UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
EXTENSION
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

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Flatwoods Citrus

Vol. 7, No. 5 **May 2004**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Immokalee IFAS Center

Tuesday, May 18, 2004, 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Seminar title: The citrus leafminer, the citrus psyllid, the citrus rust mite and greasy spot
Speakers: **Drs. Carl Childers, Phil Stansly and Pete Timmer**
2 CEUs for Pesticide License Renewal, 2 CEUs for Certified Crop Advisors
Sponsor: Bob Gregg, Syngenta

Thursday, June 3, 2004, ***12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM***
Seminar title: Landmaster II Herbicide Under-tree / Chemical Mowing Recommendations and New Roundup Herbicide Formulations
Speakers: **Thad Boatwright and Donna Muir Strickland**
1.5 CEUs for Pesticide License Renewal, 1.5 CEUs for Certified Crop Advisors
Sponsor: Thad Boatwright and Donna Muir Strickland**, Monsanto**

If you want to print a color copy of the Flatwoods Citrus Newsletter, get to the Florida Citrus Resources Site at http://flcitrus.ifas.ufl.edu/
You can also find all you need and all links to the University of Florida Citrus Extension and the Florida Citrus Industry

FARM SAFETY DAY

Saturday, June 5, 2004, Immokalee IFAS Center

Coordinator: Mongi Zekri

117th Annual Meeting of the Florida State Horticultural Society (FSHS)

June 6-8, 2004
Sheraton World Resort, Orlando, Florida
http://www.lal.ufl.edu/fshs/

Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA)

Date: July 11-15, 2004
Location: Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa in the WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort, 1900 Buena Vista Drive, Lake Buena Vista,

CITRUS EXPO
IN FORT MYERS

Wednesday, August 25 &
Thursday, August 26, 2004

50th Annual Meeting of the InterAmerican Society for Tropical Horticulture (ISTH)

Date: October 24-29, 2004
Location: Universidad EARTH, San Jose, Costa Rica
http://www.earth.ac.cr
For more information, contact Dr. Richard Campbell at
rcampbell@fairchildgarden.org

Meghan Zielinski
Dow AgroSciences
Phone: 863 537 2334
Nextel: 158*17*15098
mjzielinski@dow.com

Susan S. Thayer
Maxijet, Inc.
8400 Lake Trask Rd.
P.O. Box 1849, Dundee, FL 33838
Phone: 800 881 6994
Fax: 800 441 6294

David Courtney
Creel Tractor
Company
3771 Palm Beach Blvd
Fort Myers, FL 33916
Phone: 1 800 282 7949

MONSANTO
Donna Muir Strickland
Phone: 863 673 0182
Nextel Agnet: 6808
Thad G. Boatwright
Phone: 561 478 4970
Nextel Agnet: 10556

Donald Allen
AGLIME SALES, INC.
1375 Thornburg Road
Babson Park, FL 33827-9549
Mobile: 863 287 2925
Agnet # 52925

Wayne Simmons
SIMMONS CITRUS NURSERY
1600 Hwy 29 South
LaBelle, FL 33935
Phone: 863 675 4319
Fax: 863 675 6963

Ed Early
***DU PONT** Ag. Products*
5100 S. Cleveland Ave., Suite 318-368
Fort Myers, FL 33907
Phone: 239 332 1467
Fax: 239 332 1707

Robert F. Gregg
SYNGENTA
11051 Championship Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33913
Phone: 239 561 8568
Fax: 239 561 8569

FIRST BANK
P.O. Box 697
LaBelle, FL 33975
Phone: 863 675 4242
Fax: 863 675 1099
Moore Haven: 863 946 1515

GeoAg Solutions
David Summers (863) 441 1200
dsummers@geoagsolutions.com
Neal Horrom (239) 369 9806
nhorrom@geoagsolutions.com
www.geoagsolutions.com

Special Thanks **to the sponsors of the Flatwoods Citrus newsletter for their generous contribution and support. If you would like to be among them, contact me at 863 674 4092.**

Bart Hoopingarner
Cerexagri, Inc.
11933 3rd Street East
Parrish, FL 34219
Phone: 941 737 7444
Fax: 941 776 8127

Nufarm Agriculture USA
Shelby Hinrichs
Phone: 239 437 9970
Fax: 239 437 2646
Mobile: 941 416 0841
Gary Simmons
Phone: 772 260 1058

Larry McCauley
Griffin LLC
5843 Deer Flag Drive
Lakeland, FL 33811
Mobile: 863 712 6487
Fax: 863 607 9403

Jerry Southwell
Hydro Agri
574 Green Ash Lane
Wauchula, FL 33873
Phone: 863 773 0154
Fax: 863 773 5088

Andree-Anne Couillard, Ph.D.
CitriBlen®
The Scotts Company
Mobile: 937-537-0708
Nextel: 136*51*2524*
andree.couillard@scotts.com

Robert M. Bancroft
Citrus Hedging, Inc.
P.O. Box 1366
LaBelle, FL 33975
Phone: 863 675 2190
Fax: 863 675 2104

FARM CREDIT SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
330 N. Brevard Ave.
Arcadia, FL 34266
Phone: 800 307 5677
Fax: 941 494 6460

Rachel M. Walters
***BAYER* CropScience**
Phone & Fax: 239 542 8831
Mobile: 239 707 1198
E-mail:
rachel.walters@bayercropscience.com

Gaylon D. Pfeiffer
BASF Corporation
11806 Marblehead Drive
Tampa, FL 33626
Phone: 813 967 0024
Fax: 813 818 8694
pfeiffg@basf-corp.com

THE CITRUS PSYLLID

The Asian citrus psylla or psyllid, ***Diaphorina citri*** can be a serious pest of citrus. The citrus psyllid is similar to aphids and the citrus leafminer in requiring young leaves for reproduction. However, unlike aphids and the citrus leafminer, adult psyllids can survive on hardened leaves and move to new flush as it becomes available. Young trees should be monitored early in flush cycles to detect aggregations of adults on expanding terminals. High populations of adults should be treated before they reproduce.

Immature psyllid feeding on growing citrus terminals cause permanent damage to young leaves and shoots. They cause leaf distortion and curling of tender growth (flush).

Badly-damaged leaves will die and fall off. Control of the citrus psyllid should be taken seriously if young trees are involved. The citrus psyllid breeds exclusively on young flush and has a very high reproductive rate. Multiple, overlapping generations can lead to very high populations. Eggs are laid in the late winter and spring on young leaves in the buds or in leaf axils. The egg stalk is forced into the leaf tissue by the ovipositor of the female. Each female may lay up to 800 eggs during her two-month lifespan. The life cycle takes about 20 days and there may be up to 30 overlapping generations per year. Adults are about the size of aphids (2.5 mm).

The citrus psyllid is an efficient vector of greening disease, which is considered the most serious citrus disease in Asia. Although we don't have the disease at this time, a future introduction of the pathogen would result in effective transmission of the disease by the psyllids that are now here, causing a serious negative impact on our industry. Infected trees or branches with the greening disease will suffer heavy leaf drop, out-of-season flushing and flowering, reduced yield, and dieback. Fruit on infected trees will be small in size and low in juice quality. Many fruit will fall prematurely, while those that remain on the tree will not color properly, but will remain green on the shaded side, hence the name of the disease “greening”. Root systems including feeder roots will poorly develop.

All species of citrus appear to be susceptible, but sweet oranges, mandarins,

and tangelos are most affected in Asia. Greening seems to be primarily a disease of sweet orange (*Citrus sinensis*) with Valencias showing more pronounced leaf symptoms than navels. It is less of a problem on grapefruit, lemon, and lime. The psyllid also attacks landscape plants (jasmine orange, *Murraya paniculata*). Generalist predators such as lacewings, syrphid flies, lady beetles, and spiders attack psyllids. These native natural enemies are not expected to suppress the pest populations to a non-economic level. Two parasitoids, *Diaphorencyrtus aligarhensis* and *Tamarixia radiata* of the pest have been imported in Florida and are being released in a classical biological control program. These two natural enemies are recorded as primary (beneficial) parasitoids.

Citrus growers and homeowners may use pesticides to reduce damage on their citrus trees. It is recommended to use pesticides that can help suppress psyllids, but not disrupt natural enemies of citrus pests. The use of oil is less disruptive and should be used. Petroleum oil at the concentration of 3 to 5% should provide adequate control.

Tests with petroleum oil sprays against citrus psylla indicated that oil was most toxic to first and second instar nymphs and provided good control if applied frequently. Insects do not develop resistance to oil, oil has a low toxicity to vertebrates, and oil breaks down readily in the environment. Based on feed back from citrus growers and production managers in Florida, spray oil works effectively in knocking down psyllid populations.

Soil applied Admire and foliar applied Provado, Danitol, and Lorsban are also recommended for the control of the citrus psyllid. **Get your copy of the 2004 Florida citrus pest management guide. Order Form for hard copies is enclosed. You can print your own copy from this:** http://www.lal.ufl.edu/CRECHOME/groweraids.htm

THE CITRUS LEAFMINER

The citrus leafminer, *Phyllocnistis citrella*, (CLM) was found in late May

1993 in several citrus nurseries in Homestead, Florida, other parts of Dade County, and in Broward. Since May 1993, CLM has spread to all Florida citrus counties, with isolated sites as far north as Pensacola, plus Alabama, Louisiana, and southern Texas.

Adults of the citrus leafminer are minute moths with white and silvery iridescent scales on the forewings, with several black and tan markings, plus a black spot on each wingtip. The hind wings and body are white. In resting pose with wings folded, the moth is about 1/8 inch long. The head is very smooth and white.

Citrus leafminer is most easily detected by its meandering serpentine larval mine, usually on the ventral side of the leaf. Larvae are minute (to 1/8 inch), translucent greenish-yellow, and located inside the leaf mine. The pupa characteristically is in a pupal cell at the leaf margin. Adults generally are too minute to be easily noticed.

CLM is common on species of citrus and related Rutaceae within its range. Other reported hosts include Jasminum sambac, kumquat, and calamondin.

Eggs of CLM are laid singly on the underside of host leaves. Egg eclosion occurs within 2-10 days. Larvae immediately enter the leaf and begin feeding. Larvae make serpentine mines on young leaves and sometimes on young shoots too, resulting in leaf curling and serious injury.

Leaf mines are usually on the underside leaf surface, except in heavy infestations when both leaf surfaces are infested. Usually, only one leaf mine is present per leaf but heavy infestations may have 2 or 3 mines per leaf; up to 9 mines. Larvae are protected within the leaf during their feeding cycle. Larvae have 4 instars and development takes from one to 3 weeks.

Pupation is within the mine in a special pupal cell at the leaf margin, under a slight curl of the leaf. Pupal development takes also one to 3 weeks. Adults are active and lay their eggs in the evening, night, and early morning hours. CLM may help spread citrus canker because of leaf damage from the mine.

Generations per year appear to be nearly continuous from 6 to13. Development time totals from 2 to 6 weeks, depending on weather conditions. Florida generations are produced about every 3 weeks. Adults live for only a few days.

Citrus leafminer can occur on new flush throughout the growing season, but usually does not affect the first spring flush. Citrus leafminer does not significantly affect growth and yield of mature trees. However, nursery stock, resets, and young trees are very vulnerable to severe damage because of their frequent flushes.

Biological control through natural enemies already present in Florida and the introduced parasitoid wasp makes a contribution in suppressing the problem. Residual activity of most pesticides is limited by rapid and frequent appearance of new and unprotected flushes so that 2-3 weeks control is the best that can be expected. Therefore, scouting is necessary to determine peak periods of larval activity during flushing periods to increase the efficacy of chemicals.

Chemical application should begin when 1/3 of the flush leaves show active mines. Pesticides should be rotated to reduce selection for resistance. Since citrus leafminer affects only the new flush leaves, coverage of the peripheral leaves in the canopy should be adequate. Petroleum oil at the concentration of 5% should provide adequate control. Agri-Mek plus oil and Micromite are also recommended for the control of the citrus leafminer.

Bayer recommendations for the use of Admire to control the citrus leafminer, aphids and the citrus psyllid on young citrus trees

- All rates should be applied as a drench in 4-12 oz of water (most likely 8 oz) per tree, directed at the base of the tree.
- Apply prior to flush
- Regardless of per tree rate, do not exceed 32 fl oz per acre per year.
- For 2-4 ft-tall trees, use 1/16 fl oz (0.0625 oz)/tree
- For 4-6' ft-high, 1/8 fl oz (0.125 oz)/tree
- For 6-8' ft-high, 1/4 fl oz (0.25oz)/tree
- For potted trees, use 0.75 ml per cubic foot of potting media.
- Wet soil, drench and then lightly water.

Admire will control leafminers, aphids and psyllids.

Citrus Rust Mites

Citrus rust mite is found on all citrus cultivars throughout Florida. Citrus rust mite is mainly a pest problem on fruit grown for the fresh market. However, on some cultivars such as Sunburst, Fallglo, and Ambersweet, rust mite damage can be severe on stems and foliage and may cause leaf injury and leaf drop.

Mite populations usually begin to increase in April on new foliage and reach a peak in June-July. Depending on weather conditions and the occurrence of natural enemies (predatory mites and the fungus, *Hirsutella*), citrus rust mite populations usually decline in August, but increase again in October and November.

Generally, the north bottom section of the tree is preferred and supports the highest mite populations. When rust mite injury occurs on fruit before fruit maturity (late spring-summer), fruit size will be reduced and fruit drop may occur.

Miticides applied for the control of citrus rust mites on fresh fruit cultivars are usually combined with compatible fungicides in the spring and summer. Scouting or monitoring of rust mite populations is very important and should be carried out every 2 weeks throughout the fruit season. The number of citrus rust mite per square centimeter should be determined by averaging 80 readings per 10 acres (1 area of 1 cm^2 midway between the sun and shade areas of 1 fruit collected from each quadrant of 20 trees).

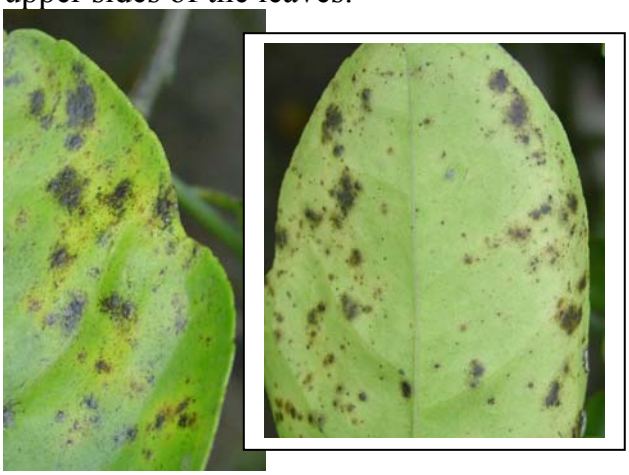
The threshold at which chemical treatment would be recommended is 2 mites and 10 mites/cm^2 for fresh fruit and processed fruit, respectively. Other methods of sampling and scouting rust mite populations and use of various types of miticides are described in the 2004 Florida citrus pest management guide. There are several miticides such as 10 oz Agri-Mek plus a minimum of 3 gal petroleum oil/acre, 8-10 gallons petroleum oil/acre, and several formulations of Micromite that can be used to control citrus rust mites. Always alternate materials to minimize development of pesticide resistance. Most miticides require a pH spray solution not to exceed 7. Other miticides, such as Comite, should not be mixed with oil because they may cause damage to leaves and fruit. Nexter and Vendex should not be mixed with copper or oil because their residual effect may be reduced.

For more details, get your copy of the 2004 Florida citrus pest management guide.

Always read the product label prior to use.

GREASY SPOT

Management of greasy spot must be considered in every grove whether the fruit is intended for processing or for fresh market. Greasy spot is usually severe on grapefruit, early season sweet oranges, and tangelos. In southwest Florida, greasy spot has been very severe even on other citrus cultivars. Greasy spot can be a devastating fungal disease. It causes severe leaf drop or defoliation. Defoliation causes dieback, reduces fruit yield, and makes the tree weak and more susceptible to stresses and other pests. Yellow spots first appear on the upper leaf surface, then irregular blisters, which become dark brown or even black, slightly raised and have a greasy appearance, develop on the lower, and later, on the upper sides of the leaves.



Symptom expression takes 3-4 months in grapefruit leaves, up to 6 months on grapefruit fruit and much longer in sweet orange. Greasy spot spores germinate on the underside of the leaves and penetrate the leaves through the stomates (natural openings on the lower leaf surface). Warm humid nights and high rainfall in the summer favor infection and disease development. Favorable conditions for infection in southwest Florida occur from late May through September. Leaves are susceptible once they are fully expanded and remain susceptible throughout their life. Two spray applications are needed to control greasy spot in southwest Florida. The first spray should be scheduled in May-June and the second in July-August. Copper fungicides are more effective when applied earlier in the season whereas petroleum oil is equally effective from June through August. Copper fungicides provide a high degree of control more consistently than oil sprays. Thorough coverage of the underside of leaves is very important and necessary for the control of greasy spot.

High spray volumes (125-150 gal/acre) and slower tractor speeds may be needed for maximum control of this fungal disease. Use 8-10 gallons of petroleum oil per acre or a copper fungicide at the label rate plus 1-2 gallons of oil. There is a high risk of fruit spray burn when 5 gallons of oil are added to 4 lbs metallic copper. For fresh fruit, petroleum oil alone is inadequate for the control of greasy spot rind blotch. Heavier oils (455 or 470) are more effective for rind blotch than lighter oils (435), but may cause phytotoxicity problems.

Copper fungicides are effective for the control of greasy spot rind blotch, but if applied in July or August at full rates in hot, dry weather with oil, they will cause fruit spotting. Enable can only be applied on grapefruit for rind blotch control on fruit and for greasy spot control on foliage. The strobilurin fungicides (Abound, Gem, Headline) can be used successfully to control greasy spot on any cultivar at any time. They can provide effective control of the disease on leaves and fruit. A strobilurin fungicide should not be applied more than once a year for greasy spot control. Addition of petroleum oil increases the efficacy of Enable, Abound, copper, and Gem.

Always read the product label prior to use.

Florida Citrus - Heath and Nutrition From the Florida Department of Citrus

Americans are becoming increasingly aware of the link between nutrition and reducing the risk of disease. While most people know that eating the right foods in the proper amounts is essential for good health, a growing body of evidence suggests that certain foods containing vitamin C, fiber, folate and other vitamins and minerals may be especially beneficial to maintaining personal wellness.

Hundreds of studies have been conducted on the nutrients found in citrus fruit, including orange juice, and the role these nutrients play in reducing the risk of such diseases as cancer and heart disease, when part of a low fat diet rich in fruits and vegetables. Florida citrus fruit, which contain essential vitamins and minerals, are an important part of a healthy diet for all men, women and children. In both fresh and juice form, Florida citrus - including oranges, grapefruit and specialty varieties such a temple oranges, tangerines and tangelos - have many important nutritional benefits. Some of these benefits are listed below:

☻ An eight-ounce glass of Florida orange juice supplies 100 percent or more of the Daily Value for vitamin C, a valuable "antioxidant". Scientists believe that antioxidants may counteract the harmful molecules called "free radicals," which they believe may contribute to the onset of several major diseases. Vitamin C also helps maintain collagen, the substance that helps the human body repair body tissue. ☻ Folate, a B vitamin commonly found in orange juice and green leafy vegetables, has been shown to help reduce the risk of certain types of birth defects. ☻ Fresh Florida oranges and grapefruit contain dietary fiber, including soluble fiber. Fiber aids in digestion and elimination, and, when part of a low fat diet rich in fruits and vegetables, may help reduce the risk of some cancers. And low fat diets rich in fruits and vegetables containing soluble fiber may reduce the risk of heart disease. ☻ Florida citrus juices like orange juice are natural sources of potassium, and all citrus fruit are sodium and cholesterol-free. Research shows that regular exercise and a balanced diet high in fruit and vegetables and low in fat can help maintain a healthy weight.

The following is an overview of some of the latest findings on how the nutrients found in citrus fruit may help reduce the risk of certain types of cancer, heart disease and some birth defects:

Cancer. By making some simple changes to dietary and lifestyle habits, we may reduce the risk of certain types of cancer. Recent studies have reported a direct link between the nutrients found in citrus fruit and reducing cancer risk:

☻ Researchers at the National Cancer Institute have long maintained that a low-fat diet high in vitamin C-rich foods may help reduce the risk of some types of cancer.

Heart Disease. According to recent research, a low-fat diet rich in fruits and vegetables like Florida citrus fruit and their juices juice, may help fight against heart disease: ☻ The Food and Drug Administration has concluded that diets low in saturated fat and cholesterol may reduce the risk of heart disease, FDA also has concluded that low fat diets high in fruits and vegetables containing fiber, including soluble fiber, may reduce the at risk of heart disease. Florida citrus fruit and their juices are fat- and cholesterol-free and citrus fruit like oranges and grapefruit are high in fiber.

Birth Defects. Research shows that women of childbearing age who eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables containing folate may decrease the risk of having children with birth defects: ☻ About 2,500 cases of neural tube defects, such as spina bifida and anencephaly, occur every year in the United States. Babies born with spina bifida have backbones that do not fully form around the nerves of the spinal column, while babies with anencephaly are born without most of the brain and cannot survive. According to the United States

Food and Drug Administration (FDA), women of childbearing age can dramatically reduce the risk of having a child with these birth defects by consuming plenty of fruits and vegetables to maintain adequate levels of folate (the most frequently consumed dietary source of folate is orange juice). Since most neural tube birth defects occur in the first six to eight weeks after conception, it is important that women of childbearing age consume adequate daily levels of folate before, and soon after, they become pregnant.

The old adage, "you are what you eat," has taken on a whole new meaning. There is a growing body of medical research that supports the health benefits of antioxidants such as vitamin C, as well as folate, dietary fiber (including soluble fiber), and other vitamins and minerals found in Florida citrus.

Nutrient Value of Florida Citrus

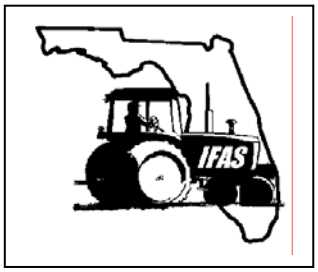
Citrus fruits and juices are full of vitamins and minerals essential to maintaining a healthy diet. The American Cancer Society, March of Dimes and American Heart Association have recognized the important role a balanced diet including citrus fruit and juices may play in helping to reduce the risk of certain cancers, neural tube birth defects and heart disease.

NUTRITION FACTS*	NUTRIENT ACTION	**CITRUS SOURCES**	**% Daily Value**
Vitamin C Daily Value: 60mg	Diets low in fat and rich in fruits and vegetables containing vitamins A and C may reduce the risk of some types of cancer. Oranges and orange juice are excellent sources of vitamin C. Helps the body in the healing process, aids in iron absorption, and helps strengthens body tissues, bones, and blood vessels.	8 oz. orange juice 8 oz. grapefruit juice 1 medium orange 1/2 medium grapefruit	100-120% 80-100% 130%** 110%**
Folic Acid Daily Value: 400mcg	May reduces the risk of birth defects of the brain and spine. Helps in the production of mature red-blood cells.	8 oz. orange juice	15%
Dietary Fiber Daily Value: 25g	When part of a low-fat diet rich in fruits and vegetables, fiber has been found to reduce the risk of some forms of cancer, and soluble fiber has been found to reduce the risk of heart disease; fiber also aids in digestion and elimination.	1/2 medium grapefruit 1 medium orange	24%** 28%**
Potassium Daily Value: 3,500mg	An essential mineral, potassium works to maintain fluid balance in the body, cell strength and structure, and nerve transmission.	8 oz. orange juice	12%

*Daily Values are based on a 2,000-calorie diet for moderately active adults

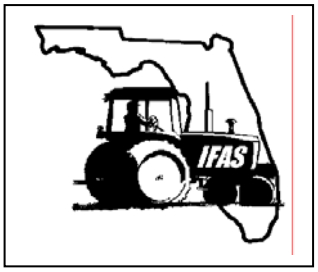
**FDA Nutrition Fact (61 FR at 42761)

Fourteenth Annual Farm Safety Day



Saturday, 5 June 2004

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 2004 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 23rd. It is the employer's responsibility to assure that the employee is present at 7:45 a.m. on June 5th 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, lunch ticket, rodeo cap and pencil. They will be directed to their respective course sessions.

In the event of a substitution, **the substitute employee must let the registration desk know** the name of the person they are replacing. A new nametag with the same color coding will be issued.

Language Preference

The courses will be marked by color coded signs. The signs will rotate throughout the morning session and the employee will follow the color sign that matches their nametag. Courses will be offered in both Spanish and English so it is very **important to either check an "E" for English or an "S" for Spanish on the registration form.**

Tractor Rodeo

Participation in the rodeo will be on a first come/first serve basis and a driver must be designated. Only one driver per farm will be allowed. You must have your participator registered prior to the day of the rodeo to insure your company's participation. If company checks are issued from somewhere other than your local office, please contact Barbara and arrangements will be made to proceed with pre-registration.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact **Barbara Hyman at 239 658 3415.**

The 2004 Southwest Florida Farm Safety Day

CONTEST RULES

Each farm location may select one representative to participate in the tractor driving equipment safety rodeo contest planned as part of this training. Farm contestants will be competing for first, second and third place prizes. The prize winners will be given special recognition and awards following the completion of the rodeo. The farm with the winning contestant will hold the rotating trophy, which will be passed along to the winning farm each year of the event. Only one individual may be selected to represent a farm. Only 10 contestants will be accepted for competition so register early!

Purpose: The rodeo is an educational and competitive event designed to emphasize the importance of farm/equipment safety. It allows designated participants the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in equipment operation and to practice the safety techniques they have learned.

Contest Rules: Only one contestant per farm, ranch or grove is allowed to participate in the rodeo contest. A maximum of 10 total participants will be allowed to compete due to time restraints. Registration will be on a first come/first serve basis. It is up to the farm to designate their equipment rodeo contestant when registering. Each contestant must participate in all three events, which make up the rodeo. Awards will be given to the top three scores in the overall rodeo competition.

Rodeo Events:

(1) *Equipment Safety Check* - Tractor and implement must be properly inspected for safety prior to starting and during the operation of equipment. Safety checks must be verbally called out to the judge. Failure to practice safety will result in a loss of points.

(2) *Backing* - After the safety inspection of the equipment, the implement must be backed into a "stall" from a 90 degree angle. Once the tractor is in reverse - it must stay there. Operation of equipment **must** be at a safe and proper speed. Scores are determined by (1) the number of scrapes and/or knock down of markers, (2) utilization of clutch, and (3) distance from back of "stall". The driver must back the equipment all the way to the back of the stall, regardless of how many markers are hit.

(3) *Driving Course* - Once the backing event is complete, the contestant will proceed (on the same equipment) directly in to the driving course. Operation of equipment **must** be at a safe and proper speed. The course will consist of several challenging angles and widths. Scores are determined by (1) number of scrapes and/or knock down of markers, (2) utilization of clutch, and (3) time to accomplish event safely.

The 2004 FARM SAFETY DAY
REGISTRATION FORM

Please give us the names of those who will be attending our 14th Farm Safety Day on **Saturday, 5 June 2004**. The cost is $15.00 per person, which will include educational sessions, handouts, refreshments, lunch, the rodeo, 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
2686 State Rd. 29 North
Immokalee, FL 34142

Or fax registration to: 239 658 3469
Entry Deadline is Friday, May 23, 2004

Company Name:

Administrative Contact Person:

E-mail address:

Mailing Address:

Telephone: _____ Fax:_____ County:

Name of authorized driver for tractor rodeo contest, one per farm:
_____Alternate/second choice:_____
(Any driver substitutions made the day of the event will require authorization by his/her company.)

Please list the employees who will be attending our safety training and rodeo 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.

	English	Spanish		English	Spanish

***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.**

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
IFAS EXTENSION

Sponsorship for the
Annual Farm Safety Day

The Southwest Florida Farm Safety Day has been conducted since 1991. The program has been strongly supported by area citrus, vegetable, sugarcane, and sod growers. Southwest Florida agricultural employers collectively have sent 180 to 240 employees annually to receive training on various safety related topics. We have scheduled our Fourteenth Annual Farm Safety Day on Saturday, June 5, 2004. We have organized a very comprehensive program.

Annual expenses are estimated to be $3,000. Costs include lunches, refreshments, awards, tent rentals, travel expenses for out-of-town speakers, hats, and other supplies. We issue attendance certificates for the participants and certificates of training that can be placed into the employee's file. We also offer a farm/equipment safety and a tractor-driving contest and we give trophies to the winners and plaques to their respective companies.

We would like to solicit sponsorships for the Farm Safety Day with the purpose of increasing the funds to support extension and other farm safety related programming, such as worker WPS training, agent in-service-training, teaching tools and related equipment, and travel for extension agents to approved conferences and meetings.

We hope you will consider being a sponsor this year. 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 30, 2004. As a sponsor, you will be recognized during the Farm Safety Day at the Master of Ceremonies and in the southwest Florida extension newsletters, "Flatwoods Citrus" and "South Florida Vegetable Pest and Disease Hotline." You will also receive a "Thank you" certificate.

Thank you for your support!

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

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
IFAS EXTENSION

14th Annual Farm Safety Day

WHEN: Saturday, June 5, 2004

WHERE: Southwest Florida Research & Education Center, Immokalee

AUDIENCE: Anticipate over 200 farm managers, equipment operators, and crew leaders from the 5-county area in Southwest Florida.

COST: Sponsorships: _____ $300
_____ $200
_____ $100

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

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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 outdoor equipment 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

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association (GCGA) was established in 1985 as a non-profit trade association representing the citrus growers of the "Gulf" production region of southwest Florida. Some of the world's finest citrus is produced by GCGA members on over 90,000 acres in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties. Gulf Citrus addresses key issues of economic importance to the sustainable growth and development of the citrus industry in our area, including:

- ***land and water use***
- ***environmental regulation***
- ***farm worker relations***
- ***transportation***
- ***domestic and international trade***
- ***marketing programs***

The association also serves as the Gulf citrus industry voice on other important issues impacting the area's agricultural industry.

❑ ***WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES***

Water is of major concern to everyone, whether they are a citrus grower or an urban homeowner. In a time when the state's resources are decreasing and the state's population is increasing, it's important to implement water management and consumption programs.

Gulf Citrus has worked diligently to ensure that the irrigation water supply needs of area growers are considered by the South Florida Water Management District and other agencies as water management and consumption programs are implemented.

The association has also been particularly active in monitoring the Everglades Restoration Project, working to achieve a balance between environmental requirements and the needs of the industry. Gulf Citrus Growers Association is involved on various committees and peer reviews at the SFWMD, including the Agriculture Advisory Committee. The Association also monitors the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and its jurisdictions and projects as related to the Central and Southern Flood Control Project and the regulation of lake levels in Lake Okeechobee.

Through this participation, the association has improved the representation of citrus growers on matters concerning their use of water. The issue of water quality is also being addressed through the water committee's activities with the IFAS, Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee.

□ ***LABOR RELATIONS, HOUSING & TRANSPORTATION***

Over the past several years, the Labor Relations Committee has initiated a series of problem solving meetings and seminars for growers and crew-leaders. Through the committee's continual work, growers are receiving excellent representation before state and federal agencies on farm worker issues. Representatives of the Federal and State Departments of Labor have expressed their desire to work with area growers through the association.

The association is also working with groups such as the Southwest Florida Housing Coalition to establish better working relationships between industry and governmental representatives in advancing collective solutions to area problems concerning housing and health.

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association is informing governmental representatives that citrus growers are concerned about the housing, health and transportation of

farmworkers and is working to address these issues.

In an effort to improve housing conditions for farmworkers, Gulf Citrus Growers Association coordinated a study to determine the infrastructure needs for farmworkers in Southwest Florida. This study was a combined effort between growers, government officials and farm worker advocacy organizations and was completed in 1998.

- ***TAXES***

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association's Tax Committee develops data from area growers on production, caretaking costs and fruit prices. They also work with county property appraisers to provide accurate information for their review in establishing equitable property values.

"Gulf" growers continue to communicate the message that taxes should be based on and paid in the current year. Our committee lets growers know what the caretaking costs and pick, load and haul are, and informs the counties when these costs are higher in Southwest Florida than in other areas of the state, if that fact can be documented. Citrus growers want equity in property taxation and the committee works diligently to achieve that goal.

- ***COUNTY ISSUES***

Working to develop better communications with county commissioners and county administrative staffs has been a top priority for the association. Through our Governmental Affairs Committee and staff activities, hours have been spent presenting the "Gulf" growers perspective before county boards of commissioners on comprehensive growth management plans and county ordinances.

In urban coastal counties, citrus growers have an extra communications challenge because the majority of area citizens and elected officials do not understand agriculture.

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association continues to present the perspectives of "Gulf" citrus growers to county commissioners, county officials and staff, with the intent being to keep local government from passing rules and regulations which can be damaging to area growers.

- ***STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES***

Although "Gulf Citrus" has focused on local issues, the association works with other state and national agricultural organizations to represent growers on broad-based issues. The Gulf Citrus Growers Association is a member of the Florida Ag Coalition which monitors state issues that affect agriculture. The coalition has banned together to provide a unified voice for Florida organizations in addressing statewide issues.

- ***ENVIROMENTAL REGULATION***

Gulf Citrus Growers Association actively works in conjunction with local growers in monitoring the plans of the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

These governmental agencies have passed rules that directly affect how growers can manage threatened or endangered species on their property. The association's landholders have been active in addressing grower concerns in the Florida Panther Habitat Protection Plan, along with other species-specific plans. Our goal is to make the plans more "landowner" friendly! Wildlife habitat management can be compatible with successful farming activities. The association is working to help area growers in addressing these land use issues.

- ***PUBLIC AND MEDIA RELATIONS***

Since its formation, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association has worked to develop positive working relationships with a wide range of media, from the citrus trade press to local newspapers and television. The association and its members have become a primary source of information for local newspapers and television any time a citrus-related story appears.

When citrus-related stories appear in the local papers, chances are that a board or staff member of the Gulf Citrus Growers Association has been consulted or quoted. Through the association, citrus growers in Southwest Florida are actively working to present a positive image of the citrus industry to the public.

The association's Community Relations Committee is actively working on a public relations campaign for urban areas in order to positively position citrus and agriculture in the minds of decision-makers and the voting public.

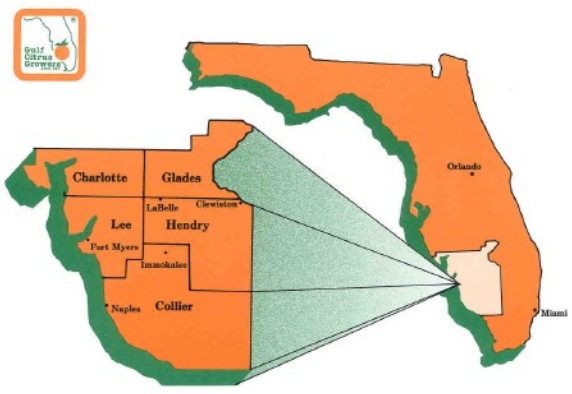
□ ***CITRUS EXPO***

Showcasing southwest Florida citrus growers was the reason Gulf Citrus Growers Association, Citrus Industry Magazine, and the Southwest Florida Citrus Extension Service sponsored the first Florida Citrus Expo in August, 1992. The Expo has since become a premiere industry event, drawing attendees and exhibitors from throughout the state, as well as from national and international markets.

The Citrus Expo has proved to be tremendously successful, selling out exhibit space and experiencing record grower attendance. Two days of informational seminars, tackling a wide range of issues affecting growers, are offered in conjunction with the trade show.

Citrus growers in SW Florida are encouraged to join GCGA and get all advantages and benefits for being a member.

Florida's Gulf Citrus Production Region



A great way to support the industry and your business!

Gulf Citrus is a trade organization representing the citrus growers of southwest Florida's "Gulf" production region, an area that contributes about 25% of the state's total citrus crop! Our members currently produce some of the world's finest citrus on nearly 90,000 acres in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties. Businesses and individuals that provide goods and services to citrus growers in SW Florida are encouraged to join Gulf Citrus as Associate Members. Your support as a member of Gulf Citrus is an investment both in your business and in the future of the citrus industry in SW Florida.

Benefits include:

●A listing in the annual **GCGA Membership Directory** which includes your business name and location, a contact name and number, and a brief description of the services or products you offer (you may also purchase larger advertising space in the directory);

●A **complimentary copy** of the Membership Directory;

●Invitations to **association meetings** and **seminars**;

●A subscription to two **newsletters**, *Florida Gulf Citrus News* and *Gulf Citrus Update;*

●**Sponsorship opportunities** which enable your business to market its services directly to Gulf growers and other associate members (newsletters, luncheons, and the Gulf Classic Golf Tournament, etc…

For more information on GCGA and on how to become a member or associate member, contact

Ron Hamel or Joanne Stein
Gulf Citrus Growers Association
P. O. Box 1319
LaBelle, FL 33975

Phone: (863) 675-2180