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Treasure Coast Citrus Notes

May - 2010

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Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) Management

There has been a lot of information developed in the last couple of years about the Asian citrus psyllid and its biology. We know much more about the insect life cycle, its feeding and movement patterns, what pesticides are effective and when and how to apply them, when it transmits greening most effectively and many other helpful facts that should influence our management decisions. We also know a whole lot more about citrus greening disease (HLB) and its consequences, especially those of us who work in the southern half of the citrus growing area in Florida.

I was at a meeting last week with the rest of the Citrus Extension Agents where we were engaged in still another discussion and planning session regarding our future educational efforts in the battle against HLB. Several of the agents commented that they had growers who were not making any

effort to control Asian Citrus Psyllids, in spite of the current recommendations that psyllid control is necessary. I have also heard comments from a couple of growers in the Indian River Area who think that grapefruit are not that badly affected by greening and are not really worried about the disease. Well, some varieties may seem to show a little resistance to the disease in the short term, but I can send you digital photos or show you grapefruit blocks that have been devastated by HLB when psyllids weren't controlled.

Of course, psyllid control is only part of the HLB management equation, as outlined in the **IFAS Guidance for Huanglongbing (HLB) Management** document.

http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/citrus/IFAS%20HLB%20Guidance%20Document_2.pdf

Here are some of the things that we do know about effective ACP management:

- If you have new flush, the psyllids will come. This includes normal growth flushes and following hedging and topping operations.
- Coordinated wide area sprays are effective in general, and are very effective in cool season dormant sprays (November – February).
- Psyllids tend to congregate on the outside rows of blocks and initial scouting efforts should begin there.

http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/entlab/pdf/extension/ACP_sampling_english.pdf

http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/entlab/pdf/extension/grove_data_english.pdf

- Although not all the pesticides registered for ACP control have been tested at varied temperatures, experimental results to this point have shown that pesticides such as Mustang and Danitol performed well in cooler temperatures and pesticides such as abamectin, Lorsban, Sevin and Dimethoate performed better in warmer temperatures.
- Products recommended for ACP control may have negative effects on populations of beneficial predators, which have already resulted in the resurgence of other pest problems. Some of the recommended pesticides have “milder” chemistries and should be seriously considered as part of rotational program to avoid harmful effects on beneficial, bees and to avoid pesticide resistance.

Because we have a number of pesticides recommended for use, growers can utilize these pesticides to formulate many combinations of programs that can provide efficacy, biological benefits and guard against pesticide resistance. These products vary widely in cost, but integrating the more expensive materials in a rotating program will pay off in the long term.

An environmentally sound ACP control program utilizes scouting, proper application timing and temperature considerations, varied modes of action and the use of insecticides with “soft” chemistry to aid beneficials.

Quick Reference Guide to Citrus Insecticides and Miticides, ENY-854

<http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/citrus/Pest%20Tables%20September%202009.pdf>

Citrus Black Spot Information

The “Citrus Black Spot – The Disease and Identification” Polycom workshops that were held around the state on May 6 attracted nearly 300 participants, including 70 at the Indian River Research & Education Center. UF/IFAS personnel have already produced several identification/information handouts regarding this new disease and more are in the works. Research is ongoing about control under Florida conditions and lots more information will be forthcoming, including a CBS webpage that is under construction. Identification laminates are available at my office if you haven’t already picked one up at the Citrus Growers’ Institute in Avon Park or at one of the Citrus Black Spot workshops. A link to the FDACS Pest Alert document for CBS follows:

http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/pest_alerts/pdf/citrus-black-spot-pest-alert.pdf

Photos courtesy of Dr. Mongi Zekri, UF/IFAS Multi-County Citrus Agent



Stone Fruit and Blueberry Workshop

As citrus growers and other agricultural landowners look for potential alternative crops to citrus, we've scheduled a Stone Fruit and Blueberry Workshop for Tuesday morning, June 15 at the Indian River Research & Education Center. The workshop will feature presentations by Dr. Mercy Olmstead, Extension Stone Fruit Specialist and Dr. Jeff Williamson, Extension Blueberry Specialist.

Neither of these alternative crops is going to replace citrus, but it appears there is potential for some plantings on the Treasure Coast. Mark your calendars for Tuesday morning, June 15th and look for more information in the near future as the program is finalized.

Florida Citrus Growers' Institute

This year's Institute was held at the South Florida Community College campus in Avon Park in April. There were a total of 20 presentations on the program which was another effort by UF/IFAS/Citrus Extension to keep growers aware of the latest information available in the war against HLB. Some 350 growers and allied citrus partners attended the event. Copies of the powerpoint presentations should be showing up on the Citrus Agents' Website in the very near future. The presentations from the 2008 and 2009 Institutes are 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

Florida House Bill 7103

The following message is passed on from Gene McAvoy's South Florida Pest and Disease Hotline, issued on Friday, May 7, 2010:

"I encourage you to call or email Governor Charlie Crist and URGE GOV. CRIST TO SIGN HB 7103".

House Bill 7103, the General Agriculture Bill passed by the Florida Legislature April 27, must be signed by Gov. Crist in the next several days in order to become law. This bill is advantageous to producers in several ways. FFB and FFVA strongly urges members to call or email the governor stating your support of the measure and why it is important to you, the industry and to the state's economy.

The following are some of the issues that HB 7103 addresses:

- Prohibits counties from enforcing ordinances that duplicate state regulations.
- Prohibits counties from charging a stormwater management fee if growers implement BMPs, or have a NPDES permit, an ERP or works-of-the-district permit.
- Creates the Agricultural Nuisance Claim Act, which would require developers interested in building communities close to a farm to waive their rights to file noise nuisance claims.
- Expands eligibility for exemption from a local business occupational license for those who sell farm, grove or certain other agricultural products.
- Exempts farm buildings and fences from county and municipal codes and fees
- Allows additional fiscally-sound multi-peril crop insurers to sell crop insurance in Florida
- Expands the types of ag waste that may be disposed of by open burning as long as it does not violate state or federal air quality standards.

The governor must hear from producers immediately. Contact him via email Charlie.Crist@MyFlorida.com or call (850) 488-7146.

The Hand that Feeds U.S.

There are a number of websites that focus on agricultural issues around the U. S. One that I have found interesting is a project by FarmPolicyFacts.org that focuses on farmers growing different types of crops around the country, among other features. The **Farm to Fork** and **Farm to Fuel** tabs take you to some very educational articles. You can get some great talking points for when you are discussing the importance of agriculture with your urban friends and learn a lot about the problems that other producers are facing.

<http://www.thehandthatfeedsus.org/index.cfm>

Pesticide Applicator Training Opportunities

General Certification Standards (CORE) Training & Testing

- Wednesday, June 2, 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

- Safe Storage and Transportation of Pesticides
- 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/>

Just for Fun

A Cowboy's Guide to Life (I've never met this cowboy, but he must be out there somewhere)

Never squat with your spurs on.

There are two theories about arguing with a woman; neither one works.

Don't worry about biting off more than you can chew, your mouth is probably a whole lot bigger than you think.

If you get to thinking that you're a person of some influence, try ordering somebody else's dog around.

After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good that he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging.

Letting the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back in.

When you're throwing your weight around, be ready to have it thrown around by somebody else.

When you give a lesson in meanness to a critter or a person, don't be surprised if they learn their lesson.

Good judgment comes from experience; experience comes from bad judgment.

Always drink upstream from the herd.

The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back in your pocket.

Never miss a good chance to shut up.



Take Care,

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