

# Citrus from the Ridge to the Valley

CENTRAL FLORIDA CITRUS EXTENSION

## May/June 2022

The summer is quickly approaching with the first official day of summer being June 21st. Most of us are experiencing dry conditions and temperatures are climbing, hopefully the rains are coming soon.

### In this issue you will find information about:

- Grower Forums - 5/24 and 6/15
- Summer weather outlook
- 2022 hurricane season forecast
- Box tax referendum details
- 2022 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute recorded presentations
- Finger Lime Symposium
- Upcoming events

We have started a new section of our newsletter called "The Pesticide Cabinet". This page will provide you with a central location for information on upcoming CEU opportunities, pesticide exam review classes, and important updates and resources regarding pesticide use. Please be sure to check it out!

## The Pesticide Cabinet



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# Grower Forums

BY CHRIS OSWALT AND AJIA PAOLILLO

With HLB affecting every aspect of tree growth and fruit production and quality, growers are continually looking for techniques and products that yield a positive response. Growing citrus in the HLB era is extremely challenging and typically requires a unique recipe of practices and inputs on a block-by-block basis. There are cases of growers finding things that are working for them such as bactericides, increased irrigation, and vigilant psyllid management. While these practices may not work for everyone, can we find some common trends between many growers? Is there a way to piece all these together and be successful? By facilitating conversations and providing successes or failures of practices, growers may be able to help each other and in turn help sustain our industry.

We would like to invite growers to participate in upcoming grower forums being held in our counties. The format will be a little different than our traditional Citrus Grower OJ Break meetings. We are planning on inviting individuals and manufacturers who have had some different experiences in dealing with HLB. Some of these may involve practices and or products they feel would be worth sharing with the larger grower community. In this new format the products and discussions may or may not reflect a recommendation or an endorsement of a product or service by the University of Florida. Please keep this in mind as you participate in these grower forums. We want to do this in an effort expand and share the current knowledge and experiences growers are having in dealing with HLB.

A wooden sign with the text "Citrus Grower Forums" in green, flanked by two baskets of oranges and orange slices.

## Citrus Grower Forums

**Date and Time:** Tuesday May 24, 2022 10am - 12pm

**Location:** Turner Agri-Civic Center, Exhibit Hall  
2250 NE Roan St., Arcadia, FL

Discussions will be focused on key practices and anecdotal information that could help growers manage the effects of HLB and other challenges in the grove. Bring your best ideas and information to share with other growers!

For more information contact:

Ajia Paolillo  
863-251-4763  
ajiacunningham@ufl.edu

**Date and Time:** Wednesday June 15, 2022 10am - 12pm

**Location:** UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center,  
BHG Citrus Hall  
700 Experiment Station Rd., Lake Alfred

Polk County Citrus Grower Forum will have Craig Campbell from Valent discussing gibberellic acid (GA) in citrus. So please bring any questions you may have and if you want, share your experiences with the use of GA in your operations.

For more information contact:

Chris Oswalt  
863-519-1052  
wcoswalt@ufl.edu

The information shared during this program is not an endorsement or recommendation from UF/IFAS for specific products or methods.



# 2022 Summer Weather Outlook, ctd.

BY CHRIS OSWALT

## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for May 1 - July 31, 2022  
Released April 30, 2022

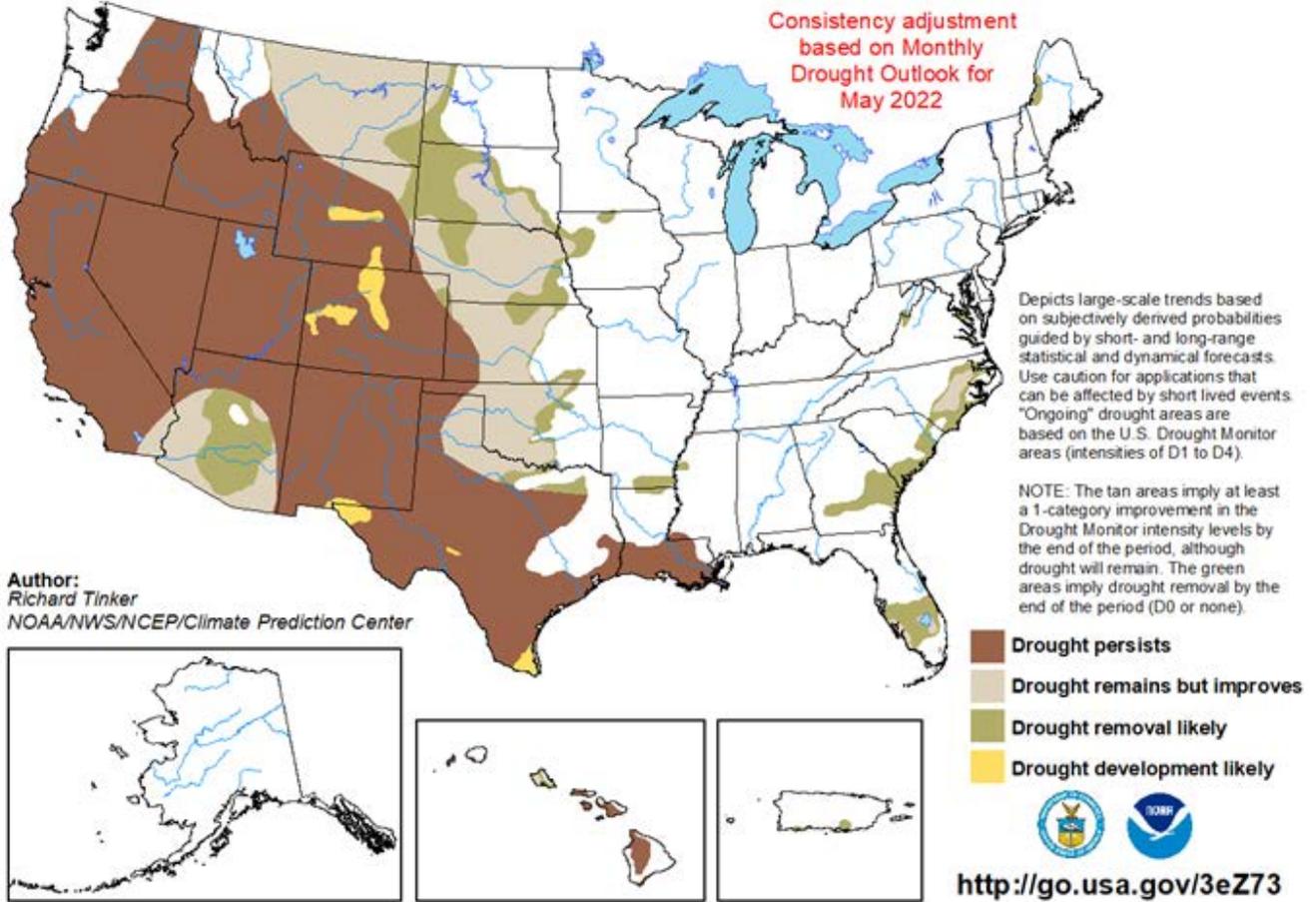


Figure 3 Summer 2022 drought outlook



# 2022 Hurricane Outlook

BY CHRIS OSWALT

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One of the first 2022 hurricane forecasts from Dr. Phillip Klotzbach, Colorado State University, Tropical Weather & Climate Research was released in early April. Based on the prediction it looks to be an active hurricane season. This would not seem out of the ordinary since the El Niño forecast for the summer is for La Niña conditions to continue. In El Niño years you get the typical zonal flow of air aloft causing to some degree issues for hurricane formation and intensification. El Niño doesn't look to be happening this summer. With having said all this the following table looks at CSU's forecast and the past 30 year or so average.

Forecast Parameters	CSU Forecast	Average for 1991-2020
Named Storms	19	14.4
Named Storm Days	90	69.4
Hurricanes	9	7.2
Hurricane Days	35	27.0
Major Hurricanes (3,4,5)	4	3.2
Major Hurricane Days	9	7.4

# 2022 Hurricane Outlook, contd.

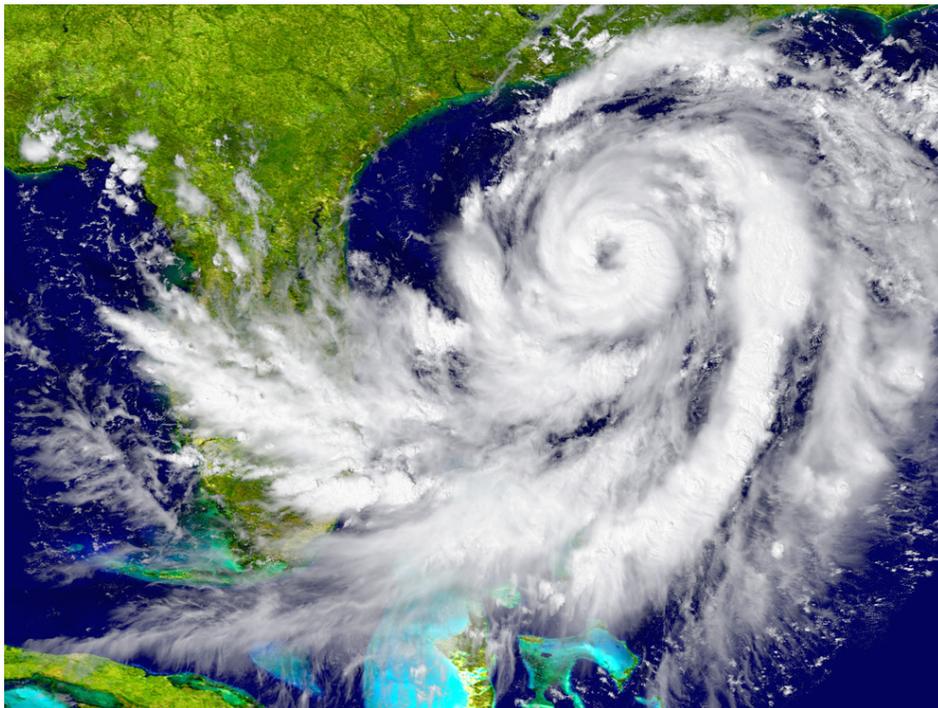
BY CHRIS OSWALT

So in an effort to bring the probabilities a little closer to our geographical area CSU provided the following information for the state of Florida. For one of more storms there is a 96% probability of at least one named storm coming within 50 miles of Florida, a 75% probability of a hurricane and a 44% probability of a major hurricane. This compares to the climatological average (1880-2020) of at least one named storm at 86%, 56% for a hurricane and 29% probability of a major hurricane.

Getting further specific we can look at the probabilities at the coastal counties nearest to our area:

County	2022 Forecast Probabilities (%)			Climatic Average 1880-2020 (%)		
	2022 Named Storm	2022 Hurricane	2022 Major Hurricane	Named Storm	Hurricane	Major Hurricane
Pasco	53	27	8	36	17	5
Hillsborough	53	28	11	36	17	7
Manatee	54	29	12	37	18	8
Indian River	54	27	10	37	17	6
St. Lucie	53	24	9	36	15	6

Now to go even further into the numbers if the forecast is right then there would be 19 storms and a little over 50% are forecasted to pass within 50 miles of the above listed counties so that would mean in numeric terms about 10 storms, then about 25% would be hurricanes which would be about say 2 to 3 and 10% for a major hurricane which would be numerically 0.4.



# Box Tax Referendum Ballots

BY AJIA PAOLILLO

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Florida citrus growers should have received their ballots in the mail from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to vote on the Citrus Box Tax Referendum. The ballots were mailed to producers on May 10, 2022 and must be received by FDACS no later than June 3, 2022. If you did not receive your ballot and would like to cast your vote, please contact your Citrus Extension agent. Ballots can be picked up at the county Extension offices.

This referendum is required to be voted on by citrus producers every six years. The referendum calls for continuing the Citrus Research Order which states that the assessment cap of 3 cents per box would stay in place. This money is used for citrus research projects designated by the Citrus Research and Development foundation.

For more information on please visit <https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Fruit-and-Vegetables> Here you will find links to documents relating to the referendum.

## 2022 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute Presentations Posted Online

BY AJIA PAOLILLO

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The 2022 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute was held on April 5th in Avon Park at the South Florida State College campus. Many growers and industry members were in attendance, and I think we can say we really enjoyed seeing everyone there! The educational presentations were recorded and are available online at the citrus agent's website: <https://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/archived-presentations/2022/> . Here you will also find PDF versions of the slides. So, if you missed the presentations or would just like to review the information, please click on the videos and view the slides.

**Thank you again to all the speakers and sponsors  
that made the 2022 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute possible!**

# Australian Finger Limes & New Florida Varieties

BY LOURDES PÉREZ CORDERO

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The Australian Finger Lime is a citrus fruit of cylindrical shape that houses many small juice vesicles inside called “citrus caviar”. The fruit’s flesh and juice vesicles can be of various shades of green, red and/or pink, fruits are produced on a thorny bush-like shrub. Originally from Queensland in Australia, finger limes are well known in other countries due to their interesting appearance. In the United States, there is only one state that produces finger limes commercially, California. Even though the commercialization of finger limes in Florida has not been widely explored, this crop has recently peaked the interest of many growers and researchers of the Florida citrus industry. Their sudden increase in popularity is mainly due to their known tolerance to HLB (Citrus Greening). As we look for options in the battle against Citrus Greening, finger limes could have an opportunity in the Floridian market.

In March 2022, a Virtual Finger Lime Symposium was hosted by Dr. Manjul Dutt located at the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred, FL. In this event, scientists from Australia, the University of Florida, the University of California, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture addressed finger lime breeding, existing cultivars and the development of new ones, rootstock options, market potential in Florida, and more. Dr. Manjul Dutt introduced two of the recently released varieties of finger limes at the symposium:

The UF SunLime produces relatively large fruits that are a rich red color when mature, while the immature fruits are a darker purplish color. As explained by Dr. Dutt, this attractive appearance is an added benefit for the potential of this crop in the fresh market. The fruit’s average weight ranges between 26.14 grams (0.922 oz.) and 34.66 grams (1.222 oz.) and have an average length of 2.8 to 3 inches. The main bloom happens in February and March; however, trees do flower throughout the year. Even though this variety is also tolerant to HLB, it is important to note its susceptibility to citrus scab.

The UF RedLime is the second finger lime cultivar introduced by Dr. Dutt. The fruit’s average weight ranges between 18.72 grams (0.660 oz.) and 24.10 grams (0.850 oz.), while their average length ranges between 2.91 and 3.92 inches. Similarly to the UF SunLime, this variety also blooms between February and March with sporadic blooms throughout the year. The trees of this variety can grow up to 8 feet in height after a couple of years, while the UF SunLime remains smaller. Because of the plant’s thorny nature, fruits are prone to thorn damage.

If you are interested in ordering finger lime trees from the UF released varieties, please contact the following nurseries:

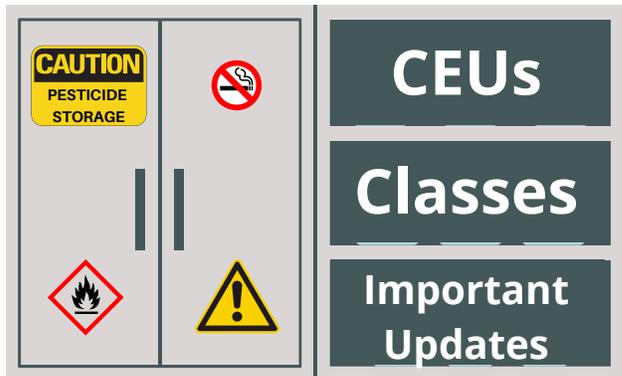
- Phillip Rucks Citrus Nursery <https://ruckscitrusnursery.com/>
- Brite Leaf Nursery <https://www.briteleaf.com/>
- Southern Citrus Nursery

The presentations and videos of the Virtual Finger Lime Symposium can be found at: <https://australianlimes.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

Further information about finger limes can be found at the EDIS publication: “Finger Lime: An alternative crop with great potential in South Florida” <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FE1033>



*Finger Limes. Picture by the University of Florida.*



# The Pesticide Cabinet

Your central location for upcoming CEU workshops, pesticide license exam review classes, and more.

## CEU Workshop - Managing Weeds

**Date:** Tuesday June 7, 2022 **Time:** 10am-12pm  
**Location:** UF/IFAS Extension Hardee County  
 507 Civic Center Dr.  
 Wauchula, FL, 33873  
**Cost:** \$10  
**Instructor:** Ajia Paolillo  
**Registration:** <https://ceuworkshopmanagingweeds6722.eventbrite.com>

This workshop will focus on weed identification, management options, and application precautions

### 2 CEUs available in:

Ag Row, Ag Tree, Aquatic, Natural Areas, Ornamental & Turf, Private, Right-of-Way, and Regulatory Pest Control

## Private and Ag Tree Exam Review Class

**Date:** Thursday June 23, 2022 **Time:** 8:30am-12:30pm  
**Location:** UF/IFAS Extension Hardee County  
 507 Civic Center Dr.  
 Wauchula, FL, 33873  
**Cost:** \$15  
**Instructor:** Ajia Paolillo  
**Registration:** [https://private\\_agtree62322.eventbrite.com](https://private_agtree62322.eventbrite.com)

This class will review the required information for the Private Applicator and Ag Tree Crop exams to obtain restricted use pesticide licenses in Florida

### 4 CEUs available in:

Ag Tree, & Private

## General Standards Core Exam Review Class

**Date:** Friday June 24, 2022 **Time:** 8:30am-12:30pm  
**Location:** UF/IFAS Extension Highlands County  
 4509 George Blvd.  
 Sebring, FL, 33875  
**Cost:** \$15/class \$26/study guide  
**Instructors:** Ajia Paolillo and Lourdes Pérez Cordero  
**Registration:** email- [ajiacunningham@ufl.edu](mailto:ajiacunningham@ufl.edu) or [lperezcordero@ufl.edu](mailto:lperezcordero@ufl.edu)

This class will review the required information for the General Standards Core exam to obtain restricted use pesticide licenses in Florida

### 4 CEUs available in:

Core

## Pesticide Testing Update

Everblue is a third-party exam proctoring service that clientele have been utilizing to take their restricted use pesticide exams online, at any location, at their convenience. UF/IFAS has been working with Everblue to have more license category exams available online. By the end of May 2022, all Chapter 388 and Chapter 487 categories should be available. All Chapter 482 exams should be available by the end of June 2022. As a reminder, Everblue charges a non-refundable fee of \$26.13 per exam or exam attempt. To schedule your exam with Everblue or at a UF/IFAS Extension county office, please visit: <https://pesticideexam.ifas.ufl.edu/>

**LAX**  
2022  
LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE EXPO

<b>Technical Assistance</b>	<b>Conservation Easements</b>	<b>Management Implications</b>
<b>Cost-share Opportunities</b>	<b>Financial Implications</b>	<b>Land Management Plans</b>

**Tuesday June 7, 2022**

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Bert J. Harris Jr. Agricultural Center Auditorium**  
4509 George Boulevard  
Sebring, FL 33875



Register at [CFRPC.org](http://CFRPC.org)

or contact April DaSilva for more information: 863-534-7130 ext. 129 or [adasilva@cfrpc.org](mailto:adasilva@cfrpc.org)

Landowners, regardless of acreage, in DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Okeechobee, Osceola and Polk Counties are invited to participate in conversations related to technical assistance, cost-share opportunities, conservation easements, and the financial implications of each program.

Outreach representatives will be on hand to provide brief overviews of local, State, Federal and non-governmental programs and receive feedback from attendees.



Lunch provided by Highlands Soil & Water Conservation District

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, income, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the CFRPC Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Brenda Torres, 863-534-7130, ext. 109(voice), or via Florida Relay Service 711, or by email: [btorres@cfrpc.org](mailto:btorres@cfrpc.org).

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### FEATURED SPEAKERS

Phillip Rucks, President Phillip Rucks Citrus Nursery, Inc  
Kimberly & David Lott, Founders of Crop Disaster Recovery, LLC  
Bobby Wani, Co-Owner & President of International Specialty Produce, Inc  
BamCore, Bamboo Drywall Manufacturing Company (Purchaser)

# Farm Grants & Alternative Crops Forum

## A NEW APPROACH TO INDUSTRY FUNDING

### DISCUSSION TOPICS

- ✓ Available Grant Programs-FSA TAP
- ✓ Alternative Crops
- ✓ Bamboo Viability & Production
- ✓ Bamboo Shoot Market

### YOU'RE INVITED

 10am Thursday  
May 26th 2022

### Stuart Center

 1710 US Hwy 17 S.  
Bartow, FL 33830

Contact Us 863.659.1335 Register Online at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) or Onsite Day Of

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