

Citrus Notes



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Extension Agent
for
Polk &
Hillsborough
Counties

IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

FEBRUARY OJ BREAK

Lake Alfred, FL

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

UF/IFAS CREC CITRUS BREEDING DISPLAY

Lake Alfred, FL

APRIL 9, 2024

FLORIDA CITRUS GROWERS' INSTITUTE

Avon Park, FL

MAY 15, 2024

MAY OJ BREAK

Lake Alfred, FL

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February 2024

February OJ Break

Our February OJ Break, to be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. It will

begin at 10:00 a.m. at Lake Alfred's UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center. The month's agenda includes Dr. Tripti Vashisth, and Dr. Ron Brlansky, UF/IFAS CREC.

Program and registration information are included in the program flyer contained in the newsletter. We have CEUs for your Restricted Use Pesticide and Certified Crop Advisory licenses.

UF/IFAS CREC Citrus Breeding Display



Credit: UF/IFAS File Photo. 07595S

After the February OJ Break at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center there will be a citrus fruit display.

Attendees will be able to sample a range of varieties and complete survey forms that provide valuable feedback to the CREC Plant Improvement Team.



Members of the Plant Improvement Team

(Dr.'s Gmitter, Grosser, Chater, Wang) will be present to answer questions. Due to the heavy focus on orange and orange-like material, juice samples are often provided for displayed selections that may have potential in the juice stream. There are a large number of promising selections identified each year, but the team makes a concerted effort to keep the number of displayed selections to a manageable number.

2024 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute

We are currently putting the finishing touches on this year's Florida Citrus Growers' Institute



program. It will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 in the University Center Auditorium of South Florida State College in Avon Park. Use the following link to register for the program: https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9FumyFfN020fwcC.

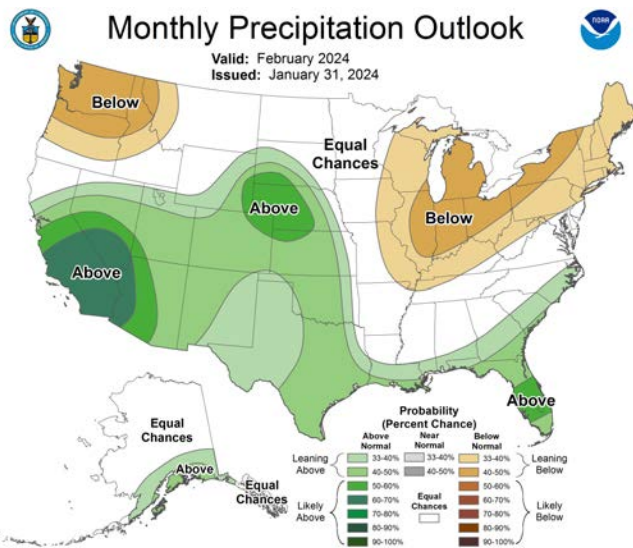
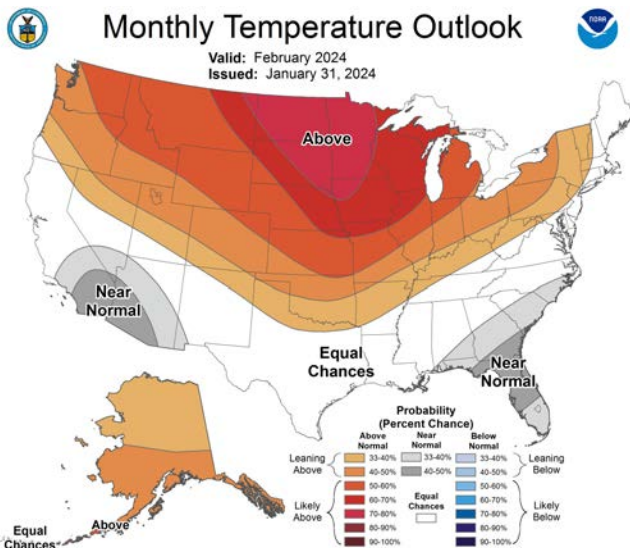
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The Foundation for the Gator Nation

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WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONTHLY OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY 2024 - TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION

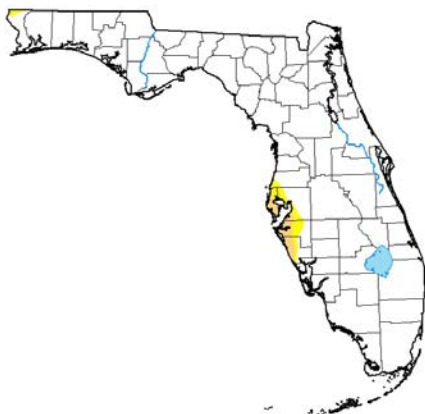


WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONTHLY DROUGHT MONITOR FEBRUARY 2024

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

January 30, 2024
(Released Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:
None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.aspx>

Author:
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



2024

February Outlook

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has recently published its latest weather outlook for February, and the outlook for temperature and rainfall is particularly noteworthy. According to the outlook, we are expecting near

normal temperatures during this period (as indicated in Figure 1). This means that we may expect to see forecasted temperatures be normal for this time of year. The rainfall outlook (Figure 2) also presents a historically similar picture to the past few months, with the forecast calling for above-normal rainfall. This suggests that we may receive above-average amounts of precipitation than would be typical for month of February.

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) forecast also plays a crucial role in shaping the weather outlook for this period. Currently, we are under El Niño

condition conditions. The forecast is for existing El Niño conditions to continue thru the winter and early spring of 2023-24. It is anticipated that these El Niño conditions will transition (with 73%) into a neutral condition during April to June 2024. With this situation, we should look generally look for cooler daily temperatures due to increased cloudiness associated with increased rainfall expected during the balance of winter these El Niño conditions.

In conclusion, the latest NOAA weather outlook for the February 2024 period suggests that we may experience near normal temperatures and above-average rainfall. However, the U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook has dry conditions continuing for the west coastal area of peninsular Florida from just north of Tampa to coastal Charlotte County (depicted in Figure 3). This is in contradiction to the above-normal rainfall from the climate prediction center.

To Inject into the Rootstock or the Scion?

Researchers: Ute Albrecht, Larissa Nunez, Gabriel Pugina, Fasih Khalid, Lorenzo Ross

Contact: Ute Albrecht, ualbrecht@ufl.edu, UF/IFAS SWFREC

Take Home Message:

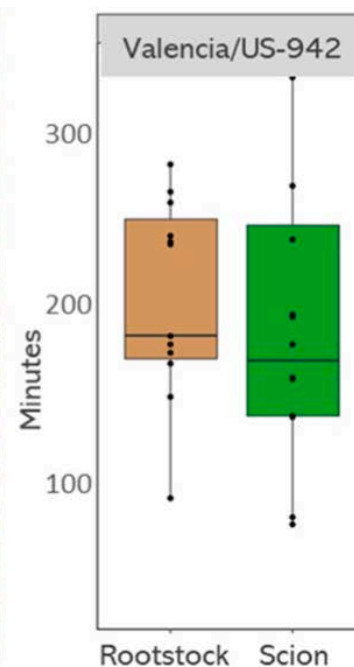
- Injection into the rootstock or scion are both effective.
- The leaf area, the time of day, and weather conditions influence the uptake rate.
- Rootstock injection is preferred for trees with a short main trunk.

Summary: The current label recommends injecting oxytetracycline

(OTC) into the rootstock, but this may not always be possible. In a preliminary study on 5-year-old ‘Valencia’ trees we found that the uptake rate of water was faster after injection into the scion instead of the rootstock. Recently, we studied the uptake rate of OTC in 8-year-old ‘Valencia’ trees on several different rootstocks. Injections were performed in April or May 2023 between 9 am and 12 pm. We used FlexInject injectors filled with 100 ml OTC at the 11,000-ppm label rate. The uptake rate was variable between trees and between research trials and ranged from less than 30 minutes to several hours. In contrast to our preliminary study, we did not measure any significant difference in the uptake rate between scion and rootstock. Note that regardless of whether injecting into the rootstock or the scion, the uptake rate

is fastest during periods of active transpiration (i.e., during mid- to late morning) and when the trees are well-watered and have fully expanded leaves. Sunny and dry conditions also enhance transpiration and therefore the uptake rate. Injecting into the rootstock is preferred for trees with a short main trunk as it provides more time (distance) for the OTC to spread before reaching the canopy. Injections directly beneath a main scaffold branch should be avoided as the injected material will move mostly into the side of the canopy connected to that branch as illustrated by dye injections. Studies are ongoing to assess other potential differences in effects.

Source: Keeping Florida Citrus Growers Informed. Aug 2023, pg.27. UF/IFAS CREC. Lake Alfred.



Applications of Plant Growth Regulators for Improvement of Huanglongbing-affected ‘Hamlin’ under Biotic and Abiotic Stress

Researchers: Tripti Vashisth
Contact: Tripti Vashisth, tvashisth@ufl.edu UF/IFAS CREC

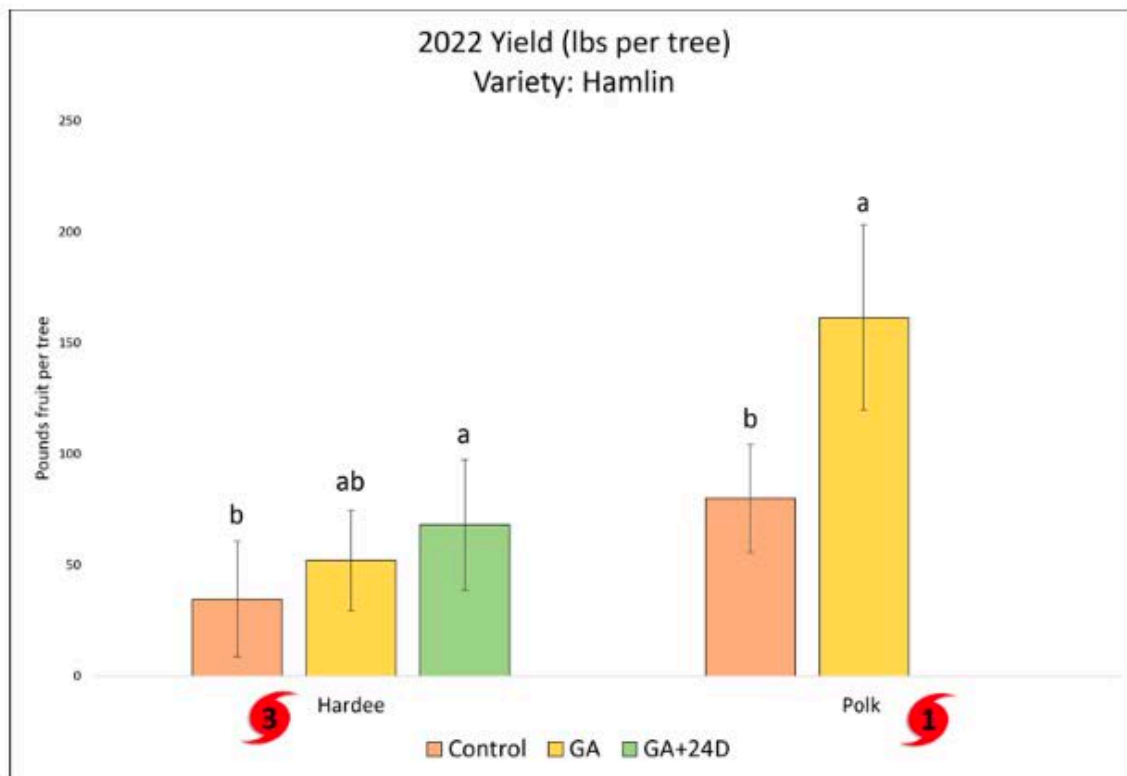
Take Home Message:

- GA applications on HLB-affected ‘Hamlin’ increased yield and reduced fruit drop.
- GA applications mitigate negative response to abiotic factors such as hurricanes and hard freezes.
- Use of 2,4-D can reduce further fruit drop caused by damage from hurricanes.

Summary: Canopy health of HLB-affected citrus has been directly related to disease severity, fruit drop, and overall fruit production. Some success has been found with the use of certain plant growth regulators (PGR) such as gibberellic acid (GA) and 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) to achieve healthier trees with reduced fruit drop and increased production. Application of these PGRs to ‘Hamlin’ in various combinations and weather conditions has given some promising results for building resilience in the HLB-endemic era. Grower collaborated field trials evaluating the use of GA on HLB-affected ‘Hamlin’ were initiated in Polk and Hardee counties in August 2021 and repeated in 2022. GA was applied 2-4 times from August to November at 45-day intervals. Yield results from year one showed that GA-treated trees retained on average 34.4 pounds more fruit than the control trees and in year two, after Hurricane Ian devastated the Hardee

County site, the GA trees still retained on average 50 pounds more fruit than control. As a hurricane recovery measure, 2,4-D was applied to a subset of GA-treated trees in Hardee County two weeks after Hurricane Ian, and the treated trees had retained 33.3 pounds more fruit than control trees at harvest. On top of Hurricane Ian, Hardee County also sustained a significant freeze in early February 2022 where the control trees lost 17% of their canopy while the GA trees only lost about 4% which suggests that GA treatments may also help with freeze damage mitigation. Results show that the use of PGRs such as GA and 2,4-D may help the tree’s ability to mitigate HLB disease symptoms while also protecting against Florida’s unpredictable weather patterns.

Source: Keeping Florida Citrus Growers Informed. Aug 2023, pg.20. UF/IFAS CREC. Lake Alfred.



February 2024

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OJ Break

February 21, 2024
10:00 am to 12:00 pm



UF/IFAS Citrus Research & Education Center
BHG Citrus Hall
700 Experiment Station Rd
Lake Alfred, FL

PGRs for HLB Management & Citrus Blight Update

Dr. Tripti Vashisth and Dr. Ron Brlansky from the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center will be discussing these important topics.

9:45 am Check-in, BHG Citrus Hall

**10:00 am Use of PGRs to rehabilitate HLB-affected sweet orange
Dr. Tripti Vashisth**

**11:00 am Citrus Blight Update
Dr. Ron Brlansky**

12:00 pm Lunch - Sponsored by Zach Langford and Syngenta

Pre-registration is required by Monday February 19, 2024

use the following link:

https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0p3FvKHo1ViLJk2

Or Contact Joy Spencer to register 863-519-1041

2.0 RUP CEUs in Private, Ag Tree, Ag Row, and Demo & Research will be available.

1.0 Pest & 1.0 Crop Management Certified Crop Advisor CEU's will be available.

An Equal Opportunity Institution. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Andra D. Johnson, dean for UF/IFAS Extension. Single copies of UF/IFAS Extension publications (excluding 4-H and youth publications) are available free to Florida residents from county UF/IFAS Extension offices.

In accordance with the provisions of ADA, auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request with a 10-day notice. Contact Joy Spencer at (863) 519-1041. This material is available in an alternate format upon request.

Food Safety Event Calendar

Winter/Spring 2024

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Produce Safety
ALLIANCE

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

A one-day course for produce growers and packers who fall under FSMA's Produce Safety Rule.

- **March 5th – Quincy**
<https://psa050524.eventbrite.com>
- **April 17th – Naples**
<https://psa041724.eventbrite.com>
- **April 18th – Belle Glade**
<https://psa041824.eventbrite.com>
- **April 25th – Live Oak**
<https://psa042524.eventbrite.com>
- **May 23th – Fort Pierce**
<https://psa052324.eventbrite.com>

Remote- Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

A three-day, three-hour virtual course for fruit and vegetable growers and packers who fall under FSMA's Produce Safety Rule.

- **February 13th - 15th**
<https://psa021324.eventbrite.com>
- **April 2nd – 4th**
<https://psa040224.eventbrite.com>
- **May 7th – 9th**
<https://psa050724.eventbrite.com>

FSPCA
FOOD SAFETY PREVENTIVE CONTROLS ALLIANCE

Preventive Controls for Human Food- Preventive Controls Qualified Individual (PCQI) Training

This three-day course for those covered under FSMA's Preventive Controls for Human Food Rule

- **March 26th – 28th – Lake Alfred**
<https://fspca032624.eventbrite.com>



Remote HACCP for Florida Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Packinghouses

A four-day virtual course focuses on HACCP principles for fruit and vegetable packinghouses.

- **January 22nd -25th**
<https://haccp012224.eventbrite.com>



Sign up for an On-Farm Readiness Review

A free educational opportunity intended to prepare growers for FSMA Produce Safety Rule inspection. Participants must have taken a Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training.

To sign up for an On-Farm Readiness Review, visit: www.fdacs.gov/ofrr.

For registration questions, contact sarahmccoy@ufl.edu
For general food safety questions, contact taylorlangford@ufl.edu