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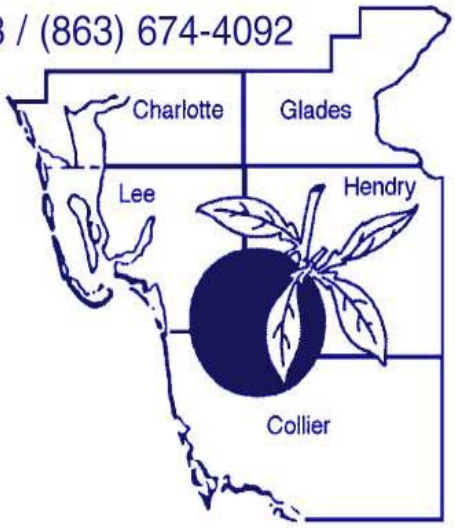
Flatwoods Citrus



Vol. 8, No. 11 **November 2005**

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

E-mail: maz@ifas.ufl.edu

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

WEATHER SCHOOL

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 15, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Location: SW Florida Research & Education Center, Immokalee
3 CEUs for Certified Crop Advisors
Following the seminar, we are planning a free lunch. To reserve lunch, call **Carol** at 863 674 4092 no later than 10 Nov. 2005 or send an e-mail to maz@ifas.ufl.edu
More details on page 2

Citrus Harvesting Season 2005-2006

GETTING STARTED
Canker Rules & Regulations (More details on page 19)

Location: Immokalee IFAS Center
Date: November 29, 2005

CITRUS CANKER WINDBREAK SURVEY

Please find enclosed the survey sheet. Please answer the questions and return the survey to: Dr. Bill Castle (castle@crec.ifas.ufl.edu)

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

WEATHER SCHOOL, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

A Weather School will be held at several locations within the citrus growing area this fall. The schedule, locations, times, and program content is given below. This school will be targeted to citrus growers, however, most of the information provided will be applicable to all those that use water for cold protection. Several new management tools, which will be available on the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN), will be introduced. The Cold Protection Tool Kit has the potential to save growers millions of dollars in operating costs and conserve billions of gallons of water.

Mark your calendar and contact the Extension Office near you in the following counties: Highlands (863-402-6540), Polk (863-519-8677), Lake (352-343-4101), St. Lucie (772-462-1660), Hendry (863-674-4092) or DeSoto (863-993-4846)

Dates & Locations:

Nov. 3 – Bartow
Nov. 8 – Apopka
Nov. 15 – Immokalee
Nov. 16 – Arcadia
Nov. 17 – Ft. Pierce
Nov. 22 – Sebring (new date)

Program/Speakers

- Outlook for the 2005/2006 Winter Season – Dr. Clyde Fraisse, UF/IFAS Southeastern Climate Consortium
- Principals of Cold Protection – Dr. Steve Futch, UF/IFAS Extension Agent
- The FAWN Cold Protection Tool Kit – John Jackson, UF/IFAS Extension Agent
- Critical Temperatures for Citrus and Other Crops – Chris Oswalt, UF/IFAS Extension Agent
- Agricultural Forecasts – John Jackson, UF/IFAS Extension Agent
- Evaporative Cooling – Dr. Mongi Zekri, UF/IFAS Extension Agent
- Starting and Stopping your System (Wet bulb shut off tool) – Dr. Mongi Zekri
- Other FAWN Information for Cold Nights – John Jackson, UF/IFAS Extension Agent

Following the program, we are planning a free lunch for all attendees.

Special Thanks **to the 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.**

Susan S. Thayer

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HURRICANE WILMA

Hurricane Wilma devastated the Florida citrus industry in Florida. Growers in SW Florida and other areas have seen their groves, barns, equipment and homes destroyed. Several reports indicated that damage to trees was of varying degrees. Some trees were uprooted. Others have major limbs split off or have major defoliation. Fruit littered the ground in many areas with oranges and specialty fruit. Grapefruit suffered the most loss because of the larger size and heavier weight.

Officials estimate that the storm reduced significantly the overall citrus harvest for this upcoming season. In addition, growers expect more fruit to fall in the coming weeks.

Citrus associations and agencies are communicating with state and federal authorities to ensure that growers will be able to obtain disaster assistance to alleviate their losses.

Tips for Tree Recovery

By **Dr. Jonathan H. Crane**, Tropical Fruit Crop Specialist
University of Florida, IFAS, Tropical Research and Education Center, Homestead

I. Take pictures of all the damage you can. This will be used for USDA-FSA crop and tree damage payment programs.

II. Large trees - that have fallen over

#1. Cover the trunks and major limbs to shade them either by

a) Use detached limbs, tarps
b) Spray sun exposed surfaces with 50/50 mixture of white latex paint
c) Make a mixture of water and mixture of slaked lime [also called calcium hydroxide and hydrated lime = $Ca(OH)_2$]. Formula, 50 lbs slaked lime + 10 lbs/zinc oxide in 100 gallons of water. The idea is to shade the trunk and major limbs so they do not overheat and die.

#2. For large trees that have fallen over but still have some root system in the ground and have leaves - prune back 1/3 to 2/3 of the canopy to reduce the water loss from the tree.

#3. To stand up toppled trees that have part of the root system in the ground you want to reset the trees back to the same level they were before:

a) Pull back soil from the area where the roots came out of the ground
b) You may need to cut off some badly broken roots (but try to leave as much as possible)
c) Cut back the top of the tree (the larger the tree the more you may need to cut in order to reduce the weight and pull the tree up) - also if it has leaves you need to remove some canopy to reduce water loss
d) Pull tree up using a cloth or rope sling (no wire or chains as these may break and be VERY dangerous) and a tractor or backhoe
e) Once the tree is set up place one or more Y-shaped limbs onto the trunk to steady the tree
f) Back fill with soil to cover the roots and
g) Water-in. This should work for most large fruit trees.

Large trees that have leaves and maybe fruit and are still standing – Even though they may have a broken limb here and there and look relatively ok (rainy cloudy weather is good) – the root system has been stressed (broken – especially fibrous roots), you may begin to see drought stress (leaf wilt, drop, stem and limb dieback). Highly recommend that

a) Fruit be removed (we have noted trees with fruit stressed out and many died compared to trees with no fruit, physiologically makes sense)
b) Growers strongly consider removing 1/3 to ½ of the canopy to reduce the water demand on a damaged/reduced root system.

III. Small trees - that have fallen over

#1. If you cannot get to standing them up immediately:

a) If they have leaves, remove 1/3 to 2/3 of the canopy
b) Use the removed branches and foliage to cover the trunk and major limbs
c) If no leaves, try not to remove limbs

#2. Use the same procedure to stand them up as above.

Small trees with leaves and/or fruit and are still standing – what I said for the big trees applies. I'd remove the fruit first, watch carefully then if you have to reduce the canopy.

IV. Watering:

a) Whether trees are standing or have fallen over and only have a few leaves - leave the canopy alone; if the trees has a lot of leaves remove 1/3 to 1/2 to reduce tree water loss.
b) For trees with NO leaves - once the tree has been reset (stood up), water the tree in well. However, after doing this, limit watering the trees with no leaves because over watering may cause rotting of the roots.
c) Trees with a lot of leaves - water normally, with some leaves, reduce the amount of water but water frequently.

V. Fertilizer:

a. Trees still standing with few to no leaves or with some of the leaves cut off by pruning - reduce the amount of fertilizer by the percent canopy not present (e.g., if half the leaves are gone, reduce the rate by 50%). However, as the new leaves begin to come out, use small amounts of fertilizer frequently.
b. Trees still standing with leaves - fertilize normally.
c. Trees that fell over and are now stood up (reset) - if no leaves, wait a few weeks until you see new leaves beginning then fertilize with small amounts frequently.

FLORIDA CITRUS MUTUAL

PO Box 89 • Lakeland FL 33802 • Phone (863) 682-1111 • Fax (863) 682-1074 • www.flcitrusmutual.com

Post-Hurricane Grower Questions

I have crop and tree damage from the hurricane, whom should I call to report damage?

Insurance - If you have crop insurance for either tree or fruit coverage, you must notify your agent that you are reporting a claim.

Federal Assistance - All growers should also notify the Farm Service Agency (FSA) that serves their county that they wish to report damage (see attached list).

Please notify both your insurance agent and FSA as soon as possible.

What should I do with the dropped fruit and fallen trees?

You should not do any work on your grove until an insurance adjuster has had time to see and calculate the damage. For example, the fruit insurance program requires that the fruit on the ground be counted to be able to calculate loss. Similarly, the tree insurance program requires an adjuster to walk the grove to make a determination of the percent of damage.

If you have tree damage, file a tree insurance claim whether or not you think you have enough loss for a claim. With the amount of rain that accompanies a hurricane there is a possibility of tree damage as a result of excess water. This damage may not be immediately realized and the number of trees lost to the hurricane should be on file with the insurance agency in case of future claims.

Keep all receipts on expenditures relating to hurricane tree and crop damage. In this situation, there is no such thing as too much documentation.

Will adjusters assist me with my claims?

Yes. The insurance adjusters and agents are well versed in the programs and part of the service they provide is to assist with claim filing.

How long will it take the adjustor to visit my grove?

We have reports that adjusters are already making field visits, so we expect the service you receive to be prompt.

Will there be disaster assistance available?

Mutual has already begun discussions with state and federal officials to request short-term and long-term disaster assistance and to determine the types of assistance that can be provided.

We will keep you informed about the progress of assistance via our newsletter, *The Triangle*, and our website, www.flcitrusmutual.com.

Mutual field representatives will be visiting growers in the impacted areas and providing updated information. If you'd like a Mutual field representative to visit your grove, please call (863) 682-1111.

Do I need to file paperwork?

In anticipation of some form of disaster assistance, growers should notify the county Farm Service Agency (FSA) that they have been damaged by the storm and complete any paperwork the FSA recommends.

FLORIDA CITRUS MUTUAL

PO Box 89 • Lakeland FL 33802 • Phone (863) 682-1111 • Fax (863) 682-1074 • www.flcitrusmutual.com

Post-Hurricane Contact Information

FDACS Citrus Canker Office
http://doacs.state.fl.us/pi/ 863-298-7777

FDACS Office of Pesticide Compliance 850-488-8731
http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/agriculture/license.html

SW Florida Water Management District 800-423-1476
http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/

South Florida Water Management 800-432-2045
http://www.sfwmd.gov

Citrus Research & Education Center 863-956-1151
http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu

USDA Farm Service Agency County Farm Service Agency Offices, http://www.fsa.usda.gov
Charlotte & Lee Counties FSA
LEE COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY, 3434 HANCOCK BRIDGE PKWY
FT MYERS, FL 33903-7094
(239) 997-7331, Fax (239) 997-7557

Hendry, Glades & Collier Counties FSA
HENDRY COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY, 622 W SUGARLAND HWY
CLEWISTON, FL 33440-3022
(863) 983-7250, Fax (863) 983-8709

USDA Risk Management Agency Contact your crop insurance agent
http://www.rma.usda.gov

State of Florida Hurricane Resources 1-800-342-3557
http://www.myflorida.com and http://www.floridadisaster.org

Florida Attorney General's Price Gouging Hotline 1-800-646-0444

Department of Insurance 1-800-227-8676.

MECHANICAL HARVESTING VS. HAND PICKING

To be competitive in an increasingly global marketplace, Florida citrus growers must reduce production and harvesting costs. Furthermore, immigration reforms and the Immigrant Responsibility Act caused a continual decrease in the traditional labor supply and a shortage in the labor required to harvest citrus. These facts have pushed the Florida Department of Citrus (FDOC) to re-examine the feasibility of mechanical harvesting for citrus crops. For the last few years, the FDOC and the University of Florida, IFAS, have been supporting, testing, and evaluating several mechanical harvesting devices.

The Objectives are the following:
--To decrease harvesting costs
--To increase "on tree" revenue
--To increase overall labor productivity
--To reduce the number of needed harvest workers

Over 20,000 acres were mechanically harvested last season. It is expected that most processed fruit will be harvested mechanically 10 years from now.

Crop removal by mechanical harvesting ranges from 90 to 95%. Mechanical harvesting was demonstrated to be more cost effective than hand labor, but groves need to be prepared for mechanical harvesting. At the present time for the fresh market, citrus fruit must be hand-harvested.
Worksheet outlining costs and benefits to growers who mechanically harvest by Dr. Fritz Roka, University of Florida, Immokalee IFAS Center
Mechanical Harvest Costs and Benefits Worksheet (Excel)

CITRUS RESET MANAGEMENT

For maximum efficiency of a production unit or grove, it is essential that every tree location is occupied by a tree and that every tree be healthy. Prompt replacement of dead and declining trees means higher average long-term returns from the grove. If the declining trees remain in the grove, they keep getting weaker and yield less fruit each year and therefore the potential production capacity for the grove keeps declining even though production costs remain the same. It is very important to remove and replace such trees once it is clear that they are declining and they are not profitable. However, the reason for the decline should be found and the condition should be corrected so that the replacement tree does not suffer the same fate.

Usually, it is more economical to keep resetting and not to push the entire block unless the cultivar already in the block and/or the tree spacing between rows is an undesirable one. Replanting in a mature grove seems justified only when a minimum of 8 ft between canopy driplines, not from trunk-to-trunk, is available for canopy development of the new trees.

Caring for young citrus trees is not an easy task. Resets should be watered, protected, fertilized, and weeded regularly. Because of their frequent flushing cycles, young trees are more sensitive and more attractive to pests than mature trees. Therefore, special care is needed to have pests under control. Resets often present an even greater problem because trees are usually scattered throughout the grove. Scattered resets frequently have serious weed problems since removal of the previous tree allows the area to receive more sunlight and provides more favorable conditions for weed growth.

Keeping weeds under control during the established period of the reset is very important. Weeds compete with young citrus trees for moisture and nutrients and they must be controlled. Weed control around a reset site should be considered at pre-plant, early post-plant, and after the tree is established. Control of weeds prior to planting should be provided. If residual herbicides are used, they should be used in greatly reduced rates and well in advance of planting so that harmful residues do not remain which might damage the reset. Contact or growth regulating herbicides are usually preferred since they do not leave residual effects.

If the grove is under a fertigation program, there is no need for special care in terms of nutrition for resets. The use of controlled-release fertilizers for resets may be a better option rather than making several trips to scattered resets throughout large blocks with soluble dry fertilizers. Young citrus trees require frequent but moderate water application for survival and proper growth. Drainage is as important as irrigation. Excess water must be removed from the rootzone.

AQUATIC WEED MANAGEMENT IN CITRUS GROVES

Aquatic plants can be a problem in lakes, ponds, canals and ditches of citrus groves. Control measures are needed only when an overabundance of plant growth begins to limit the desired use of a body of water. Over the long-term, the inefficiency of a clogged intake system on an irrigation pump can result in excessive fuel consumption and diminished water delivery to the trees. Over-abundant aquatic weed growth can also lower drainage rates following heavy rains, resulting in severe root damage, increased disease incidence, and fruit drop. Therefore management of aquatic vegetation species should be an essential component of the overall water management strategy for most Flatwoods citrus groves.

Aquatic vegetation in ditches and canals not only reduce the cross-sectional area of the channel, but also reduce the velocity of water flow. As a result, aquatic vegetation in waterways may dramatically increase the time required to drain a specific storm compared to clean ditches that allow free-flow of runoff water.

Cultural Control Measures

Drawdown. Draining water from ditches and allowing them to dry out can be an effective method for controlling aquatic vegetation. However, there are some species that can withstand periods without water. In order to obtain good aquatic weed control, usually drawdown needs to be accompanied by herbicide application.

Screening. Application of catch-screens in ditches is another technique that allows plant material to be screened along the waterway before entering the intake pipes.

Excavation. Excavation is perhaps one of the oldest and still most preferred methods of aquatic weed control. Usually, the process is done in one of two ways: either by a screen rake, which removes only the vegetation from the top of the water, or by earth removal, which allows for bottom weed, top weed, and ditch bank weed removal.

Removal of floating and submerged aquatic weeds can be accomplished using different types of equipment such as cranes, track-hoes, back-hoes, etc., depending on the location and the situation.

Biological Controls

Insects and Diseases. Some exotic plant species have been controlled by introduction of biological control agents. The alligator weed flea beetle was introduced into the United States from South America in 1964. This beetle has done a remarkable job of reducing the problems with alligator weed. Various biological control agents have been tested on water hyacinths throughout the years. Of these predator introductions, the most effective have been two types of water hyacinth weevil and the water hyacinth mite.

Triploid grass carp feeds upon aquatic vegetation. Its introduction into water bodies requires permitting from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Chemical Control

There are several herbicides that can be used for aquatic weed control. Each

material has advantages and disadvantages. The selection of the most appropriate material should be based on the target species, alternate control measures, and the effects on other aquatic organisms.

Copper Products include copper sulfate and copper chelates, which are contact herbicides often used in combination with other contact herbicides. Copper sulfate may persist for up to 7 days before the free copper is precipitated to insoluble forms that are not active. The chelated coppers can be used where hard water may precipitate uncomplexed forms of copper too rapidly. Copper sulfate can be very corrosive to steel and galvanized pipe, while chelated coppers are virtually non-corrosive. Copper sulfate may be toxic to fish species at recommended dosages. Generally, the chelated coppers are nontoxic to trout, tropical fish, and ornamental fish at recommended dosages.

2 ,4-D is a selective, translocated phenoxy compound that is used as a post-emergent herbicide on ditch banks and emerged and floating aquatic weeds. Treated ditches should not be used to irrigate susceptible crops such as tomatoes, grapes, fruit trees, and ornamentals.

Diquat is a contact herbicide that is rapidly and completely inactivated by soil. It should not be applied to muddy or turbid water because it will be inactivated. Diquat may be used in slowly moving bodies of water, ponds, lakes, rivers, drainage and flood control canals, ditches, and reservoirs.

Diuron is readily absorbed through the root system and translocated to plant foliage. It can be applied to irrigation and drainage ditches that have been drained. The ditches should remain for a period of 3 days to allow the Diuron to be fixed into the soil. The control duration will vary with amount of chemical applied, soil type, rainfall and other conditions. However, control may last for one year.

Endothall is a contact herbicide that breaks down fairly rapidly in water and soil. It is labeled for use in irrigation and drainage canals, ponds and lakes. Some formulations of Endothall should not be used where fish are important since the fish may be killed by dosages necessary to kill weeds.

Fluridone is absorbed by the foliage and translocated into the actively growing shoots where destruction of the chlorophyll pigments occurs. It is labeled for use in lakes, ponds, ditches, canals, and reservoirs. Depending upon application and vegetation being controlled, control may last 1 year.

Glyphosate is absorbed by foliage and translocated throughout the plant and root system, killing the entire plant. Glyphosate can be used for floating mats of aquatic vegetation, but should not be used for submersed or pre-emergent vegetation.

Imazapyr is absorbed by both foliage and roots and then translocated throughout the entire plant. It is labeled for non-irrigation ditchbanks and similar areas and provides control of existing and germinating seedlings throughout the growing season.

Triclopyr induces characteristic auxin-type responses in growing plants. It is absorbed by both leaves and roots, and is readily translocated throughout the plant. It is labeled for use on non-irrigation ditchbanks.

For more details, get to http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/CH181

Aquatic weed management in citrus canals and ditches

By

Brian Boman, Chris Wilson, Vernon Vandiver, Jr., and Jack Hebb

FERTIGATION FOR FLORIDA CITRUS

Fertigation is the application of liquid fertilizer through an irrigation system. Microirrigation and fertigation offer the potential for precise control of nutrients and water. A major benefit of fertigation is that it provides greater flexibility and control of applied nutrients than conventional broadcast applications. ***Fertilizers are applied when needed and in small doses so that water-soluble nutrients are less subject to leaching by excess rainfall or over-irrigation.*** Care must be exercised to avoid emitter-plugging problems resulting from reactions of the fertilizer with the irrigation water. ***The fertilizer source must be water-soluble***. The uniformity of the fertilizer application depends on the uniformity of the water application. Therefore, good water application uniformity of irrigation systems is an important requirement for successful fertigation.

Fertilizer Solubility. Several dry fertilizer products used for making fertilizer solutions are marketed with or without a protective conditioner. Whenever possible, the "solution grade" form of these products should be used to avoid plugging problems. Most dry-solid fertilizers are manufactured by coating them with clay or hydrated silica to reduce moisture absorption. To avoid having these materials create plugging problems, it is best to prepare a small amount of the mix to observe what happens to the coating. If the coating settles to the bottom of the container, then, the clear transparent liquid should be taken from the top portion without disturbing the bottom sediment. If a scum forms on the surface, it should be removed as well.

When urea, ammonium nitrate, calcium nitrate, and potassium nitrate are dissolved, heat is absorbed from the water and a very cold solution results. Consequently, it may not be possible to dissolve as much fertilizer as needed to achieve the desired concentration. It is often necessary to let the mixture stand for several hours and warm to a temperature that will allow all the mixture to dissolve.

Before injecting fertilizer solutions, a "jar test" should be conducted to determine clogging potential of the solution. Some of the fertilizer solution should be mixed with irrigation water in a jar to determine if any precipitate or milkiness occurs within one to two hours. If cloudiness does occur, there is a chance that fertilizer injection will cause line or emitter plugging. If different fertilizer solutions are to be injected simultaneously into the irrigation system, they all should be mixed in the jar. ***The jar test should be conducted at the same dilution rate that is used in the irrigation system.***

Nitrogen. Urea, ammonium nitrate, calcium nitrate, potassium nitrate, and ammonium sulfate are very soluble in water. These nitrogen fertilizer materials are readily available on the market, and are used extensively in the preparation of

single nutrient or multi-nutrient fertilizer solutions.

Phosphorus is not very mobile in many soils, and is less likely to be lost when applied conventionally. ***Phosphorus fertilizer injection may cause emitter plugging.*** Solid precipitation in the line occurs most often due to interaction between the fertilizer and the irrigation water. Most dry phosphorus fertilizers (including ammonium phosphate and superphosphates) cannot be injected into irrigation water because they have low solubility. Monoammonium phosphate (MAP), diammonium phosphate (DAP), monobasic potassium phosphate, phosphoric acid, urea phosphate, liquid ammonium polyphosphate, and long chain linear polyphosphates are water soluble. However, they can still have precipitation problems when injected into water with high calcium concentration. Problems occur when the polyphosphate injection rates are too low to offset the buffering effects of the calcium and magnesium concentrations in the irrigation water.

Given the high levels of calcium, iron, and bicarbonate in Florida irrigation water, phosphorus should not be injected unless significant precautions are taken.

Phosphoric acid is sometimes injected into micro irrigation systems. It provides phosphorus and lowers the pH of the water, which can prevent the precipitation problems previously mentioned. This practice will be effective as long as the pH of the fertilizer-irrigation water mixture remains low (pH < 4.0). Phosphoric acid injection should be used only when the combined Ca and Mg concentration of the water is below 50 ppm and the bicarbonate level is less than 150 ppm.

Potassium fertilizers are all water soluble, and injection of K through micro irrigation systems has been very successful. The problem most often associated with potassium injection is solid precipitants that form in the mixing tank when potassium is mixed with other fertilizers. The potassium sources most often used in micro irrigation systems are potassium chloride (KCl) and potassium nitrate (KNO_3). Potassium phosphates should not be injected into micro irrigation systems. Potassium sulfate is not very soluble and may not dissolve in the irrigation water.

Other considerations

It is essential that proper and legal backflow prevention devices be used in the irrigation system to prevent fertilizers from being back-siphoned into the water supply.

The injection device itself should have a screen and check valve. It is recommended that injection take place upstream of filters, so that any contaminants or precipitates can be filtered out.

Fertigation rates and times should be calibrated for each area that is fertigated. Flushing time needs to be at least as long as the travel time in the system from the injection point to the furthest emitter. In many microirrigation systems, this time is around 30 minutes. Fertilizer injections need to be at least this amount of time, and flush times need to exceed this travel time so that nutrients will not remain in the lateral tubing and promote algal growth.

For more details, go to Fertigation Nutrient Sources and Application Considerations for Citrus

By

Brian Boman and Thomas Obreza

http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/CH/CH18500.pdf

From the Florida Agricultural Statistics Service

Florida Citrus Production (Million Boxes)

	Production						Forecast	Difference in 2005-06 compared with 2004-05
Cultivar	**1997-98**	**1999-00**	**2001-02**	**2002-03**	**2003-04**	**2004-05**	**2005-06**	
Early/Mid orange	140.0	134.0	128.0	112.0	126.0	79.1	93.0	**18%**
Valencia orange	104.0	99.0	102.0	91.0	116.0	70.5	97.0	**38%**
All oranges	244.0	233.0	230.0	203.0	242.0	149.6	190.0	**27%**
All grapefruit	49.55	53.4	46.7	38.7	40.9	12.8	24.0	**88%**
Temples	2.25	1.95	1.55	1.30	1.40	0.65	0.90	**39%**
Tangelos	2.85	2.2	2.15	2.35	1.00	1.55	1.40	**-10%**
All tangerines	5.2	7.0	6.6	5.5	6.5	4.45	6.0	**35%**
Limes	0.44	0.60	0.15					
Lemons	0.12		0.085					
Total	**304.450**	**298.15**	**287.235**	**250.850**	**291.800**	**169.05**	**222.3**	**31%**

Production of Florida citrus in 2004-05 is 169.1 million boxes, down 42 percent from the 291.8 million boxes in the 2003-04 season. The primary reason for the reduced crop is the unprecedented three hurricanes and one tropical storm that passed through the State in August and September 2004. Production is lower for all varieties except tangelos. The orange crop production, at 149.6 million boxes, is the lowest since the 139.8 million boxes in 1991-92. Early-midseason-Navel production is down 37 percent and Valencia orange production is down 39 percent. Navel production, at 2.5 million boxes, is the lowest since 1986-87. All grapefruit production at 12.8 million boxes is the lowest since 1935-36.

Production in 2004-05 is down in all Florida commercial citrus production areas from the 2003-04 season. The Southern area is down the least at 14 percent, while the Indian River area is down the most at 76 percent. Production decreased in each of the 30 counties. Hendry County leads in total production with 29.6 million boxes, followed by Polk (24.8 million boxes), Highlands (21.3 million boxes), Desoto (13.6 million boxes), and Collier (10.5 million boxes). These top five counties produced 59 percent of the citrus crop.

2004-2005 Southwest Florida Citrus Production (Boxes) & Florida Citrus Prices ($)

Cultivar	Charlotte	Collier	Glades	Hendry	Lee	Total		Avg. On-Tree Prices & Returns/Box		
								Fresh	Processing	All
Early/Mid orange	2,018,000	5,043,000	2,154,000	13,063,000	1,111,000	23,389,000		7.60	2.26	**2.56**
Valencia orange	2,628,000	4,664,000	1,192,000	13,524,000	1,383,000	23,391,000		5.80	4.28	**4.34**
White grapefruit	69,000	32,000	9,000	574,000	5,000	689,000		21.32	5.78	**11.95**
Colored grapefruit	1,124,000	471,000	84,000	1,747,000	284,000	3,710,000		19.11	5.48	**14.27**
Early tangerines	174,000	82,000	28,000	118,000	38,000	440,000		14.00	-0.96	**10.12**
Honey tangerine	84,000	137,000	44,000	421,000	35,000	721,000		18.20	2.73	**14.36**
Temples	7,000	31,000	----	99,000	1,000	138,000		4.05	1.72	**2.48**
Tangelos	15,000	18,000	6,000	61,000	4,000	104,000		6.45	0.57	**2.45**
TOTAL	**6,119,000**	**10,478,000**	**3,517,000**	**29,607,000**	**2,861,000**	**52,582,000**				

Southwest Florida Citrus Acreage and Tree Numbers

	1970	1990	1998		2000		2002		2004	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Trees (million)	Acres	Trees (million)	Acres	Trees (million)	Acres	Trees (million)
Charlotte	6,734	11,718	21,522	3.172	21,756	3.201	20,493	3.032	20,183	2.999
Collier	5,052	23,565	35,655	5.251	35,302	5.209	33,567	4.948	34,878	5.101
Glades	1,572	7,523	10,776	1.684	10,506	1.692	10,384	1.665	10,103	1.641
Hendry	22,447	73,754	100,124	15.409	99,437	15.325	94,139	14.445	93,155	14.298
Lee	7,439	9,692	11,871	1.649	11,594	1.626	11,874	1.666	11,067	1.549
SW FL Total	**43,244**	**126,252**	**179,948**	**27.165**	**178,595**	**27.053**	**170,457**	**25.756**	**169,386**	**25.588**
State of Florida	941,471	732,767	845,260	107.110	832,275	106.679	797,303	103.172	748,555	97.945
SW FL (%)	4.6	17.2	21.3	25.4	21.5	25.4	21.4	25.0	22.6	26.1

In **1970**, the Southwest Florida Citrus Acreage was 43,244 (**less than 5%** of the State of Florida Total Citrus Acreage '941,471'). Since **1998**, in Southwest Florida, Citrus Acreage has been **over 20%** of the State of Florida Total Citrus Acreage and the Number of Citrus Trees is **over 25%** of all Citrus Trees in the State.

Gulf Citrus Growers Association Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

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

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. These scholarships were created specifically to assist students pursuing degrees in citrus-related programs.

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:

Edison Community College / AA Degree:

- Completion of all placement testing.
- Completion of **12 credit hours** with continuous enrollment.
- Minimum overall grade point average of **2.5.**
- A demonstrated **commitment** to complete the AA degree with citrus courses.

BS, MS and **PhD Degrees:**

- Completion of all placement testing and a **declared major** in citrus or a citrus-related major.
- Completion of **12 credit hours** towards a citrus 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 or university.

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

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Scholarship Application

Personal Data

Name: _____Student # or SS #:_____

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 *(both completed and those 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 1 AND JULY 1*****

Please return this application to:

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

CITRUS CANKER WINDBREAK SURVEY

Natural and artificial windbreaks have demonstrated commercial success in helping to manage the spread and impact of canker disease in such citrus industries as those in Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil. Another major benefit of windbreaks is to reduce wind speed and lower the incidence of wind scar where fresh-market fruit are being grown. The potential usefulness of windbreaks in Florida, however, is largely unknown and has not been thoroughly investigated. Given the current canker situation in Florida, a research and extension team has formed to study windbreaks for Florida. Your answers to the questions posed below will help guide the direction of that effort.

Please answer the following questions and return this document either by email (preferred) or regular mail to:

Dr. Bill Castle (castle@crec.ifas.ufl.edu)
CREC
700 Experiment Station Road
Lake Alfred, FL 33850

1. Are you interested in windbreaks as a means to help manage canker?

   YES___ Why? _____

   NO ___ Why? _____

2. Briefly describe any experience you have had with natural or artificial windbreaks especially the type of windbreak or plants.

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

3. Do you have a preference for type of windbreak?

   NO___

   YES___ (Choose one: Natural___ Artificial___ Combination___)

4. Additional comments. _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

OPTIONAL

Name _____
Contact information_____

Citrus Harvesting Season 2005-2006

GETTING STARTED
Canker Rules & Regulations

Agenda

10 AM, Greg Carlton, DPI-CCEP
Citrus Canker Eradication Program Update

10:30, Mark Estes, DPI-CCEP
Citrus Canker Regulations: New rules for 2005-2006

11:15, UF-IFAS or DPI-CCEP Personnel Decontamination Training Session

Noon, ADJOURN

Location: Immokalee IFAS Center

Date: November 29, 2005

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
IFAS EXTENSION

Fresh from Florida
Division of PLANT INDUSTRY
Protection through Detection
Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

☐ 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