

UF/IFAS/St. Lucie Extension, 8400 Picos Road, Suite 101, Ft. Pierce, FL 34945
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Treasure Coast Citrus Notes

December - 2011

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2012 Florida Citrus Show

The 2012 Florida Citrus Show will be held on January 25 & 26, 2012 at the Havert L. Fenn Center in Ft. Pierce. The program will feature 19 presentations over the 2-day show on topics of major importance to the citrus industry in Florida. The simultaneous trade show will have dozens of exhibitors featuring equipment, software, crop protection and nutritional products and educational booths. Admission to the Florida Citrus Show is free. **Pre-registration** is highly recommended, which will expedite your entrance into the show. Certified Pesticide Applicator and CCA CEUs will be offered the second day of the show.

Click on the following link to pre-register and gain more information about this important educational event:

<http://www.citrusshow.com/>

2012 Ag Worker Training Day

In order to assist the many growers that are now engaged in the food safety audit process, IFAS Extension and the Statewide BMP staff are again offering a training day to satisfy the requirements for personal and workplace hygiene; equipment and pesticide application safety; and fire and hazardous materials spill management. We'll also be holding a tractor driving skill rodeo and disease identification contest after lunch to determine which citrus company will be awarded the coveted Indian River Cup for the next year. The winner will have to have a high scoring individual in both contests to have a chance to unseat last years' winner, the team from IMG Citrus, Inc.

The training day will be held on **Wednesday, January 18, 2012** at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds. The program will start at 8:00 AM, so have your people there early so we can get them signed in. Certificates of attendance will be issued for the program to provide documentation for future audits.

Pre-registration is required because a large crowd is expected and lunch will be provided. The cost is \$5 per person with checks made payable to: **St. Lucie County Extension Advisory Council**. To register your employees, mail or email a list of those individuals to Tim Gaver, 8400 Picos Rd, Ste 101, Ft. Pierce, FL 34945 or tgaver.49@ufl.edu prior to January 13, 2012. For more information, contact Tim Gaver, Extension Agent – Citrus, (772) 462-1660.

FLOWER BUD INDUCTION ADVISORY

Dr. Gene Albrigo, Horticulturist Emeritus at the CREC in Lake Alfred is again posting his citrus flower bud induction advisories. Gene monitors the accumulated hours below the threshold for flower induction (less than 68° F) as the season progresses and predicts bloom dates based on this data. In the southern areas of the state, Gene recommends that soil moisture be maintained at low levels if daily high temperatures go up into the mid-80's prior to January 1 to avoid early initiation of bud growth. This recommendation is problematic on blocks that haven't been harvested, but should be considered on harvested blocks.

A minimum of 700 hours of induction hours are required for flowering for an economic crop, with 900 hours being more desirable. As of December 7, southern areas had accumulated 345 hours, which means more cool weather would be welcomed for a number of reasons. In years where total induction

hours are marginal, flower induction sprays may be helpful, especially on trees with a heavy crop and/or with weak root systems. These sprays (80 – 125 GPA) are usually applied in early January if needed and should contain 53 to 60 lbs of spray grade urea or a phosphite product at 3 pints to 2 quarts per acre, depending on the analysis of the product. You can access the 2012 flower bud advisories at the following link:

<http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/flowerbud/2012/index.shtml>

NEW FAWN FREEZE ALERT SYSTEM

The Florida Ag Weather Network (FAWN) has added an alert system that will notify users either by text message or by email when temperatures become critically low. FAWN conducted a pilot project to test the system at two sites last winter. More than 500 users registered to receive the messages during the season and reported they were happy with the results. This winter, the alerts will be available from all 36 FAWN sites around the state.

A subscription is required and costs \$50 per season for text message alerts, \$20 for email alerts, or \$60 for both.

Those who register will receive a series of four alerts on nights when temperatures are critically low.

Message 1: When the temperature at a user-selected FAWN site falls to within 2 degrees above the user-selected critical minimum temperature.

Message 2: When the temperature at a user-selected FAWN site is equal to the user-selected critical minimum temperature.

Message 3: When the temperature at a user-selected FAWN site climbs to within 2 degrees of the temperature determined by the FAWN Wet Bulb Temperature Cutoff Tool.

Message 4: When the temperature at a user-selected FAWN site is equal to the temperature determined by the FAWN Wet Bulb Temperature Cutoff Tool

The notifications allow production managers to make decisions for freeze protection as quickly as possible and also to possibly save water and energy in the field.

More information can be obtained by clicking on the following link and then on the **FAWN TEXT ALERT SYSTEM** tab:

<http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Minimum Wage Increases on January 1st.

The minimum wage will change again for the State of Florida this coming January 1st! Florida's minimum wage went to \$7.31 an hour on June 1, 2011 due to a law suit brought by several labor organizations. The initiative passed by the legislature requires that each September the state re-calculate the Florida minimum wage for the following year. This year they have decided to increase the current rate of \$7.31 per hour to **\$7.67** per hour effective January 1, 2012. This means that you will have to update your Worker Information - Terms and Conditions of Employment forms (WH-516) and change to the new minimum wage poster effective January 1, 2012. Please remember to update all your postings. This is a good time to review your "broken-arm" posters to make sure your dates of coverage on the labels are still valid.



WORKERS' COMP WORKS FOR YOU

\$25,000 Reward
Anti-Fraud Reward Program

Rewards of up to \$25,000 may be paid to persons providing information to the Department of Insurance leading to the arrest and conviction of persons committing insurance fraud, including employers who illegally fail to obtain workers' compensation coverage. Persons may report suspected fraud to the department at 1-800-378-0445. A person is not subject to civil liability for furnishing such information, if such person acts without malice, fraud or bad faith.

Workers' compensation pays your medical bills and other expenses and replaces part of your salary if you are injured while working.

You should expect if you are unable to work for more than seven days to be compensated for a portion of your lost wages, limited to the maximum as set by law.

If you are injured on the job:

- 1. Notify your employer immediately to get the name of an approved physician. Workers' comp insurance may not pay the medical bills if you don't let the employer know you have been injured.**
- 2. Remind the doctor and medical staff that you are covered under workers' comp.**
- 3. If you have any problems with your claim or suffer excessive delays in treatment, contact the Division of Workers' Compensation at 1-800-342-1741.**

Posters of this nature must be posted by the employer and maintained conspicuously in and about the employer's place of business.
State of Florida Division of Workers' Compensation

NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES FLORIDA MINIMUM WAGE

On July 24, 2009 the new Federal minimum wage of \$7.25 will replace Florida's minimum wage. This wage rate will be effective until the Florida rate exceeds the Federal rate.

The minimum wage is different for tipped employees. On July 24, 2009 the new Florida minimum wage for tipped employees will be \$4.23 per hour plus tips.

The Florida minimum wage is recalculated yearly on September 30, based on the Consumer Price Index. Every year on January 1, the new Florida minimum wage takes effect unless the Federal rate is greater.

An employer may not retaliate against an employee for exercising his or her right to receive the minimum wage. Rights protected by the State Constitution include the right to:

1. File a complaint about an employer's alleged noncompliance with lawful minimum wage requirements.
2. Inform any person about an employer's alleged noncompliance with lawful minimum wage requirements.
3. Inform any person of his or her potential rights under Section 24, Article X of the State Constitution and to assist him or her in asserting such rights.

An employee who has not received the lawful minimum wage after notifying his or her employer and giving the employer 15 days to resolve any claims for unpaid wages may bring a civil action in a court of law against an employer to recover back wages plus damages and attorney's fees.

An employer found liable for intentionally violating minimum wage requirements is subject to a fine of \$1,000 per violation, payable to the state.

The Attorney General or other official designated by the Legislature may bring a civil action to enforce the minimum wage.

For details, see Section 24, Article X of the State Constitution and Section 448.110, Florida Statutes.

Postharvest Issues Persist

Dr. Mark Ritenour, Postharvest Physiologist at the Indian River REC reports that continued abnormal rainfall events are probably contributing to issues with postharvest diseases such as Diplodia stem-end rot, brown rot and some sour rot. A copy of Eldon Brown's "Identification of Diseases, Peel Injuries and Blemishes of Florida Fresh Citrus Fruit" is available at the following link:

[http://irrec.ifas.ufl.edu/postharvest/pdfs/Decay & Disorders/1998-Citrus Fruit Disorders-Brown.pdf](http://irrec.ifas.ufl.edu/postharvest/pdfs/Decay%20&%20Disorders/1998-Citrus%20Fruit%20Disorders-Brown.pdf)

Mark's Postharvest Website is a source of a lot of valuable postharvest information which can be found at the following link:

<http://irrec.ifas.ufl.edu/postharvest/index.shtml>

Citrus Research Field Day

A Citrus Research Field Day began at the Citrus REC in Lake Alfred on November 15, 2011 and participants went on to visit the St. Helena Citrus Rootstock Evaluation Project and the Gapway Groves Advanced Citrus Production System field sites in the area. A comprehensive report on that program has been posted on the Advanced Citrus Production Systems Website. The report has a ton of information on rootstock performance; nutritional programs; pest management programs; and irrigation schedules and equipment. I would highly recommend that you visit this site and save this report. I can assure you that you will extract some very useful information from this document.

<http://128.227.177.113/ACPS/Documents/Citrus%20Field%20Day%20Handout-%202011-15-11.pdf>

2011 Preliminary Commercial Citrus Inventory

Results of the annual commercial citrus inventory show total Florida citrus acreage is 541,328, down 2.3 percent, from the last survey. Compared to the previous inventory, the net decrease of 12,709 acres is less with a lower gross loss (21,769) and fewer new plantings (9,060). Of the 30 counties included in the survey, 23 recorded decreases in acreage, 5 showed increases, and 2 are unchanged. Martin County, down 4,567 acres, has suffered the greatest loss for three straight years and has been declining since 1994. Desoto County has recorded gains in the last 4 surveys and this year's gain of 739 is the most of any

county. Polk remains the leader in acreage with 82,577 and has taken the lead in trees with 9.9 million.

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Publications/Citrus/ccipre/ccipr11.pdf

FSHS Student Video Essay Competition

This competition is open to Florida High School Seniors in public, private or home school. The theme for the contest is "**What Florida's Horticulture Means to Me**". All entries must:

- Be submitted via email or on a CD/DVD or email a hyperlink to where the video is hosted
- Be suitable for computer viewing (.avi,.wmv or .mpeg format)
- Be 2 to 5 minutes in length and express how the impact of horticulture affects the life of the "author" (Producer, Director, etc.)
- Include a completed application form**
- Deadline for submissions is March 1, 2012

The winning entry for 2012 will receive a \$300 scholarship award, a one-year student membership in the Florida State Horticultural Society and have their video published in the CD edition of the Proceedings and posted on the FSHS website. ** For full contest rules and an application form, visit the FSHS website:

<http://www.fshs.org/>

Pesticide Applicator Training/CEU Opportunities

Reminder to Notify FDACS of a Change of Address

- Renewing your Certified Pesticide Applicator License every 4 years is required. FDACS, Bureau of Compliance Monitoring will mail your renewal form to the address listed on your license. If you have a new address, complete the form at the following link and mail or fax to FDACS in Tallahassee using the contact info on the form:

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/onestop/forms/13359.pdf>

General Standards (CORE) Training & Testing

- Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM with exam to follow at the Extension Classroom, 8400 Picos Rd, Ft. Pierce, FL 34945
- Cost is \$20 with checks payable to SLC Extension Advisory Council
- **Pre-registration Requested.** Call 772 462-1660 for more information

Citrus Industry Magazine

- Product Stewardship CEU article
- One General Standards (CORE) CEU

<http://www.citrusindustry.net/2011ceu5.html>

Florida Grower Magazine

- A Large Selection of General Standards (CORE) CEU articles

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

Just for Fun

New Doctor in Town

Fresh out of medical school, the very confident new doctor set up his practice in a small rural town. After briefly examining one of his first patients, he asked the man, "Before you came to see me, who was treating you for your problem?"

"Just old man Horace down at the corner drugstore," replied the patient.

Still full of himself as a new doctor and unable to hide his disdain for a lay person giving medical advice, the doctor blurted out, "And what kind of stupid advice did that incompetent old fool give you?"

"He told me to come and see you," replied the patient.

Why Bother?

The teacher asked her class to write an essay telling what they would do if they had 5 million dollars. Every student except little Johnny started writing immediately. After ten minutes, the teacher collected the papers, only to find that little Johnny had handed in a blank sheet.

"What's this?" asked the teacher. "Everyone else has written at least two pages, but you've done nothing"

"Well," replied Johnny, "That's exactly what I would do if I had 5 million dollars!"

I Hope He's not after Me

After a fairly long chase, a highway patrol officer finally got Bubba to respond to the flashing lights and siren and pull his truck over.

"Don't you know what those flashing lights and siren mean, mister?" he forcefully asked.

"Yes, sir," Bubba quickly answered.

"Well then, why didn't you pull over when you saw the lights?"

"I would have, but last month my wife ran off with a policeman and I was afraid you were bringing her back!"

Happy Holidays,

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