mailed).
3. Your Division of Forestry Customer Number (It is the number that you are required to give the DOF when you call in for your burn permits. If you do not know it please call the local DOF office and ask them for it).
4. Your email address (if you have one) and/or contact phone number.
5. A check for **\$50.00** made out to **Hendry County 4-H**.

The first fifty individuals to provide these five requirements will be registered; there will be a 7-day non refundable fee limit. If you do not make the training and did not contact our office at least one week before the class, you will not receive a refund. There will be a test at the end of the session. You must receive a grade of 70% or higher on the exam and demonstrate a proper pile burn with your local DOF office to become certified. Once you are certified it will be noted with your customer number, thus it is important for us to have the proper number. If you do not have a customer number the DOF office will set one up for you. Fill out the registration form on the next page and return as directed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mongi Zekri
Multi County Citrus Agent
Office phone: 863 674 4092
Cell: 239 595 5494
maz@ufl.edu

REGISTRATION FORM

Florida's Certified Pile Burner Program

Tuesday, February 21st, 2012

c/o Dr. Mongi Zekri

UF-IFAS Hendry County Extension Office

P.O. Box 68

LaBelle, FL 33975-0068

Registration is required to attend and class size is limited to the first 50 people.

Registration fee: \$50

The \$50 fee covers the training sessions, a booklet with all the presentations in color, other handouts, refreshments, and lunch

Please send this form and a check for **\$50.00**, payable to **Hendry County 4-H** to:

Dr. Mongi Zekri
University of Florida IFAS
Hendry County Extension Office
P.O. Box 68
LaBelle, FL 33975-0068

Name

Mailing address

Email address

Phone Number

DOF Customer Number

Florida's Certified Pile Burner Training
Tuesday, February 21st, 2012
UF-IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center
2685 SR 29, Immokalee, FL 34142
See: <http://www.imok.ufl.edu/> for directions

1. Registration	08:00 – 08:30
2. Opening Comments and Introduction	08:30 – 09:10
3. Fire Weather	09:10 – 09:50
4. BREAK	09:50 – 10:00
5. Smoke Management	10:00 – 11:20
6. Open Burning Regulations	11:20 – 12:15
7. LUNCH	12:15 – 01:15
8. Planning and Implementation	01:15 – 02:30
9. Safety	02:30 – 03:10
10. BREAK	03:10 – 03:20
11. Public Relations	03:20 – 04:00
12. Wrap Up and Final Test	04:00 – 05:00

Please bring a Pencil for the Exam!



Florida's Certified Pile Burner Training Frequently Asked Questions



Q: Why should I be a certified pile burner?

A: Certified pile burners are trained to burn piles **legally, safely and efficiently**. Most importantly, it could save a life. Also, when the weather is dry, certified pile burners will receive priority for authorization to burn by the Florida Division of Forestry (DOF). Also, certified pile burners are allowed to burn up to two hours longer per day and get multiple day authorizations.

Q: What is a Pile Burner Customer Number?

A: When you call the DOF for an authorization to burn, you will be assigned a personal customer number. This number references your information so it doesn't need to be gathered each time you call for an authorization. You must have your individual DOF customer number in order to be certified.

Q: Is there a test?

A: Yes, the test is 20 questions and open-book. You must receive a score of at least 70% to pass.

Q: What if I don't pass?

A: Very few people fail the test but if you do, you will be provided another opportunity to take the test at a later date. If you fail the second time, you must re-register and take the training again.

Q: Why do you ask for my email on the application form?

A: Email is the fastest and most convenient method to inform registrants of their registration status. If no email address is provided then all correspondence will be sent through the federal mail. This can take several days to relay messages and this may not be practical if changes are made to the course schedule or for last minute registrations.

Q: How much does it cost to register for the training?

A: Registration for the training is \$50 per person and includes lunch, training materials and testing.

Q: How long does my certification last?

A: As long as the person with the certification uses their number at least 5 times in a period of 5 years their certification will not expire under the current program. You **MUST** complete the certification burn within a year of taking the class.

Q: Will certified burners be notified if their certification expires?

A: Yes, notification will be sent out to them to let them know of their upcoming certification expiration date.

Q: Will I be certified at the end of the one day training?

A: No, you will need to follow the written instructions that you will receive from the Division to become certified. You will need to complete a simple burn plan, have it reviewed and approved locally by the DOF and also have the burn itself reviewed and approved by the DOF. From that point, the local DOF office will send the expected documentation to Tallahassee to recommend certification for you.

Q: Is there a minimum age to be a certified pile burner?

A: Yes, you must be at least 18 years old to take the test and be a certified pile burner.

Florida Gulf Citrus Growers Association



Florida Gulf Citrus Growers are good neighbors and good stewards of the land. They are keenly aware that they must carefully balance the needs of the environment and the needs of citrus growing. This delicate balance starts in the basic design

of the groves, and then to the use of the latest technology and the most progressive management practices. All these factors enable Florida Citrus Growers to be sustainable in this region. Growers carefully manage the water resources through state-of-the-art low volume computerized irrigation systems, spraying water directly to the root zone. There are many other positive impacts that citrus groves have on the environment. Go to <http://www.gulfcitrus.org/> and become a member or an associate member.

GULF CITRUS GROWERS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION, INC.



Membership:

Membership in the Scholarship Foundation is open to all Gulf Citrus Growers Association (GCGA) members for just \$25 per year. Members are able to vote for and serve on the Board of Directors for the Foundation.

Donations:

Donations are a crucial source of funding for scholarship awards and may be made to the Foundation at any time during the year in any denomination, **regardless of membership status**. Checks should be made payable to the Foundation. For more details, please call the GCGA office at **863 675 2180**.

The GCGA Scholarship Foundation is a non-profit corporation operating under Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.



Gulf Citrus Growers Association Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

P. O. Box 1319, LaBelle, Florida 33975 (863) 675-2180 / Fax: (863) 675-8087 / Email: gulfcitrus@embarqmail.com

About the Gulf Citrus Growers Association

The citrus growers of southwest Florida are committed to supporting education as a long-term investment in the future of our industry. The first Gulf Citrus scholarship was awarded in 1992 through the Gulf Citrus Growers Association, a trade organization representing growers in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties.

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association Scholarship Foundation was established in 2000 as a non-profit entity to oversee the distribution of these awards. Scholarship applications are accepted throughout the year and are reviewed semi-annually by a Scholarship Selection Committee comprised of academic and industry members. The number and amount of awards vary depending upon the number of applications received and available funds.

Applicants who are not selected may submit a new application for consideration in the next selection cycle. Previous award winners may also reapply.

Scholarship Criteria

Preferred requirements for scholarships are as follows:

AA, BS, MS and PhD Degrees:

- Completion of all placement testing and a **declared major** in agriculture or related major.
- Completion of **12 credit hours** towards agriculture or related degree.
- Minimum overall grade point average of **2.5** for a BS degree; **3.0** for MS and PhD degrees.
- A demonstrated **commitment** to complete the degree at a state college, community college or university.

Applicants must complete the attached application, which includes a statement of release giving the selection committee permission to verify information submitted.

*****APPLICATION DEADLINES ARE DECEMBER 31 AND JULY 31*****



Gulf Citrus Growers Association Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

P. O. Box 1319, LaBelle, Florida 33975 (863) 675-2180 / Fax: (863) 675-8087 / Email: gulfcitrus@embarqmail.com

Scholarship Application

Personal Data

Name: _____ Student # : _____

Home Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Employer: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Does your employer reimburse you for tuition or other expenses incurred toward your degree?
Yes ____ No ____

Educational Information

College or University in which you are enrolled: _____

Department / Degree Program: _____

I am working toward the following: AA ____ BS ____ MS ____ PhD ____ Other ____

Courses Taken in Major (completed):

Courses (in which you are currently enrolled):

Total Credit Hours Toward Degree: _____ Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA): _____

Expected Date of Graduation: _____

Please answer the following questions in complete sentences with as much detail as possible.

What are your career goals? _____

What is the potential value of your education to the citrus industry *in southwest Florida*?

I authorize the release of this application and any relevant supporting information to persons involved in the selection of recipients for Gulf Citrus Growers Association scholarships.

Applicant's Signature

Date

*****APPLICATION DEADLINES ARE DECEMBER 31 AND JULY 31*****

Please return this application with your [official transcripts](#) to:

**Gulf Citrus Growers Association Scholarship Foundation, Inc.
Dr. Mongi Zekri, Application Coordinator
Hendry County Extension Office
P. O. Box 68
LaBelle, FL 33975
Phone: (863) 674-4092 / Fax: (863) 674-4636
E-mail: maz@ifas.ufl.edu**

FLATWOODS CITRUS NEWSLETTER EVALUATION FORM

If you have not done so, please take a moment to rate the quality and usefulness of the information presented in the Flatwoods Citrus newsletter. Please send back the form to:

**Dr. Mongi Zekri
University of Florida, IFAS
Hendry County Extension Office
P.O. Box 68
LaBelle, FL 33975**

or e-mail it to maz@ufl.edu or fax it to: 863 674 4636. Thank you for your input!!!

Please circle or bold your answer

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|----|--------------|
| 1 Did the information seem up to date and accurate? | Yes | No | Uncertain |
| 2 Was the information delivered on time to be useful? | Yes | No | Uncertain |
| 3 Was the information relevant to your situation? | Yes | No | Uncertain |
| 4 Was the information easy to understand? | Yes | No | Uncertain |
| 5 Have you had an opportunity to use the information? | Yes | No | Uncertain |
| 6 Have you shared the information with someone else? | Yes | No | Uncertain |
| 7 Overall, how do you feel about the Flatwoods Citrus Newsletter? | | | |
| Satisfied | Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied | | Dissatisfied |

8 **Do you have any suggestions that might improve the newsletter?**

(Please write in any comments)

9. How many years have you been using the Extension Service? _____ Years

10. What is your employment status?

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| _____ Grower | _____ Chemical Industry | _____ Service Provider |
| _____ Production Manager | _____ Regulator | _____ University |
| _____ Consultant | _____ Association | Other _____ |

We appreciate your reactions and the time you have given us. Thank you, and please contact us when we may be of service to you.

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