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Treasure Coast Citrus Notes

May - 2011

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Asian Citrus Psyllid Pesticide Resistance

My last newsletter contained a short article about rotating pesticide modes of action to manage pesticide resistance, among other recommended practices. A new study has just been published by Lukasz Stelinski, entomologist at the CREC, which compared mortality levels from insecticide exposure to psyllids collected in groves in 2009 and 2010 to psyllids raised in the lab to determine any changes in resistance levels. The study showed some measurable resistance to several commonly used insecticides, but those resistance levels are not yet high enough to cause product failures. The point is that increased resistance is a real possibility, and that we should responsibly manage our insecticide applications to protect the long term viability of our valuable pesticide tools.

Citrus Black Spot and Sweet Orange Scab Update

The following is courtesy of Dr. Megan Dewdney, Pathologist at the CREC in Lake Alfred and was disseminated in April, 2011:

"Citrus black spot has continued to be a problem in South West Florida in Collier and Hendry Counties. The number of finds and disease intensity are higher than in 2010. We were finding symptoms that were not present last year such as false melanose and virulent spot. So far most finds have been on Valencia and the symptoms have been visible in mid to late March. DPI tells me that there have been no new suspect finds in the last 2 weeks. The quarantine areas have expanded, but revisions from APHIS are expected as the most recent finds are taken into account. In our spore trapping efforts, we found *Guignardia* spp. ascospores, the spores responsible for the majority of infections, in all months except December 2010 and January 2011. Spores were first found in mid-February and by early March, moderate to large spore numbers were trapped. This means that the fungus is active at the moment but it is unclear what this means in terms of disease control at this time of year. The first year of spore trapping has yet to be completed. Applications for black spot should go out no later the beginning of May. See the Florida Pest Management Guide for further control details."

"Sweet orange scab finds are spreading through the state with 11 counties considered positive. Most of the fruit have been from dooryards with only 2 finds in commercial groves, 1 in Sarasota and another in Indian River. The most recent find was in Polk County but not near commercial sites. Few suspect finds were submitted to DPI in the last few weeks. My lab and DPI continue to be unsuccessful in isolating a fungus but have been able to get a positive PCR test. Despite this, APHIS had placed Florida under a state-wide quarantine along with Arizona, Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana. In Texas, there have been fungi isolated from fruit in commercial groves. We are working with Texas to determine if their isolates cause disease but this is on-going."

Citrus Copper Application Scheduler

IFAS researchers have cooperated with AgroClimate personnel to update a copper application model developed a number of years ago. The model predicts copper dilution and loss of the copper residue as fruit grows and rainfall weathering occurs. The model allows growers to enter their own spray application information and interface with local weather data to predict how long their copper fungicide applications might be effective.

<http://www.agroclimate.org/tools/cudecay>

2011 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute Presentations

This program was part of the continuing effort by UF/IFAS Extension and the Citrus Research and Development Foundation to keep Florida citrus growers aware of the research efforts and progress in our battle against HLB. The April 6 program was held at the South Florida Community College in Avon Park with several hundred citrus growers present. Videos of the presentations can now be found on the Citrus Agents' website. Click on the following link to access those very interesting and informative presentations:

<http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/events/GrowersInstitute2011/GrowersInstitute2011.htm>

High Tech Thievery

Southwest Florida has experienced a number of incidents in the last several months involving the theft of large amounts of agricultural chemicals from the pesticide storage facilities of vegetable growers. A Collier County investigator had the occasion to interview a burglary suspect who revealed that these thefts were often not just crimes of opportunity, but well planned operations using technology available to all. The crook indicated they used the satellite imaging from Google Earth to find alternate access points to facilities and to locate potential routes of escape. They used scanners and radios to track the movement of law enforcement personnel. Heavy locks were cut with small, easily portable and concealed torch units. The thieves did their research and knew which pesticide products were most in demand and were the most costly per gallon or pound. They also had made contacts with personnel who were familiar with pesticide deliveries from retail pesticide suppliers. In addition, they occasionally took "orders" from someone willing to buy the stolen goods.

So, what can you do to prevent your operation from becoming a target for fuel or pesticide thieves?

1. Check your location(s) on Google Earth and check for unsecured access points.
2. Restrict access to pesticide storage areas of non-essential visitors or employees.
3. Order pesticides in quantities sufficient to only satisfy the needs of a couple of days of applications.
4. Lock your facilities and report suspicious activity to law enforcement.

Certified Pile Burner Class

A Certified Pile Burner Class has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at the Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agricultural Center in Sebring. For details on the class, registration forms, etc. click on the following link:

<http://highlands.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/11%20Certified%20Pile%20Burner%20Registration%20Packet.pdf>

The registration fee is \$50.00. Class size is limited to 50.

The Certified Pile Burner class is designed to prepare people to become certified to burn piles of brush and debris that result from land clearing, removal of citrus trees, certain types of construction, etc. Persons who attend the eight-hour class will take an open book exam at the end of the day. Those who do not pass the exam can retake the exam at a later date. Once the exam is passed, the person will contact their local forester at DOF for their first pile burn. The local forester will issue a permit to burn based on the burn plan developed by the certified pile burner, and will observe the first burn. Then, the person will receive a certification that is good for five years. At the end of five years, the certification can be renewed provided there were five pile burns made during the previous five years.

A Certified Pile Burner can receive permits and priority to complete burns under less desirable, dryer weather conditions, receive multiple permits for burns and may burn two hours longer per day. This year the legislature has authorized a waiver of liability for damage or injury caused by a fire or resulting smoke, provided the certified pile burner conducted the fire in accordance with certified pile burner standards.

Pesticide Usage in the U.S.

The EPA recently released estimates of pesticide use in the U.S. as of 2007. A look at the numbers should keep you thinking about your shared responsibility as a pesticide applicator and steward of agriculture and the environment.

Highlights of the report include:

- Pesticide sales in the United States were approximately \$12.5 billion at the user level. Pesticide use in the U.S. was 1.1 billion pounds in 2007, or 22% of the world estimate of 5.2 billion pounds of pesticide use.
- Total pounds of U.S. pesticide use decreased 8% from 1.2 billion pounds in 2000 to 1.1 billion pounds in 2007.
- Eighty percent of all U.S. pesticide use was in agriculture.

- Herbicides remain the most widely used type of pesticide in the agricultural market sector.
- Among the top 10 pesticides used on terms of pounds applied in the agricultural market were the herbicides glyphosate, atrazine, metolachlor-s, acetochlor, 2,4-D, and pendimethalin, and the fumigants metam sodium, dichloropropene, methyl bromide and chloropicrin.

The entire report can be found at the following link:

<http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/pestsales/>

Syngenta Scholarship

Syngenta North America is proud to announce that it will once again be supporting the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association education scholarship. This is the eighth year that Syngenta is sponsoring the scholarship.

Students can visit www.SyngentaFFVAScholarship.com to learn more about the program and apply for their chance to win a \$5,000 scholarship.

- Scholarship applicants will be required to write a 700-word essay on a selected topic as part of the application process.
- The scholarship is open to Florida high school seniors and college students interested in pursuing a career in agriculture and who will be attending one of several Florida institutions.
- The application window of opportunity runs from April 19 to August 19, 2011 and applications must be submitted online.

Pesticide Applicator Training Opportunities

General Certification Standards (CORE) Training & Testing

- Wednesday, July 6, 2011, 9:00 AM to 10:40 AM with exam to follow.
- Cost is \$20 with checks payable to SLC Extension Advisory Council or use the online registration and payment option at the link, below.
- Call (772) 462-1660 for more information.

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1660989063>

Private Applicator Category Training and Testing

- The Private Applicator license is for individuals who wish to purchase or supervise the application of Restricted Use pesticides for their agricultural operation or for their employer.
- Thursday, May 26, 2011, 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM with exam to follow.
- Cost is \$15 with pre-registration REQUIRED. Make checks payable to SLC Extension Advisory Council.
- Call (772)462-1660 for more information and to register.

Citrus Industry Magazine

- Pesticide Stewardship: Your Responsibility to the Environment
- One General Standards (CORE) CEU

<http://www.citrusindustry.net/2011ceu2.html>

Florida Grower Magazine

- A Large Selection of General Standards (CORE) CEU's

<http://www.growingproduce.com/floridagrower/ceu/>

Just for Fun

A Tale of Three Bulls

Three bulls, one large, one medium, and one small, were standing in their pasture and had just heard that the farmer had bought a new, larger bull.

The largest of the three said, "Well, he's not getting any of my cows."

The medium bull said, "He's not getting any of my cows either."

The little bull said, "Well, if he's not getting any of yours, then he's not getting any of mine either."

Two days later, a semi-trailer pulls into the yard, and they unload the new bull.

The new bull is really, really big and quite unhappy from having been cooped-up for the long journey, and it's quite evident to the other three resident bulls.

Without hesitation, the biggest bull says, "He can have my cows."

The medium bull says, "He can have my cows too."

The smallest bull hesitates, and then starts pawing the ground, snorting and bellowing in plain sight of the new bull.

"What's wrong with you, are you crazy?" the other two ask. To which the little bull replies, "No, I'm just showing him I'm not a cow!"

Take Care,

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