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Treasure Coast Citrus Notes

January – 2009

2009 Indian River Citrus Seminar

The 2009 Indian River Citrus Seminar is scheduled for January 28 and 29, 2009 at the new Havert L. Fenn Center in Ft. Pierce. The Fenn Center is located at 2000 Virginia Avenue in Ft. Pierce. This facility is just east of the St. Lucie County Administrative Complex and just west of the Lawnwood Sports Complex. This new venue will allow all of the citrus industry suppliers to exhibit in one area with seminar presentations just across the hall in one of the large meeting rooms.

The seminar planning committee has set up an excellent program with 4 general sessions titled; New Citrus Varieties, The Grove of the Future, HLB International Perspectives and Research Initiative, and Grove Management Practices (emphasis on Asian Citrus Psyllid management). To pre-register for the program, view the program itself and get directions, go to the Florida Grower Magazine events webpage at: www.flgevents.com.

Indian River Citrus League Banquet

The 2009 **Indian River Citrus League/Citrus Seminar Banquet** will be held on Tuesday evening, January 27, 2009, prior to the seminar. The banquet location will be the Inn at Ocean Village on South Hutchinson Island, 2400 South Ocean Drive (A1A), Ft. Pierce. For more information or to purchase tickets (\$35), contact the Indian River Citrus League at 772-562-2728 or info@citrusleague.org or the Citrus Seminar website. It should be a great evening, so order your tickets early and join your industry professionals for a sumptuous meal and door prizes.

Ag Worker Training Day

The 2009 Ag Worker Training Day is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27 at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds. This is the day **prior** to the Indian River Citrus Seminar which is a change from years' past. Training programs will include Fire Safety, First Aid, Hazmat and Spill Control, Worker Protection Standard, Equipment Safety, Pesticide Application Safety and Personal Hygiene in the Workplace. There will also be a Tractor Rodeo and a Canker/Greening Contest.

Pre-registration is required to facilitate planning for a large crowd and for lunch which will be provided. The cost is \$5 per person with checks payable to the St. Lucie County 4-H Foundation. Contact Maria Solis at (772) 468-3922 ext 100 or at masolis@ufl.edu to register your employees. For more information and to check out the program schedule, visit the Citrus page on the IFAS/St. Lucie County Extension website: <http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu>

International Research Conference on Huanglongbing (HLB)

This conference was held in Orlando in the first week in December. It was a busy four days as researchers from every citrus producing area in the world gathered to present papers regarding their research findings related to HLB. The presenters included plant pathologists, entomologists, plant geneticists and citrus horticulturists. It quickly became apparent that there are many great minds working on this citrus greening problem. I would suggest to you that we have a number of “scary smart” researchers working here in Florida at IFAS in Gainesville, at the IFAS Research and Education Centers and at the USDA Horticultural Research Lab. You’re probably aware of the huge research effort being funded this year (with grower \$), and I’m confident that this group of scientists is going to solve this Citrus Greening disease problem in the not-too-distant future.

So, what did we bring home from the Conference? Given that a huge amount of information was presented, here are a few observations on a small part of what was presented:

- Costs for HLB management can add about \$450 per acre to production costs in Florida. This includes additional inputs for scouting, psyllid control and tree removal.
- The application of a dormant season (January-February) spray for psyllids is an effective and critical part of the control program of the insect for the rest of the year. All of the pesticides recommended for psyllid control were effective at this time of year.
- Psyllids are more effective vectoring the disease during the cooler months of the year, placing even more importance on controlling the insect in the spring and removing infected trees that are easier to spot in the fall and winter months.
- The concept of interplanting guavas with citrus is not workable in Florida. One paper was presented with data that showed interplanting (without pesticides) was not effective in one site in Southeast Asia, which caused quite a bit of discussion. However, the guava component that repels psyllids (disulfide) has been isolated by researchers at the CREC and a commercial product could soon be developed and available for use by the industry.
- While biological control of the psyllid is not currently an effective method of control in producing groves, research needs to be conducted to develop strategies for biological control in abandoned groves and in dooryard citrus.
- Several research projects documented the “edge effect” of HLB finds. That is, the incidence of positive HLB trees tends to be higher along roadways, drainage or irrigation ditches, ponds, etc. Some have theorized that this is a result of quicker disease expression that is related to horticultural stresses induced by poor drainage, soil compaction, high pH or other factors.

- Although many have been searching for years in all of the areas of the world where HLB has been present, no apparently resistant citrus trees have been found. There have been trees located that have some tolerant characteristics and these may prove helpful in breeding efforts.
- Genetic engineering to produce HLB resistant rootstocks appears to have considerable promise. Resistant rootstocks would be subjected to a much shorter agency approval process than scion varieties that might be developed.
- More information is going to be presented at the Indian River Citrus Seminar.

Click on the following web address to access the proceedings of the conference:

http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/hlb_conference/Proceedings.pdf

And, just to recap the current IFAS recommendations for HLB management:

1. Use HLB-free planting/reset material. Current citrus nursery regulations require that trees be grown in a screened greenhouse to effectively exclude psyllids, in addition to other requirements.
2. Scout frequently for HLB and remove or kill infected trees to reduce the source of disease inoculum in your grove.
3. Control Asian Citrus Psyllids to reduce the possibility of spread by the insect vector.
4. Maintain the nutritional health of your trees. In general, healthy trees are able to better withstand the effects of disease.

2009 HLB & Canker Research Efforts Funded

In mid-December, the Florida Citrus Production Research Advisory Council (FCPRAC) met to review the recommendations of the National Academy of Science peer review panels regarding some 260 research project requests for funding. 83 research proposals dealing mostly with HLB and citrus canker were ultimately funded with some \$16 million grower dollars. This level of funding is unprecedented and comes from a portion of the Florida Citrus Commission advertising budget. The grower members on the FCPRAC have invested a huge amount of time and effort to make this research push a reality. For more information about how this all came about and what the future holds, go the Florida Citrus Industry Research Coordinating Council (FCIRCC) website and read the current IN THE LOOP newsletter. <http://www.fcircc.org/>

The Citrus HLB (Greening) Database

The Citrus Greening Database is a cooperative effort between the University of Florida/IFAS and the Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA). The objective is to compile and centralize worldwide information related to HLB in a user friendly database that can be accessed by everyone. The HLB database is a worldwide compilation of published articles, memos, proceedings and extension material related to HLB. This database is a dynamic project that will be expanding over time. <http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/hlb/database>

Citrus Greening Scouting Companies

Updated January 2009

Disclaimer: The listing in this publication does not indicate general or specific endorsement or exclusion of product or service, nor does it indicate approval by the University of Florida, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, or the Florida Cooperative Extension Service. If you would like your company information to be added to this list, please contact Jamie Yates, jdoyates@ufl.edu or 863-956-1151.

Circle H Citrus, Inc.

P.O. Box 14049, Ft. Pierce, Florida 34979
Contact: Hoyt Howard
Office: 772-461-886
Cell: 772-643-5789
Fax: 772-461-9477
Email: hoytjr@bellsouth.net
Method: Walking
Counties: Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie

Florida Citrus Service, Inc.

PO Box 295, Arcadia, Florida 34265
Contact: Matt Moye
Office: 863-993-1138
Cell: 863-990-0071
Fax: 863-993-2002
Method: Walking
Counties: All Florida counties

Krause Grove Service, Inc.

2807 Ralph Johns Road, Wauchula, Florida 33873
Contact: Bobby Krause
Office: 863-735-1286
Cell: 863-781-0235
Fax: 863-735-2532
Email: kgs@earthlink.net
Methods: Walking, ATV, Elevated platform
Counties: Desoto, Hardee, Highlands, Manatee, Polk

Lennon Grove Service

2701 Dean Ridge Road, Orlando, Florida 32825
Contact: Bill Lennon
Office: 407-384-1411
Cell: 407-719-5496
Fax: 407-384-9678
Email: lgscitrus@aol.com
Method: ATV
Counties: Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Volusia

Nuvee Enterprises, Inc.

8501 SW 10th Lane, Okeechobee, Florida 34974
Contact: Bruce Sutton
Cell: 863-697-8840
Fax: 863-357-7764
Email: nuveeinc@yahoo.com
Website: www.nuveeinc.com
Methods: Walking, Elevated Platform
Counties: Collier, Desoto, Hendry, Highlands, Indian River, Okeechobee, Manatee, Martin, Palm Beach, Polk, St. Lucie

Smook Groves, Inc.

1025 CR 17 N., Lake Placid, Florida 33852
Contact: Holly Chamberlain
Office: 863-465-2561
Cell: 863-990-7268
Fax: 863-465-7301
Nextel: 158*11977*6
Email: h1chamberlain@embarqmail.com
Methods: Walking, ATV, Elevated Platform
Counties: All Florida counties

Statewide Harvesting and Hauling, L.L.C.

PO Box 1804, Dundee, Florida 33838
Contact: Todd Holtsberry
Office: 863-439-4225
Cell: 863-287-0865
Fax: 863-439-9503
Email: tholtsberry@statewideharvesting.com
Methods: ATV, Elevated platform
Counties: Brevard, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Manatee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Polk, Seminole, St. Lucie, Volusia

For more information, please contact your local multi-county citrus extension agent <http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu>



Predicting the 2009 Bloom Period

For the last 10 years, Dr. Gene Albrigo, Horticulturist at the CREC in Lake Alfred has provided time of bloom predictions based on a Flower Bud Induction Overview and Advisory model. This model basically utilizes the number of hours accumulated below 68 degrees to predict when our trees are going to bloom. As I'm sure you've noticed, we've had an abnormally cool fall period followed by some warmer temperatures in December. The result is that the current advisory model indicates an early bloom starting the first week of February in St. Lucie County. A bloom at this time would have to be regarded as "early" and would unfortunately be subject to the threat of frost. Be advised that the bloom dates indicated by this model are modified weekly, depending on current weather conditions. At this time, Dr. Albrigo advises that growers be aware of the potential frost danger and perhaps utilize an irrigation schedule that withholds supplemental water and will perhaps retard this early bloom possibility. Of course, rainfall and warm weather are beyond your control if it occurs.

It has been my observation that many growers apply more irrigation than necessary during the winter period, denying trees that have already been harvested a chance to rest and build up carbohydrate reserves for the next year's crop. The result is a lengthy and weak bloom. Trees that have not been harvested require more supplemental irrigation to avoid the "soft fruit" that our harvesting partners are quick to bring to our attention.

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

Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN)

Since we've just mentioned weather, let's not forget the IFAS FAWN weather system that provides real time weather data at 35 locations across the state. By monitoring weather conditions at sites at other locations, one may be able to better predict the ultimate weather outcome at your grove site.

Also on the FAWN site, Chris Oswalt, Polk County Citrus Agent, generates a page with Citrus Leaf Freezing Point Data that is updated on a regular basis during the winter season. There is also an AgroClimate tab that offers long-range forecasts and weather data for the Southeast U.S.

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

Florida's Minimum Wage Increased Jan 1

Florida's minimum wage will be \$7.21 per hour, effective January 1, 2009. This is up from the \$6.79 per hour minimum wage in 2008. On November 2, 2004, Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment which created Florida's minimum wage. The minimum wage applies to all employees in the state who are covered by the federal minimum wage. Florida law requires the Agency for Workforce Innovation to calculate a new minimum wage each year and publish the new minimum wage on January 1. The current minimum wage represents a 6.2 percent change in the federal Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners and clerical workers in the South Region for the 12-month period prior to September 1, 2008.

In deciding whether the federal or state minimum wage applies, federal law directs that businesses must pay the higher of the two. The Florida minimum wage will prevail over the federal rate until such time as the federal minimum wage becomes higher than the state rate. The federal minimum wage will increase to \$7.25 on July 24, 2009. On this date, Florida employers must increase the minimum wage from \$7.21 to \$7.25.

Employers must pay their employees the hourly state minimum wage for all hours worked in Florida. The definitions of "employer," "employee" and "wage" for state purposes are the same as those established under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

Florida Statutes require employers who must pay their employees the Florida minimum wage to post a minimum wage notice in a conspicuous and accessible place in each establishment where these employees work. This poster requirement is in addition to the federal requirement to post a notice of the federal minimum wage.

The Florida and federal minimum wage will increase as follows:

\$7.21 – January 1, 2009 Florida New Minimum Wage

\$7.25 – July 24, 2009 Federal and Florida New Minimum Wage

2009 Notice to Employees Poster (English)

http://www.floridajobs.org/minimumwage/Poster-FL_MinWage2009.doc

2009 Notice to Employees Poster (Spanish)

<http://www.floridajobs.org/minimumwage/Spanish%20Version%20Min%20Wage%20Poster.doc>

2009 Florida Certified Pile Burner Courses

The Florida Division of Forestry and University of Florida IFAS are cooperating to offer Certified Pile Burners Courses in 2009. This course will show you how to burn piles legally, safely and efficiently. Most importantly, it could save a life by decreasing risks associated with smoke on roadways. If you burn piles regularly, don't put off registering for this training. **When the weather is dry, certified pile burners will receive priority for authorization to burn.** Also, certified pile burners are allowed to burn up to two hours longer per day and get multiple day authorizations. Don't wait. The number of trainings offered and attendance at each training is LIMITED. The cost of the course is \$50 per person and includes all course materials, test and lunch.

February 24, 2009; Highlands County Extension Office in Sebring, FL

http://www.fl-dof.com/calendar/cal_pdf/pile_burner_sebring_Feb2009.pdf

I have been trying to schedule a course in St. Lucie County but have not been able to convince the Florida Division of Forestry that we have sufficient local demand for such a program. The courses have historically filled up quickly. If you are unable to get registered in Sebring or are unwilling to travel to Sebring for the course, give me a call or send me an email so that I can document a local need for this program.

Updated State Canker/Greening Map

Click on the following web address to download a current map of Citrus Canker and Greening finds in the state. Greening has now been found in all of the citrus producing counties in the state, with the higher concentrations of finds in the southern half of the citrus belt.

http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/chrp/ArcReader/CC_HLB.pdf

Certified Pesticide Applicator Training

General Standards (CORE) Training and Exam. Preparation for the General Standards Exam required for all of the Pesticide Application Categories. 2 General Standard CEU's will be offered for individuals who are current license holders. This course will be offered on January 7th and then again on February 3rd, 2009. Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$15.00. Call (772) 462-1660 for details and to pre-register.

Just for Fun

Two rednecks, Bubba and Earl, were driving down the road drinking a couple of bottles of Bud.

The passenger, Bubba, said "look up ahead, Earl, it's a police roadblock!! We're gonna get busted for drinkin' these here beers!!"

Don't worry, Bubba", Earl said. "We'll just pull over and finish drinkin' these beers, peel off the label and stick it on our foreheads, and throw the bottles under the seat".

"What for?" asked Bubba.

"Just let me do the talking', OK?" said Earl.

Well, they finished their beers, threw the empty bottles under the seat, and each put a label on their forehead. When they reached the roadblock, the sheriff said, "You boys been drinkin'?"

"No, sir", said Earl. "We're on the patch"!

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St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension
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