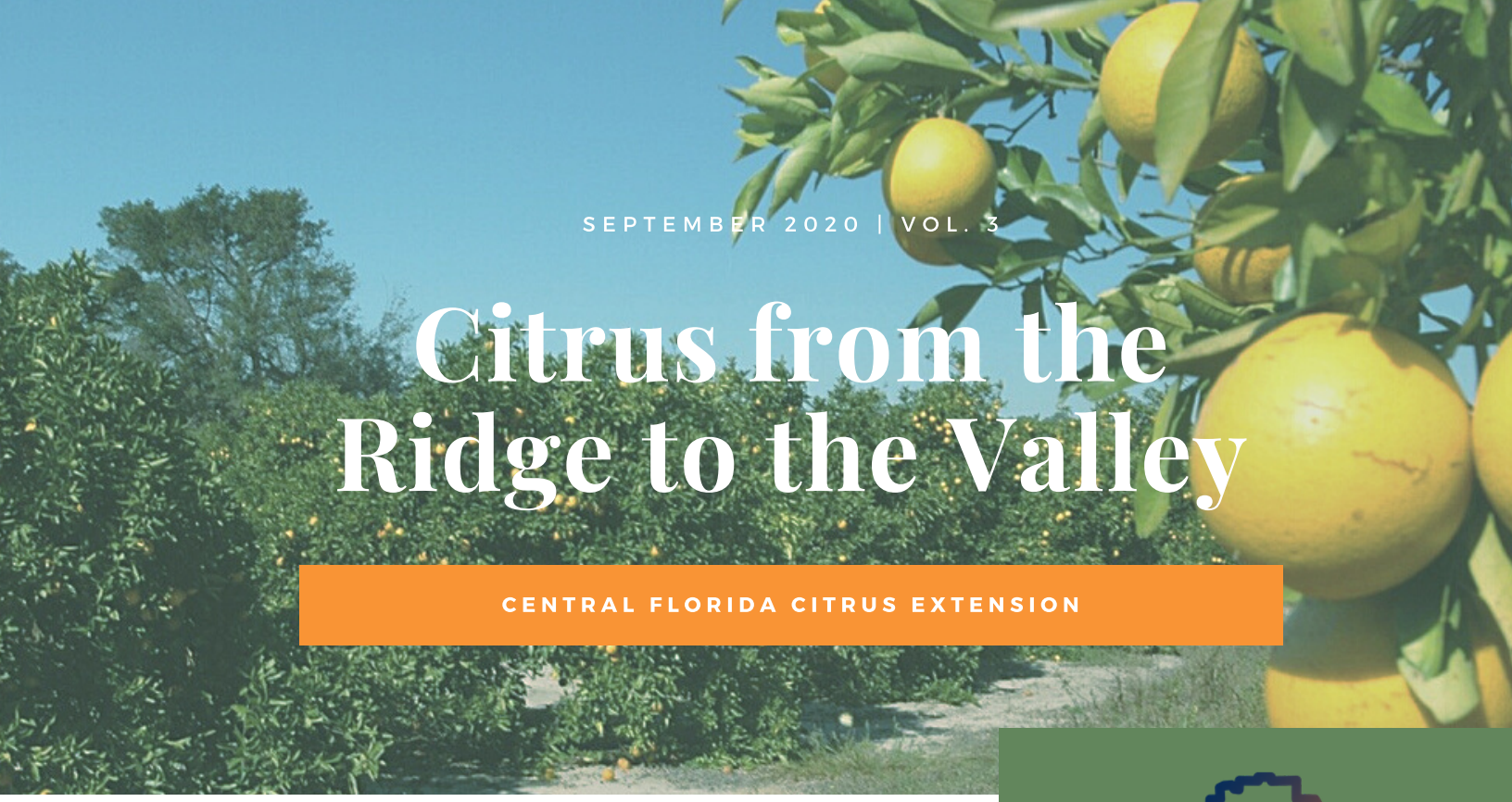

SEPTEMBER 2020 | VOL. 3

Citrus from the Ridge to the Valley

CENTRAL FLORIDA CITRUS EXTENSION

September 2020

Fall is almost upon us, officially at least! Harvesting is going to be gearing up here soon, along with the other grove operations that still go on this time of year. We hope you are all doing well and enjoy reading our latest newsletter. In this issue we have included:

- 2020 Florida Growers' Institute CEU update
- 2020-21 Florida Citrus Production Guide
- Fall Weather Outlook
- Algal Spot information and survey request
- HLB, Soil pH, and Copper
- Q&A about the new FDACS nitrogen and phosphorus records submission requirement
- Best Management Practices - enrolling in the program and more
- Additional rootstock selection resources
- Upcoming virtual trainings
- Virtual event resources and Ag Loss Assessment Survey

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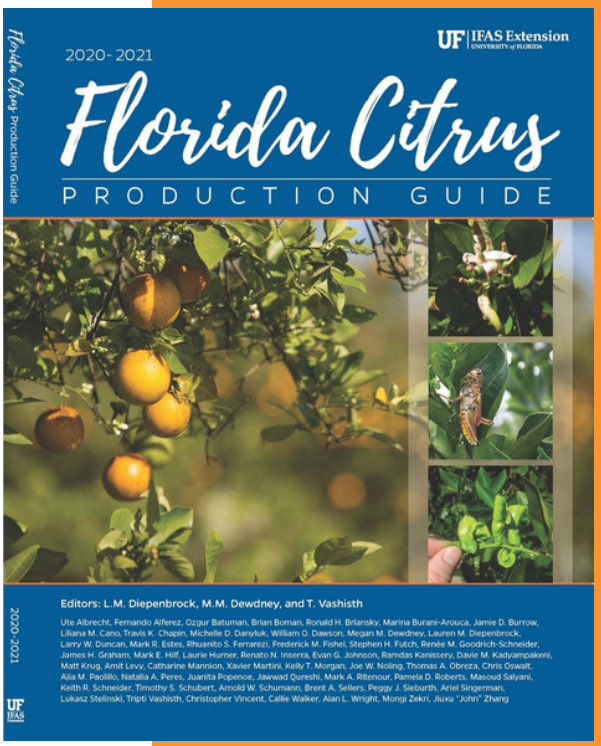
2020 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute

The virtual 2020 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute is completed. If you happen to be a few CEU's short of a full complement for renewal of either a Restricted Use Pesticide License (RUP) and/or a Certified Crop Advisor Certification (CCA), then you do not have to look much further. We now have all nine presentations available for viewing. We have approval for eight of the nine presentations for CEU's for both the RUP and CCA licenses. We have grouped the eight presentations into groups of two for earning CEU's. A total of 4.5 RUP CEU's are in the following categories: private application, agricultural tree crop, and demonstration and research. The CCA CEU's total is 4.5 and are as follows: 1.0 in crop management, 1.0 in nutrient management, and 2.5 in pest management categories. To get access to these educational presentations, visit the UF/IFAS Commercial Citrus Extension Agents website (https://bit.ly/2RrdndU). Look for the link to the 2020 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute and select "view presentation and earn CEU's." Once you select the link, you can view any of the nine presentations individually or view them for CEU credit. A heads-up is that if one needs both CEU's for a RUP and CCA, select the RUP CEU link. If one wants only CCA CEU's then select the CCA link.

The 2020-21 Florida Citrus Production Guide



The new 2020-2021 Florida Citrus Production Guide is available for pickup at your local UF/IFAS Extension Offices. The beginning section of the production guide covers general information that growers will find useful, including pesticide resistance and management, PPE statements on pesticide labels, WPS reference information, plus much more. The guide is also divided into the following sections:

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- Horticultural Practices
- Mites, Insects, and Nematodes
- Diseases
- Weeds
- Pesticides

Each section gives detailed information relating to the individual topics. Growers are given important information they can use in the field such as, symptoms to look for in the grove, monitoring techniques, and the current UF/IFAS management recommendations.

If you would like a copy of the new Florida Citrus Production Guide, please let us know!

Fall Weather Outlook

BY CHRIS OSWALT

Before we jump head on into the fall weather outlook, let us not lose sight of the ever-increasing number of storms that are and have been forming in the Atlantic Ocean. It is worth mentioning that (as of mid-September) we are continuing to be in an El Nino/Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-neutral condition. The current ENSO forecast models are split between La Nina and ENSO-neutral conditions for the fall and winter. The current forecast is for a 60% chance of La Nina developing this fall and continuing through the 2020-21 winter (with a 55% chance). Under La Nina conditions in Florida during the period from October to December are characterized as being dry and slightly warm. ENSO-neutral conditions result in no impact on weather conditions.

The current October/November/December, fall weather forecast calls for a significant increase probability (40 to 50%) for above-normal temperatures (Figure 1). On the other hand, the rainfall forecast is for an equal chance of having an above/below/normal rainfall for the period (Figure 2).

Figure 1

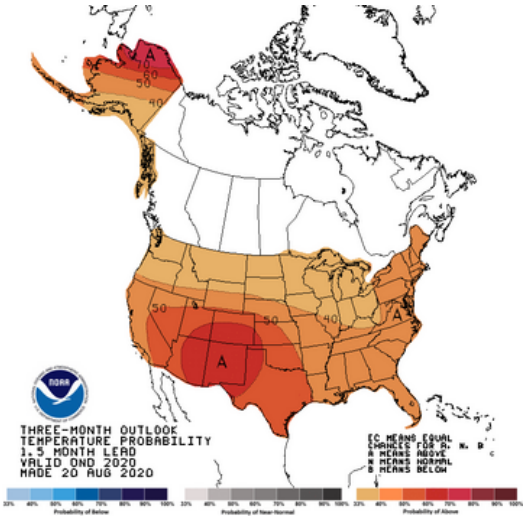
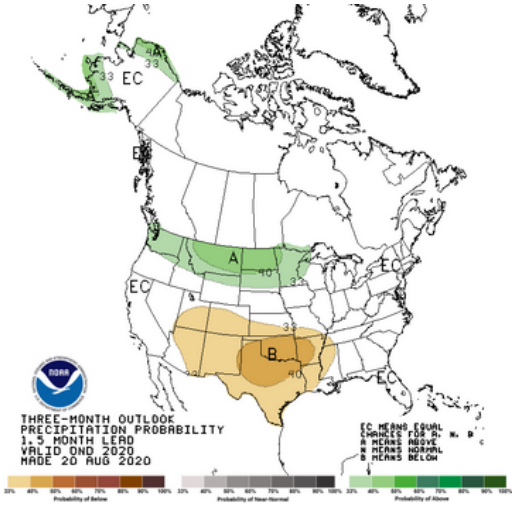


Figure 2



Citrus Institute Presentation and Questionnaire on Algal Spot

BY CHRIS OSWALT

In a recently released Citrus Institute presentation, Dr. Megan Dewdney describes the disease algal spot. Recently more growers have complained about this, but we do not have a good idea of how many growers are affected. At the end of the presentation, there is an opportunity to fill out a questionnaire about algal spot and whether you have had problems with the disease. This will allow us to get a better idea of the extent of the problem and whether more attention should be given to this relatively uncommon disease. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey even if you have not had algal spot (it automatically becomes shorter in this case). There is also a place to leave questions if you have any after the presentation. We look forward to your feedback and don't forget to take the quiz for your CEU.

HLB, Soil pH, and Copper

BY CHRIS OSWALT

Unless you have been hiding out for the past year or so, you may have noticed UF/IFAS citrus soil pH recommendations have been revised slightly downward compared to pre-HLB levels. Lower soil pH affects tree health and micronutrient availability, specifically manganese, zinc, and boron. Before we get carried away, we are not talking about significant wholesale reductions. Previous to HLB, the target pH for Florida citrus would have been 6.0 to 7.0. Today we are looking at a target pH level of around 6.0. A few years back, there was significant interest in the effect of bicarbonates contained in well water used for irrigation, having the effect of raising soil pH in the wetted zone. Acidification of well water became more prevalent as an economical method to quickly lower soil pH and react with bicarbonates in irrigation water to maintain a desired pH level in the soil. Sulfur and sulfur coated fertilizer materials are also used to lower the soil pH in the wetted irrigation zone. In my experience, it works, either way, it is the cost and speed of the reactions that will be different, but the result of lowering the soil pH to these new recommended levels is the same

In lowering the soil pH, one needs to be careful not to reduce it too much. Excessively low soil pH will many times lead to increased availability and toxicity of some mineral elements. Florida citrus groves can commonly have excessive levels of soil copper. These excessive levels of copper can lead to toxicity with a lower soil pH. The potential for toxicity is especially a concern on sandy ridge soils, which have a lower ability to tie up some of this excessive copper. Excessive soil copper levels in citrus trees lead to growth-restricted darkened feeder roots and iron deficiency in the foliage. Iron deficiency can lead to defoliation and twig dieback, and overall tree decline.

HLB, Soil pH, and Copper (continued)

So, when should you be concerned? When soil copper levels approach 100 pounds of copper per acre, toxicity is problematic. Analyzing feeder root samples for copper can provide additional information. Generally, 350 to 800 ppm copper in feeder roots has been associated with copper toxicity in mature groves. We know elevating the soil pH will make excessive copper unavailable or tied up in the soil, making toxicity less severe. I would even be concerned at high soil copper levels if the soil pH is lower than 6.5. Lowering the soil pH in HLB-affected trees has benefits, and in looking over numerous citrus soil analysis reports, it is becoming apparent that in some instances, soil pH levels are considerably lower than what would be beneficial for HLB-affected trees. This low soil pH coupled with high, but not necessarily toxic levels, of soil copper could be detrimental to citrus tree health.

Knowing there is a relationship to better citrus tree health by lowering soil pH, it is imperative to monitor soil pH during the year routinely. Lowering soil pH is especially of concern with the constant acidification of well water well exceeding the soil's buffering capacity. As a result, a significant lowering of soil pH after the acidification resulting in pH levels that could be problematic. Low soil pH can also affect the solubility of calcium and magnesium, resulting in excessive leaching as the soil pH drops. Our recommendation is to let the soil pH in the root zone stay in the range of 5.8 to 6.5. My suggestion will be if you are aggressively managing your soil pH, invest in an affordable portable in-field pH meter.

The new BMP recordkeeping requirements for Nitrogen and Phosphorus - Q&A

BY AJIA PAOLILLO

On July 1, 2020 new recordkeeping requirements went into effect for nitrogen and phosphorus amounts applied by growers enrolled in the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Best Management Practices (BMP) program. These records are required due to the passage of Senate Bill 712, "The Clean Waterways Act". Citrus growers have been asking many questions about this new requirement and what they must do to be in compliance with the law. Many of you have received letters and possibly even emails from FDACS discussing this process. This article is comprised of questions and answers which are designed to help you to understand your requirements as a FDACS BMP program participant, and the records submission process moving forward. Agricultural producers are good stewards of the environment, and know their livelihood depends on the land. We as the agricultural community know the changes that have been implemented by growers, which have had a positive impact on the environment. Compliance with the FDACS BMP program is one way to show our growers' commitments to preserving our environment. I discussed the new requirements with Matt Warren, Environmental Manager with the FDACS Office of Agricultural Water Policy, in Hardee county. I hope you find this information helpful in answering some of the common questions from growers.

Q1. Who does this new law apply to?

Any grower enrolled in the FDACS BMP program, regardless of whether or not they are located in an area with a Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP).

Q2. The new requirement states that growers must submit their application records for nitrogen and phosphorus to FDACS. When do I submit my records?

You will submit your records of nitrogen and phosphorus applications only when requested by an FDACS representative during an Implementation Verification visit. These visits are done by FDACS to verify that a grower is in compliance with the program, by properly implementing the BMPs they committed to in their Notice of Intent to Implement BMPs (NOI).

Q1. When will these Implementation Verification visits take place?

The visits will be done once every two years. Initially, priority will be focused on visits to growers located in BMAP areas, but every grower enrolled in the BMP program will be visited eventually.

Q2. Who will be conducting the Implementation Verification visits, and how will I be notified when I am receiving a visit?

An FDACS field representative will contact you to schedule a visit, the visits are not unannounced.

Q3. I received a letter in the mail with recordkeeping examples and instructions. Do I need to submit my records online?

The letter was to inform you of the new requirements and offer a form that you may use to record your nitrogen and phosphorus application information. Do not submit any records at this time. You will only be required to submit your records to the FDACS field representative during your Implementation Verification visit.

The new BMP recordkeeping requirements for Nitrogen and Phosphorus - Q&A (continued)

Q6. What information am I required to record for submission?

Growers are required to keep record of the total pounds of nitrogen and phosphorus (in the form of P2O5) that are applied to their groves on a monthly basis. Total pounds of nitrogen and phosphorus must be accounted for from all sources applied, including biosolids. Growers do not need to submit records of other nutrient applications, such as minor elements or soil amendments, such as lime.

Important Note: Growers must continue to keep records for their own files on all nutrient and soil amendment applications, in order to be in compliance as stated in their Notice of Intent to Implement BMPs (NOI) and BMP Checklist requirements.

Q7. What form do I use to record my nitrogen and phosphorus application information?

FDACS has provided a suggested form for you to use. You are not required to use this form, but it is easy to follow and clearly shows what information is needed and where to input it. FDACS has this form available as a hard copy, printable PDF or in electronic form, as an Excel spreadsheet. The Excel spreadsheet is recommended, as the information can be uploaded automatically.

Q8. Do I have to give them my only copies of my records?

No, you must keep your original copies of your records. Give the FDACS representative a copy of the form mentioned above or something similar, as your records submission.

Q9. How far back do my records need to go for this new requirement?

You must submit nitrogen and phosphorus monthly totals for the past two years from the date of your scheduled Implementation Verification visit. For example, if you have an Implementation Verification visit scheduled for August 25, 2020, you must submit nitrogen and phosphorus application records dating back to August 25, 2018.

Q10. How does FDACS determine if I am in compliance? Is it based on yield and UF/IFAS recommendations for citrus production? What about soil and leaf samples?

Both yield and UF/IFAS recommendations are used to determine if a grower is in compliance. If a grower is found to have applied more nitrogen and/or phosphorus than the recommendations and considerations for yield, justification will be required. The recommendations for nitrogen can be found on page 16, checkmark #1, in the FDACS Water Quality/Quantity Best Management Practices for Florida Citrus manual.

Soil and leaf samples are a requirement under the FDACS BMP program and the results will also be used to determine if a grower is in compliance with the BMP program. Be sure to keep up with soil and leaf samples, as they may also be needed for justification.

The new BMP recordkeeping requirements for Nitrogen and Phosphorus - Q&A (continued)

Q11. What if I do not have this information available for my FDACS field representative at the time of the Implementation Verification visit?

You will have to work with your FDACS representative. You may be placed in remedial action and given a certain time period to submit your records. If you choose not to submit your records, you may be reported to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for regulatory action.

Q12. Are my nitrogen and phosphorus application totals considered public records once they are submitted?

No, they are not considered public record. But, FDACS must provide them to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, if requested, as long as the confidentiality specified for the records is maintained

Below is the form that FDACS has offered for use in recording your monthly application totals for Nitrogen and Phosphorus. Please contact your FDACS Office of Agricultural Water Policy field representative or your UF/IFAS Citrus Extension agent if you have more questions, or would like a copy of this form.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Office of Agriculture Water Policy

FDACS-OAWP
407 S. Calhoun Street, MS-E1
Tallahassee, FL 32399

NUTRIENT APPLICATION RECORD FORM

NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED
COMMISSIONER

Rule 5M-1.008, F.A.C

Notice of Intent (NOI) Number: ☐ No Fertilizers Applied

Application Month	Application Year	BMP Manual	Commodity Grown	Other Commodity Description	Nutrient Source	Other Nutrient Source Description	Pounds of nitrogen applied	Pounds of phosphorus (P_2O_5) applied	Crop Acres Fertilized

I certify that the information on this form is accurate and based on those records required under the applicable BMP Manual.

Print name _____ Signature of authorized contact for this NOI _____

Date _____

FDACS-04005 06/20

Steps to enrolling in the BMP program and BMPs for Citrus

BY AJIA PAOLILLO

In the last newsletter, I gave an overview of the Best Management Practices (BMP), program which is regulated by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). In this article I will explain the steps to enrolling in the BMP program and start exploring the different BMPs used in citrus production. The BMP program is voluntary for Florida growers. If your operation is located in an area with a Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP), you must either be enrolled in the program, or conduct routine water sampling, as regulated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the area water management districts.

What should you do first, if you are ready to enroll in the BMP program? Reach out to FDACS, UF/IFAS BMP or Extension personnel, or your local water management district representative. Each agency can assist you with evaluating your property and what are the typical problem areas to look for. It is recommended to conduct an inventory of your property and operation. Take a look at your property characteristics including location and landscape, along with the mechanics of your citrus operation. Where are the bodies of water and wells on your property? Are there wetlands that need to be protected? These are the areas where water quality can be compromised due to nutrient and chemical leaching and runoff. In the Flatwoods, groves have drainage ditches and furrows. Groves on the Ridge have courser sandy soils, which enhance nutrient leaching. The following tools are recommended in the FDACS BMP manual for Florida citrus to effectively evaluate your property and the find areas that need attention:

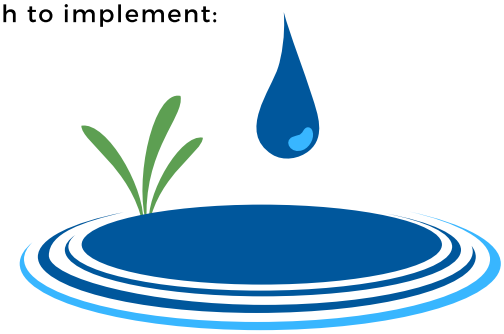
- **Aerial photographs** – Get a birdseye view of your property, you may miss something when riding around that you didn't know was there.
- **NRCS soil survey maps** – Knowing your soil type and characteristics is important.
- **USGS topographic maps** – What are the elevations and slopes on your property?
- **National Wetlands Inventory** – Are there wetlands located on or near your property?

Steps to enrolling in the BMP program and BMPs for Citrus (continued)

BY AJIA PAOLILLO

Read through the 7 categories of BMPs and determine the ones you wish to implement:

1. Grove Development and Renovation
2. Nutrient Management
3. Irrigation Management
4. Drainage Management
5. Sediment and Erosion Control
6. Water Resource Protection
7. Integrated Pest Management



Later in this article, we will explore “Grove Development and Renovation” and the recommendations associated with that category. Articles in upcoming newsletters will focus on the other BMP categories.

Remember, not all BMP’s are applicable at all locations. Choose the BMP’s that can be implemented and will be both cost effective and yield positive results for you and the environment. Once you have chosen the BMP’s to implement, record these on the BMP checklist, which is available in the FDACS BMP manual. The checklist provides you with summaries of practices involved in the different BMP categories. You may be surprised to find, that you have already been utilizing some of these practices in your operation. After deciding on the BMP’s you wish to implement, you will complete and submit your “Notice of Intent to Implement BMPs’” (NOI) form. Once the NOI is received by FDACS, you are enrolled in the program and are provided with the presumption of compliance for state water quality standards. You are now ready to implement the BMPs you have chosen for your operation. The FDACS BMP manual states that these practices and changes should be implemented “as soon as practicable, but no later than 18 months after submittal of the Notice of Intent to Implement”. To remain in compliance, you must follow all of the requirements for the respective BMP categories you have implemented. Make sure your records are clear and accurate. It is required to maintain records for 5 years, but it is recommended to keep them longer, as they serve as your documentation. Remember, all records are subject to review by FDACS.

When considering becoming a participant in the BMP program, it is important to know what the different categories are and the practices involved in each. This will help you to make an informed decision when choosing BMPs for your particular site. A vast majority of the BMPs required for citrus production in Florida are implemented in mature, existing groves, and revolve around production practices such as irrigation and nutrient management. Although these are very important, there are BMPs that are implemented in new grove plantings and renovations, before the trees are planted.

The first category of the FDACS BMPs, outlined in the manual is **“Grove Development and Renovation”**. When planting citrus for the first time at a location, it is important to understand the characteristics of the land and your planting layout. It is highly recommended to get a wetland delineation performed as mentioned above. This will locate those areas on your property and allow you to plan for discharge from the grove along with establishing setbacks and buffers. As we know, different soil types handle water differently and this should be well understood at your site. Become familiar with your soil types and how they affect the drainage systems you may need to implement.

Steps to enrolling in the BMP program and BMPs for Citrus (continued)

BY AJIA PAOLILLO

Land clearing and preparation is an important component when developing a new grove or renovating an old one. Leveling the land for planting should be done with the help of an engineer or consultant, who can make plans based on the needs of your site. Old grove land may need to be re-leveled due to erosion, overgrowth of vegetation, and even damage from animals such as hogs. This is also a great opportunity to redo the beds and furrows if needed. Over time, tree spacing has changed and more trees per acre are desired, which will change the grove layout.

With land preparation and the construction of ditches, canals, furrows, and beds, soil is moved from one area to another. This soil is called spoil, and depending on where it originated in the grove, can determine what it can be used for. Most of the time the spoil is used to create berms or dikes to protect water sources from contamination. This spoil can also be used to construct roads in the grove. When constructing bedded groves in the Flatwoods, be cautious about using the spoil from digging furrows or canals. When spoil is used to build up the beds, undesirable topsoil is moved into the new rootzone of the bed. This new layer of soil is usually lower in organic matter than the natural topsoil in these areas and in some cases may be more calcareous. You can read more about this in the UF/IFAS publication, Nutrition of Florida Citrus Trees, 3rd Edition.

If beds are to be constructed, it is important to control soil erosion. This can be accomplished by planting vegetation in the middle and sides of the bed, leaving bare soil in the tree spaces for planting. Soil erosion and sediment control should also be managed in runoff and discharge areas. During grove renovation, your irrigation and drainage systems should be evaluated and if necessary, upgraded to be more efficient. Before planting it may be necessary to adjust the pH of the soil to a suitable level for planting. It is best to take soils samples and let the results guide you in which pH level you need to attain and the products to use.

If you can implement these BMPs prior to planting, you may save money with inputs, and avoid the difficulty of having to go back and correct an issue while trying to navigate around trees and irrigation lines. The FDACS BMP manual contains more information and reference materials that can assist you when choosing and implementing BMPs. Reach out to your FDACS field representative or your UF/IFAS Citrus Extension agent if you have questions.

FDACS BMP manual: Water Quality/Quantity Best Management Practices for Florida Citrus
https://bit.ly/2GSulQ8

Additional Rootstock Selection Resources from UF/IFAS

BY AJIA PAOLILLO

In the last issue, I talked about resources available to the grower to assist with rootstock selection. Here are two more valuable resources. The first is the UF/IFAS Citrus Research website. You may have heard of this website, or even browsed it already. It is a source of information on citrus production research, being conducted to combat HLB. You will find information about rootstock field trials on this website found under Resources, and then choose Plant Improvement. The Plant Improvement Team, Drs. Bill Castle (Professor Emeritus), Fred Gmitter, and Jude Grosser, work with about 60 rootstock trials around the state, with many of these involving cooperative growers. The website currently lists 24 rootstock trials that you can view. Once you select a trial, you will be provided with a trial description and summary. You will be able to see the trial location, scion and rootstock varieties, date planted, and design. Scrolling down the page, you will find data from the trial, which are collected annually and posted on the website.
Here is the link: https://bit.ly/3hrtRNp

Another resource is a blog written by the Plant Improvement team titled "Lessons Learned While Conducting Rootstock Field Trials". They discuss all stages of the rootstock evaluation process, including plot designs, nursery operations, cooperative grower relationships, and how they determine the superior rootstock selections in a trial. They explain the valuable lessons they have learned, and the barriers they have had to overcome to ensure the integrity and success of rootstock field trials. Attention to detail is imperative to ensure nursery propagation is carefully managed, plantings are accurately mapped, and data is collected for each specific selection. Their blog explains the reasoning behind the number of field trials conducted, for the selections, and the timeframe for testing to release for industry use. The effects of HLB and the urgent need for tolerant and resistant rootstocks have changed the way the new rootstocks are released into the industry. You can read about their continuing journey as they work to provide new rootstock selections for our industry: https://bit.ly/2DZh6vX

The website currently lists 24 rootstock trials that you can view.

Upcoming Virtual Trainings

UF IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center

Farm Labor Supervisor COVID-19 Safety Training: How to Protect Your Farm Labor

Due to popular demand we are offering more dates!
September 16 September 24 October 7 October 13 October 21
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM English and Spanish Instruction
By Videoconference (Zoom)

Free training on how to protect your workers, supervisors and essential personnel from contracting COVID-19! Training will be based on CDC guidelines. We encourage all your employees who are in direct contact with farm workers to attend. Instruction will be given by videonconference in English or Spanish. You will receive a copy of resources to help you access further information related to COVID-19 and assist you in obtaining masks and other materials.

FREE REGISTRATION

Pre-registration is required. To register please send an email to Barb Hyman at hymanb@ufl.edu and include:

- Which date you would like to attend
- Your company name and address
- Your email address and phone number
- Names of those who will be attending, their job title and which language they prefer; English or Spanish. (There will be separate Zoom links for each language.)

Upon receiving your email, you will be sent the Zoom link. It is suggested that you set up your free Zoom account before the meeting, if you do not have it already. We will include the website in our email.

Credit: AP/Luis M. Alvarez

Need CEUs? Seats still available!!!

The primary mission of the UF IFAS Aquatic Weed Control Short Course is to provide educational opportunities and CEUs for Florida's licensed pesticide applicators. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2020 Short Course, which will take place October 28-30, will be delivered virtually to sites throughout Florida, and attendees will be assigned to the site closest to them to reduce the need for travel. Presentations will be pre-recorded and streamed at the scheduled time, and speakers will participate in a live Q&A session.

You'll earn 20 FDACS-approved CEUs by attending the 2020 Short Course. Regular registration ends September 18, so visit the Short Course webpage at https://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw/index.html today!
Registration cost $300 if you register by September 18, 2020.
Late Registration cost $350 after September 18, 2020
Registration Deadline is October 19, 2020

Please note: All attendees will be required to abide by CDC and UF health and safety guidelines, which include social distancing, personal hygiene, and MANDATORY mask usage at all times. Current State of Florida guidance strongly encourages individuals 65 or older or those with underlying medical conditions (including chronic lung disease, moderate-tosevere asthma, serious heart conditions, immune-compromised status, cancer, diabetes, severe obesity, renal failure and liver disease) to avoid crowds and in-person events at this time. Individuals who have special needs that prohibit the wearing of a face covering but feel they must attend this Short Course should contact Dr. Gettys (lgettys@ufl.edu) to discuss alternative means of participation.

UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
Produce Safety ALLIANCE

Remote- Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings

A virtual course for fruit and vegetable growers and packers who fall under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule.

- **October 20th-22nd , daily from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm**
  https://psa102020.eventbrite.com
- **November 4th- 6th , daily from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm**
  https://psa110420.eventbrite.com
- **December 1st- 3rd, daily from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm**
  https://psa120120.eventbrite.com

All PSA Remote Trainings require advanced registration. Cost is $25, which includes training materials and certificate of attendance issued by AFDO**. Seats are limited. Video and audio capabilities are required.

For questions, contact Taylor Langford at taylorlangford@ufl.edu or Sarah McCoy at sarahmccoy@ufl.edu.

Training materials and certificate are funded through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FAIN #U18FD005909).**

Virtual Event Resources and Survey Information

Fresh Fruit Growers and Packers: Packinghouse Day Presentations Posted

Packinghouse Day is a program that is focused on the fresh citrus fruit industry in Florida. If you are a fresh fruit grower or interested in learning more about this segment of the industry, you can view the presentations from this event. Packinghouse Day was held virtually this year, due to COVID-19, on Thursday August 20, 2020. Some of the topics discussed were phytosanitary issues, regulatory requirements, food safety, HLB tolerant hybrids, and more. To view the presentations, use the link below.
https://irrec.ifas.ufl.edu/postharvest/previous_events.shtml

Seminar and Q&A for Coronavirous and Food Safety Questions with UF/IFAS Specialists

Join University of Florida faculty on Wednesday, September 30th from 3:30-4:30 PM for answers to your coronavirus and food safety questions. Our team of subject matter experts are here to help Florida growers, harvesters, packers, processors, and consumers answer your questions on food safety practices with coronavirus in mind.

Register here: https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OSDstnJLRM6jJ8DZzcmYCA
Upon registration, you will receive an email from Zoom with personal connection information. This email also includes the option to save the event to Outlook, Google, or Yahoo calendars.

To prepare our team, we ask that you submit questions during the registration process or submit questions* to Taylor Langford at taylorlangford@ufl.edu.

Participating on our panel are:
· **Dr. Michelle Danyluk, Professor and Extension Specialist (UF)**
• **Dr. Renée Goodrich Schneider, Professor (UF)**
• **Matt Krug, M.S., State Specialized Extension Agent, Food Science (UF)**
• **Dr. Keith Schneider, Professor (UF)**

*Pre-submitted questions will have priority.
Please reach out to Katelynn Stull (k.stull@ufl.edu)or Taylor Langford with questions about the event itself or for registration assistance.

COVID-19 Ag Loss Assessment Survey - Round 2

UF/IFAS Extension continues to hear from agriculture and aquaculture producers throughout the state about ways the pandemic is affecting your daily work and livelihoods. In this unprecedented and challenging time, the value of your work has never been more evident. Our colleagues in the UF/IFAS Food and Resource Economics department have launched the second round surveys to assess the impacts of the COVID-19 on the agriculture and marine industries in Florida. The surveys are designed to encompass all key facets of agricultural and/or aquaculture production operations. You may remember the first round of this survey that was sent out in April. The survey takes about 10-20 minutes and is completed online. We ask that you please participate in this survey as it relates to your business. The information you provide will help assess the larger impact of COVID-19 to the agriculture and aquaculture industries. This information will be vital to informing decisions made by policymakers and establishing a roadmap for moving forward.

Click here for the survey on agriculture and aquaculture production. This includes crop production, forestry/timber production, nursery and greenhouse operations, agritourism, beekeeping, etc.

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Don't see your name or company listing? IT IS NOT TOO LATE!!!!!!!

Contact Chris Oswalt at: wcoswalt@ufl.edu or 863.519.1052
Ajia Paolillo at: ajiacunningham@ufl.edu or 863.251.4763 today!

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