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## Treasure Coast Citrus Notes

July - 2008

Hello, my name is Tim Gaver and welcome to my first issue of the Treasure Coast Citrus Notes. I have a long, distinguished legacy to follow and I'm looking forward to the challenge. Part of my job is to help keep you folks up to date with the latest information from the IFAS research system in this rapidly changing industry. We'll continue to offer training opportunities for the certified pesticide applicator, field worker safety, packinghouse food safety and other categories. Please don't hesitate to tell me what your needs are and I'll do my best to help you out. I'm in the process of updating the Citrus section of the St. Lucie County Extension website and planning training sessions for the fall. Contact me at the main office phone (772 462-1660) or by e-mail ([tgaver.49@ufl.edu](mailto:tgaver.49@ufl.edu)).

If you would like to be added to our newsletter, please email me and we will be happy to add you to our subscriber list and send you the newsletter electronically.

[Have you met EDIS?](#) – The Electronic Data Information System for IFAS Extension is a collection of information on topics relevant to you, your business and your family. The **EDIS** website can be found on the Internet at [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu) and contains a world of information on agriculture, the environment, family and consumer, and the list goes on. For you citrus guys, go to the **EDIS** homepage, click on **Topics**, then **Citrus** under the **Agriculture** tab and you're off to the races. I'll bet you can't leave the site without printing or saving at least a couple of fact sheets.

[Get that Computer Cranked Up!](#) - The addresses are a little long, but they will lead you to much of the information that is available on Citrus Greening and Canker.

For Citrus Greening, go to: <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/greening/index.htm>

For Citrus Canker, go to: <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/canker/index.htm>

For a current Citrus Greening Map, go to:  
<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/chrp/greening/StatewidePositiveHLBSections.pdf>

[Nutrition of Florida Citrus Trees, Second Edition](#) -- Publication **SL253**, edited by Dr. Tom Obreza, Professor, Soil & Water Science, UF/IFAS, Gainesville and Dr. Kelly Morgan, Asst. Professor, Soil & Water Science, Southwest REC, Immokalee is now available. First published in the mid 1990's, this second edition contains the newest fertilizer recommendations for Florida Citrus. With growers incurring dramatic increases in the cost of fertilizer inputs, it makes sense to have this newest resource in your library. We are already out of hard copies at our office. You can download a PDF copy from the EDIS system, or get a CD at our office.

[2008 Florida Citrus Pest Management Guide](#) -- Publication **SP043** is available if you don't already have a copy. Growers can order a copy from the IFAS Bookstore by going on line at <http://www.ifasbooks.ufl.edu> and clicking on the books tab under Agriculture or call them at 800-226-1764. Cost is \$15.00, plus tax and shipping. It's a painless process if you use a credit card and they will get it out to you in a hurry. The Pest Management Guide is also available on line at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> in PDF form. You can download and print the whole guide or just the sections that you need.

[HLB \(Citrus Greening\) Lab open at SWFREC, Immokalee](#) -- The new facility is dedicated to the "real time" PCR-based molecular diagnostics of Huanglongbing (HLB), also known as Greening Disease. It will complement the lab currently operated by Southern Gardens Citrus.

Suspect HLB citrus samples can be shipped to or delivered directly to the lab. Detailed instructions about how to collect and submit citrus samples can be found in the attached HLB Sample Submission form and the Procedure for Sampling and Shipping Plant Material page. Additional information is also posted on the SWFREC Web page: <http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/hlb/>.

The Southwest Florida Research & Education Center is located just north of Immokalee at 2686 SR 29 North. Their telephone number is (239) 658-3400.

[Florida Citrus Resources Site](#) -- The address to this website, maintained by Dr. Mark Ritenour, Assoc. Professor, Indian River REC, is <http://flcitrus.ifas.ufl.edu/>. This website gives you access to a huge number of resources in the industry, including archived newsletters from other Extension Agents, links to the Citrus REC at Lake Alfred, etc.

[Hurricane Season is Here Again!](#) -- Here's hoping that we are not targeted by a major storm this season, but now is the time to prepare for that possibility. Take a tour of your operation and note those issues that could not be dealt with in case you only had a couple days warning before a storm.

One of the most common results of a hurricane is the large amount of rainfall that may be deposited on your grove. Removing that excess water as quickly as possible is critical to the health of the roots of your trees! Removing trash and excess aquatic vegetation upstream from drainage structures with recommended herbicides or with equipment may save you from big problems in the future.

[Citrus Health Response Program \(CHRP\)](#) – In 2006, USDA/APHIS determined that citrus canker in Florida could not be eradicated. CHRP was developed to establish accepted standards to propagate, produce, harvest, process and ship healthy Florida citrus. Regulations for the 2008-09 season are very similar to last season. If you were not involved with the program last season, you can access the information you need at <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/chrp/index.html>. The local DOACS/DPI office (772 429-2000) that manages the program is currently located in Ft. Pierce but will be moving soon to a location in Vero Beach. The new location, at 8075 20<sup>th</sup> St., Vero Beach, is very near the Indian River Citrus League Office on Hwy 60.

Now is the time to formulate new CHRP Business Plans and Harvester/Handler Compliance Agreements if necessary. Plans for training employees in proper methods of canker decontamination should also be in place. Canker disease management should still be a high priority on every grower's list.

[Fall Leaf and Soil Testing](#) -- The recommended timing for gathering leaf tissue and soil samples for analysis is in early fall after the end of the rainy season. The spring foliage leaves that are appropriate for sampling are relatively easy to identify at this time and soil leaching of nutrients is mostly over for the season. Download Fact Sheet **SL-115**, Citrus Grove Leaf Tissue and Soil Testing: Sampling, Analysis, and Interpretation at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/CHO46> for the proper sampling techniques.

[Keep Your Eyes Open!](#) – St. Lucie County Ag deputies are investigating a number of recent thefts involving diesel fuel and pesticides. Make an effort to keep your property secure and report any suspicious activity to the Sheriff's department. Let's help catch these crooks!

### [Dates to Remember](#)

[General Standards Training \(CORE\) and Test for Certified Pesticide Applicator Licenses](#). The date is [August 6, 2008](#) (1-2:40 PM) at the St. Lucie County Ag Center. Cost is \$15.00 and **pre-registration is required**. Call 462-1660 for registration information.

[Aquatic Weed Control Exam Prep Course](#) on [August 7, 2008](#) (9 - 10:30 AM) at the St. Lucie County Extension. Call 462-1660 for registration information.

[2008 Citrus Expo](#), Lee Civic Center, Ft. Myers on [August 20-21, 2008](#). Pre-Register online at [CitrusExpo@southeastagnet.com](mailto:CitrusExpo@southeastagnet.com).

**SOLUTIONS**  
for *your* LIFE

St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension

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