



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

June - 2011

Inside this Edition.....

- Time to Prepare for Hurricane Season
- UF/IFAS Hydrilla Survey
- Citrus Copper Application Scheduler Meeting
- Summer Copper Fungicide Applications
- UF/IFAS Extension Employment Opportunities
- Pesticide Applicator Training & Testing
(General Standards & Online CEU Opportunities)

Time to Prepare for Hurricane Season

June 1 was the official start of the 2011 hurricane season and forecasters are again predicting an above-average number of storms for the coming months. The Colorado State University forecast is for 9 hurricanes to form, 5 of them of major intensity among a total of 17 named tropical storm systems. Hurricane forecasting is still not an exact science, but the people who work with these complex weather systems are getting increasingly better with their predictions. Hurricane preparation is not a process that should be started a couple of days before a storm is predicted to head our way. Planning should begin now so that you are prepared to act in the last days before a storm. EDIS document HS-804, **Hurricane Preparedness for Citrus Groves** can help you begin that planning process.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/CH/CH17800.pdf>

UF/IFAS Hydrilla Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete the UF/IFAS Hydrilla IPM survey found online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/hydrilla>

This survey is being conducted by the St Lucie County Cooperative Extension in conjunction with the Osceola and Citrus County Extension offices, the Entomology & Nematology Department at the University of Florida and Florida A&M University. Our goal is to survey Florida residents who frequent Florida fresh water bodies for recreation or work. Even if you don't manage Florida waters, your input is important! This survey is being conducted as a part of a needs assessment for a joint research and extension project. You must be 18 years of age or older to participate.

Your participation is voluntary. You do not have to answer any question that you do not wish to answer. Your responses will help us find out what we can do to develop effective educational tools. The survey will take 5 to 10 minutes to complete.

We will keep your answers confidential to the extent provided by law. Your name and the contact information you choose to provide will not be used in any report or shared with others outside the scope of this project. We will only use your answers after they have been combined with the other respondents' answers.

If you have any questions, please email Ken Gioeli at ktgioeli@ufl.edu or Dr. Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman at gillett@ufl.edu.

Thank you for participating in this Florida water bodies with hydrilla survey.

Citrus Copper Application Scheduler Meeting

In my last newsletter, I announced updates to a copper application scheduler model developed a number of years ago. To increase the utilization and understanding of the model by the citrus industry, the citrus extension agents have scheduled a series of educational meetings focusing on this production tool. The schedule of meetings follows on the next page, noting that the meeting in Ft. Pierce will be held on **Wednesday, July 27** at the Indian River REC. In addition to the presentation by Dr. Megan Dewdney, pathologist at the CREC in Lake Alfred, we'll have a number of computers set up in the auditorium for a hands-on experience. 1 CEU in the Ag Tree Crop and Private Applicator categories will be offered.

Citrus Copper Application Scheduler Meeting Series



Presented by: University of Florida and Citrus Extension Agents

Wednesday, June 29th

Highlands County Extension Office
4509 George Blvd., Sebring
Contact Tim Hurner (plowboy@ufl.edu), 863-402-6540

Tuesday, July 12th

DeSoto County Extension Office
2150 NE Roan St., Arcadia
Contact DeSoto County Extension Office (shf@ufl.edu), 863-993-4847

Thursday, July 14th

Southwest Florida Research and Education Center
2685 State Road 29 N, Immokalee
Contact Mongi Zekri (maz@ufl.edu), 863-674-4092

Tuesday, July 19th

Citrus Research and Education Center
700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred
Contact Chris Oswalt (wcoswalt@ufl.edu), 863-519-8677

Tuesday, July 26th

Lake County Extension Office
1951 Woodlea Rd., Tavares
Contact Maggie Jarrell (mjarrell@ufl.edu), 352-343-4101 ext. 2730

Wednesday, July 27th

Indian River Research and Education Center
2199 South Rock Rd., Ft. Pierce
Contact Tim Gaver (tgaver.49@ufl.edu), 772-462-1660

Agenda

- 10:00 am What's new in the world of scheduling copper applications?
Dr. Megan Dewdney, UF-IFAS-CREC
- 10:50 am Scheduler Demonstration
- 11:15 am Question and Answer
- 11:30 am Hands-on program simulation

Participants will receive a rain gauge and copper scheduler instruction card

Summer Copper Fungicide Applications

Indian River fresh grapefruit growers have been battling citrus canker issues for a number of years, and summer signals the time of year when heavy thunderstorms can spread canker rapidly to foliage and fruit. Even though most growers have probably done a pretty good job of managing canker through this long, dry spring, heavy rains can spread the bacteria in short order. Research has shown that raindrops, pushed by the high winds which often accompany thunderstorms, can actually drive the bacteria into the leaf stomates which results in canker infection. This can occur even if copper fungicides have been applied as a protective measure. Citrus leafminer damage on foliage also provides a convenient entrance point for the bacteria.

Copper fungicides are the only products currently recommended for canker control on citrus in Florida. During the summer rainy season, applications of copper fungicides at a 1 lb/acre metallic rate (or more) at 21-day intervals are required. Depending on the variety, oranges grown for the fresh market may have to be sprayed through July to be protected. Fresh grapefruit are susceptible to canker infection until they are fully grown in October and must be treated accordingly. Much more information can be found in the 2011 Florida Citrus Pest Management Guide.

<http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/pest/PDF/2011/Canker.pdf>

Peel blemishes, or “burns” on fresh fruit varieties are often associated with tank mixes containing copper fungicides, especially during the summer period. Tank mix applications when temperatures exceed 90° or those containing spray oils are often blamed. Another issue is the pH (acidity) of tank mixes containing copper fungicides. Many copper fungicide labels recommend a tank mix pH of 6.0 to 6.5 to avoid phytotoxicity. Phosphite materials (Nutriphite, Phostrol, ProPhyt, etc.) are often utilized in foliar nutritional programs and may lower the pH of tank mixes. Potassium carbonate is a readily available and inexpensive product that may be used to increase the pH of tank mixes, if necessary. The potential for reducing peel blemishes resulting from tank mix combinations can possibly be reduced by utilizing the following practices:

1. Add dry or liquid copper fungicide materials to the tank first, allowing them to thoroughly disperse before adding other materials
2. Check the pH of tank mixes frequently, especially after changing water sources, utilizing pH test strips or a reliable meter that has been properly calibrated
3. Add spray oils to the tank last after other materials have thoroughly dispersed to avoid encapsulation of dry materials
4. Avoid spraying in temperatures above 90°

Extension Employment Opportunities

IFAS Extension has an opening for a citrus agent, headquartered in Lake County (Tavares) with responsibilities in 6 additional counties in the northern portion of the citrus belt. In addition to citrus, the new agent will also be expected to focus some effort on other fruit crops. A Master's degree is required in agriculture and experience with citrus or other fruit crops is desirable. Click on the following link for additional information about the position:

https://jobs.ufl.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/position/JobDetails_css.jsp

UFAS Extension also has an opening for a 4-H/Youth Development Agent, based in Indian River County. Details about the position can be found at the following:

<http://personnel.ifas.ufl.edu/0001-4012%20Indian%20River%204-H%20Agent.pdf>

Pesticide Applicator Training/CEU 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.
- **Pre-registration Required**, call (772) 462-1660 for more information.

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

Citrus Industry Magazine

- Understanding Pesticide Formulations
- One General Standards (CORE) CEU

<http://www.citrusindustry.net/2011ceu3.html>

Florida Grower Magazine

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

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

Just for Fun

Young Country Marksman

Preacher Smith decided to pay a visit to the new family that just moved onto the farm down the road. When he pulled in the driveway, he noticed targets everywhere he looked – on the barn, on trees, on the scarecrow. Incredibly, each one of the targets had a bullet hole right in the center of the circle on the target.

Spying a boy in the yard, the preacher walked up to him and asked, “Who’s the marksman around here?”

“I am,” said the kid.

“That’s some shooting,” gushed Preacher Smith. “How’d you learn to shoot like that?”

“Oh, it’s easy,” said the little boy. “I just shoot first and then draw all the circles around the bullet holes later.”

Take Care,

Tim Gaver, Extension Agent - Citrus
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