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Treasure Coast Citrus Notes

June - 2010

Inside this Edition

- Insect Biocontrol Agent for Waterhyacinth
- Citrus Black Spot Management Timing Schedule
- Medflies Found in Palm Beach County
- New FAWN Site for Indian River County
- 2010 Citrus Expo
- 2011 International Research Conference on HLB
- Presentations from 2010 Citrus Growers' Institute
- Stone Fruit & Blueberry Workshop Presentations
- Syngenta Student Scholarship Opportunity
- BASF Video
- Methidathion (Supracide) Voluntary Cancellation
- Pesticide Applicator Training

Insect Biocontrol Agent for Waterhyacinth

A new insect that will help control the invasive weed waterhyacinth has been released by [Agricultural Research Service](#) (ARS) scientists and cooperators.

Waterhyacinth is a free-floating aquatic plant native to South America that is no stranger to citrus growers. Dense populations of waterhyacinth can affect water quality, infrastructure for pumping, water use and biodiversity. Other problems include fish kills due to low oxygen levels and increases in populations of vectors of human and animal diseases.

M. scutellaris is a small planthopper native to South America whose nymphs and adults feed on the sap of waterhyacinth. Nymphs are active and readily hop, even off the surface of the water. The insect's population increases rapidly, which will enable it to quickly impact the waterhyacinth population.

Herbicides are the primary method for reducing waterhyacinth, but their use directly interferes with the biocontrol agents currently deployed against this weed. The scientists believe *M. scutellaris* may integrate better with existing herbicide programs because of its mobility, which should improve its survival in such highly managed systems.

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2010/100518.htm>



Citrus Black Spot Management Timing Schedule

Dr. Megan Dewdney, CREC, Lake Alfred has authored a new CBS Management Timing Schedule, Plant Pathology document PP 277. The front side of this document details recommended fungicides and application timing to control CBS. The back side of the document is entitled **Foliar Fungal Management Program** and charts out the recommended application timing windows for all the common citrus fungal diseases. Handy laminated versions of this document will be available at various citrus programs and at my office in the near future.

Medfly Found in Palm Beach County

The first major outbreak of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly in Florida since 1998 has occurred in Boca Raton in the southeast portion of Palm Beach County. FDACS inspectors have subsequently trapped a

number of wild flies in mango, loquat and sour orange trees in the immediate area of the initial find.

According to an FDACS news release, “the Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) is considered the most serious of the world's fruit fly pests due to its potential economic harm and threat to our food supply. It attacks more than 250 different fruits, vegetables and nuts, including oranges, grapefruit, lemons, apples, guava, mango, tomatoes and peppers. The flies' eggs are laid in the fruit and develop into maggots causing the fruit to rot. They then emerge as adults once the fruit falls to the ground. Medflies breed continuously when host fruits are available. Population growth may be explosive, as females are capable of producing hundreds of eggs”.

Additional trapping operations and spot sprays on host trees in the area are being conducted at this time. For more information on this potentially serious pest, click on the following link:

<http://www.fl-dpi.com/enpp/ento/medfly-facts.html>



New FAWN Site for Indian River County

Due to the efforts of the Indian River Citrus League and a number of growers, it appears that we will have a new FAWN (Florida Automated Weather Network) site west of Vero Beach on 122nd Ave. The Ft. Pierce FAWN site at the IRREC is generally 2 – 5 degrees warmer than the agricultural areas to the west and this new site will give us much more representative live and saved data during cold weather events. The site is not up and running at this time but should be available by the time winter rolls around.

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

2010 Citrus Expo

Preregistration is now open for the 2010 Citrus Expo to be held on **August 18 & 19, 2010** at the Lee Civic Center in Ft. Myers. Growers who register online (saves time standing in line for a badge at the show and helps plan for numbers for lunch) will be eligible in a drawing for a great big John Deere gun safe. The Citrus Expo registration page has postings for the participating host hotels and also information on a new **Casino Night Fundraiser for FFA**. Could be a fun night for a great cause!

It appears that the planning committee has scheduled an applied lineup of presentations for the Citrus Expo Seminar, with more time for each speaker to hone in on their subject. Click on the following link to preregister for the program, review the program and find lots of other useful information:

<http://citrusexpo.net/index.html>



2011 International Research Conference on HLB

Another research conference on HLB has been scheduled for January 10-14, 2011 in Orlando. Similar to the conference held almost 2 years ago, many researchers, regulatory agency representatives and commercial industry leaders from around the world will gather to present the latest information, knowledge, concepts and ideas related to HLB. Click on the following link to access the conference website:

<http://www.irchlb.org/hlb.aspx>

Stone Fruit and Blueberry Workshop Presentations

We had about 60 interested participants at this workshop which was held on June 15, 2010 at the IRREC. The presentations by IFAS Extension Specialists Drs. Mercy Olmstead and Jeff Williamson and additional stone fruit and blueberry information are located at the following web address:

http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/ag_commercial_horticulture_stonefruit.html

2010 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute Presentations

Copies of the PowerPoint presentations are posted on the IFAS Citrus Agents' Website at this time. The presentations from the 2008 and 2009 Institutes are also still posted if you care to review those informative items. A link to the Citrus Agents Website follows:

http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/Citrus_Agents_Home_Page/Citrus_Agents_Home.html

Syngenta Student Scholarship Opportunity

Continuing its investment in the future of agriculture, Syngenta Crop Protection, Syngenta Seed Care™ and Syngenta Seeds ROGERS® Brand are supporting the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association's (FFVA) education scholarship. Applications are currently being accepted, and the scholarship is open to Florida high school seniors and college students interested in pursuing a career in agriculture. The \$5,000 scholarship opportunity is available to students who meet one of these requirements: 1) any high school senior participating in Florida 4-H or FFA programs who will attend the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Florida, the Division of Agricultural Sciences at Florida A&M University or the Department of Citrus and Horticultural Science at Florida Southern College in the fall; 2) any student (graduate/undergraduate) enrolled in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Florida; 3) any student (graduate/undergraduate) enrolled in the Division of Agricultural Sciences at Florida A&M University; 4) any student (graduate/undergraduate) enrolled in the Department of Citrus and Horticultural Science at Florida Southern College.

Applications must include: 1) name, 2) address, 3) phone number, 4) e-mail, 5) school/college, 6) major/intended major and 7) an essay that does not exceed 350 words. The essay must address the following: **All agricultural resources are becoming increasingly scarce, and still growers are expected to produce higher-quality crops in a larger quantity with fewer resources.** Explain how the Florida citrus or vegetable industry could maximize its resources to meet the growing demand for food, feed and fuel. When writing your essay, consider the following aspects:

- Land Use
- Water Optimization
- Technology Transfer
- Biodiversity

Applications and essays must be submitted **online** by August 20, 2010 at www.SyngentaFFVAScholarship.com. For additional information, please contact Dan Burke at 919-870-5718 or dburke@gibbs-soell.com. There is also a Facebook page called **Look to Ag for Your Future** that students can join.

The scholarship will be presented during FFVA's 67th Annual Convention at The Ritz-Carlton in Naples, Fla., on September 21, 2010. The winner will be informed via letter and will be invited to attend the luncheon at which the scholarship will be presented. Syngenta is dedicated to the future of agriculture, and this is the seventh consecutive year Syngenta Crop Protection has sponsored this scholarship. In addition to scholarships, Syngenta Crop Protection also conducts an internship program in Florida. Participant responsibilities include scouting, soil sampling and collecting, analyzing and reporting on various citrus agricultural data.

BASF Video

BASF has posted a great video on the YouTube website entitled "One Hungry Planet". The video focuses on the role of the American Farmer in the task of helping to feed a world population that will continue to grow at a staggering rate.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jd-48Zw0Tr4>

Methidathion (Supracide®) Voluntary Cancellation

Supracide®, an organophosphate pesticide that has seen little use in Florida in recent history, will be voluntarily cancelled by the registrant (Gowan). Retail sales of methidathion will not be allowed after December 31, 2014, after which time, product in the inventories of grower users may be used according to the label until supplies are exhausted.

Jatropha curcas Plants for Distribution

We have about 15 *Jatropha* plants here at the office that need a good home. This particular cultivar is not cold tolerant, but if you are interested in seeing how this biofuel candidate grows, give me a call and I'll arrange to get you a plant.

Pesticide Applicator Training Opportunities

General Certification Standards (CORE) Training & Testing

- Wednesday, August 4, 2010, 9:00 AM to 10:40 AM with exam to follow.
- Cost is \$20 with checks payable to SLC Extension Advisory Council
- Call (772) 462-1660 to **pre-register** or for more information:

<http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar2.html>

Citrus Industry Magazine

- Pesticide Mixing, Loading & Application
- One General Standards (CORE) CEU

<http://www.citrusindustry.net/ceu1.html>

Florida Grower Magazine

- General Standards (CORE) CEU's

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

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- **Packinghouse Day**, Thursday, August 26, Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred.
- **Indian River Postharvest Workshop**, Friday, August 27, Indian River Research and Education Center, Ft. Pierce.

***** Details coming soon *****

Just for Fun

Nugene skipped work at the sawmill one day and took his son fishing. While they were out in their boat, the boy suddenly became curious about the world around him. He asked his father, "Dad, how does this boat float?"

The father replied, "Don't rightly know son."

A little later, the boy looked at his father and asked, "Dad, how do fish breath underwater?"

Once again the father replied, "Don't rightly know son."

A little later the boy asked his father, "Dad, why is the sky blue?"

Again, the father replied, "Don't rightly know son."

Finally, the boy asked his father, "Dad, do you mind my asking you all of these questions?"

To which Nugene replied, "Of course not, son. If you don't ask questions, you'll never learn nothin'."

Virgil headed down to the creek as he did every morning to draw a bucket of water so his mom could wash the breakfast dishes. Five minutes later, he came running back as if he'd seen a ghost, with the empty bucket in his hand.

“”What's the matter, Virgil?” asked his mother.

“I'd just waded out into the creek to get a nice, clean bucket of water, “ he gasped, “when I looked up and saw a six foot alligator just layin' there lookin' at me.”

“Ah shoot,” said his mother, “a gator that size is probably more afraid of you than you are of it.”

“If that's true,” said Virgil, “there's no point in me going back, a'cause that water ain't fit for washin'!”



Take Care,

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