



UF/IFAS/St. Lucie Extension, 8400 Picos Road, Suite 101, Ft. Pierce, FL 34945
(772) 462-1660 <http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu>

Treasure Coast Citrus Notes

May - 2013

Inside this Edition.....

- Presentations from 2013 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute
- Consolidated Citrus BMP Manual
- Citrus Grower Fruit Drop Survey
- Water Survey
- Asian Citrus Psyllid Control on Young Trees
- 2012 Census of Agriculture
- Citrus Rootstocks: Their Characters and Reactions
- New EPA Fuel Tank Regulations
- Got Trees That Are Tougher Than HLB?
- Pesticide Applicator Training & Testing
(General Standards Training & Online CEU Opportunities)

Presentations from 2013 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute

The 2013 Institute held on April 2 in Avon Park drew over 300 growers to the South Florida State College campus. For those of you who attended and those who could not make it, video recordings were made of the presentations and most of them are posted on the Citrus Agents Website.

<http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/events/GrowersInstitute2013/GrowersInstitute2013.htm>

Consolidated Citrus BMP Manual

UF/IFAS Extension Best Management Practice (BMP) Specialist Dr. Brian Boman gave an interesting presentation at the Florida Citrus Growers' Institute on the new Citrus BMP Program and Manual. He indicated that growers who had previously enrolled in the **Ridge** BMP Program have until January 8, 2015 to enroll in the new program. He stated that those growers who are already enrolled in one of the other BMP programs (Indian River, Gulf and Peace River) are "grandfathered in" and only have to continue complying with their practices in the original program and follow the recommendations of "Nutrition of Florida Citrus", UF/IFAS Extension Publication SL253. They would only have to enroll in the new program if they re-establish a grove or perform major renovations. We have a limited supply of the new Florida Citrus BMP Manual at the Extension office. You can also access copies by following the link below:

http://www.floridaaqwaterpolicy.com/PDF/Bmps/Bmp_FloridaCitrus2012.pdf

Citrus Grower Fruit Drop Survey

Many of you are painfully aware that there has been a greater than normal fruit drop in groves this year. Observations have been that in some blocks it was more severe than others, and a number of theories as to the cause have been tendered.

In order to possibly get to the root of this issue, a statewide survey is being done to possibly determine why some blocks have had a less severe fruit drop and what factors may have contributed to the less severe fruit drop.

Please help by participating in this survey. It may take a little time, but you will become the beneficiary if we can figure out how to avoid excessive fruit drop in the future.

You can find the survey at the following link:

http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/publications/news/2013/4_18_13_grower_fruit_drop_survey.shtml

You can download the survey document, complete it and mail it in or you can complete it online. May 30 is the deadline, but you can do it today!!

Water Survey

Agricultural production is important to the economy of Florida, and water management is increasingly important to this industry as it strives for a more profitable and sustainable future. Florida agricultural producers recognize the value of water and have made tremendous improvements in water conservation during the past 25 years. However, increased water use might reduce the future availability of water to your enterprise and increase pumping costs.

We believe that you can tell us about the best ways in which you manage water, as well as help us identify innovative practices in which you might be interested.

The University of Florida and IFAS is asking for your help in completing a 10 to 15-minute anonymous survey. This survey is designed to ask about your current water use practices and preferred policies in dealing with possible water shortages or variation in water availability.

Participation in this study involves completing a brief 10 to 15-minute questionnaire containing questions about your operation, water management, and general demographic information.

The big benefit to you in completing this survey is that the results might help influence water use policy according to your preferences in the future."

You can access the survey at http://is.gd/water_FL

Asian Citrus Psyllid Control on Young Trees

During his presentation at the recent Florida Citrus Growers Institute in Avon Park, UF/IFAS Extension Entomologist Dr. Michael Rogers focused on some very interesting results on managing Asian citrus psyllid. During part of the presentation, he reiterated the importance and the difficulty of effectively managing psyllids in young trees. We also need to understand and put into practice the use of different modes of action (MOAs) to avoid pesticide resistance. Click on the following link to access a document that shows soil-applied pesticide options by the tree or by the acre application rates.

http://lake.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture/citrus/documents/PDFYoungTreeCareL09_12.pdf

Fill Out Your 2012 Census of Agriculture!!

The 2012 Census of Agriculture is still underway. It's not too late to report! As a producer, you are the Voice and Messenger for Agriculture. Please take a few minutes out of your busy work schedule to complete this important update on the industry. It is your opportunity to promote the significance of agriculture in the local community and state. Contact the NASS FL Field Office for assistance if needed at 800.344.6277. **May 31, 2013** is the closing date.

CITRUS ROOTSTOCKS: THEIR CHARACTERS AND REACTIONS

Dr. Willard P. Bitters authored a manuscript with the above title in 1986 that was never published. Dr. Bitters was a professor of horticulture at UC California – Riverside who traveled extensively around the world and wrote many citrus publications. He worked with rootstocks and scion varieties for years and collected many from his travels. For the citrus scholars among you, the manuscript at the following link will provide fascination reading:

<http://www.citrusvariety.ucr.edu/documents/Bittersrev2.pdf>

(It's 237 pages, so you might want to save it rather than print it right away)

New EPA Fuel Tank Regulations

Those producers who store fuel, oil, crop oil, hydraulic oil, surfactant, adjuvant and other materials on farms or ranches must comply with EPA-mandated Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) plans by May 10, 2013.

The EPA's new SPCC rule includes requirements for oil spill prevention, preparedness and response to prevent oil discharges to navigable waters and adjoining shorelines.

In general, SPCC-regulated facilities are excepted if they have aboveground oil storage capacity of less than 1,320 gallons on site, and could reasonably, due to its location, , not be expected to discharge oil to navigable waters or adjoining shorelines in quantities that may be harmful.

Click on this for the document:



SPCC_Applicability.pdf

f

Got Trees That Are Tougher Than HLB?

Most of us see trees that appear to be HLB infected but are not as affected by the disease as the majority of the adjacent trees. It possible that genetics of such trees may one day be helpful in the fight against citrus greening.

UF/IFAS Researcher Dr. Fred Gmitter has received funding from the CRDF for Project# 724 "Accelerating Citrus Gene Discovery for HLB Tolerance/ Resistance" to identify citrus genetics that could be helpful as part of the battle against HLB. As part of the study, UF/IFAS Extension Agents will help locate possible "HLB Outliers" in local groves.

If you have any trees in your groves that you think may be an "HLB Outlier" please contact Dr. Barrett Gruber at the IRREC (772 468-3922) with the location of the tree. We would like to concentrate on suspect trees that are really different to start this project. Grove, variety , GPS coordinates and a contact number are helpful. We can evaluate and notify Dr. Gmitter, if your trees may fit his research criteria.

Pesticide Applicator Training/CEU Opportunities

General Standards (CORE) Training & Testing

- Wednesday, June 5, 2013, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM with exam to follow at the Extension Classroom, 8400 Picos Rd, Ft. Pierce, FL 34945
- Cost is \$20 with checks payable to SLC Extension Advisory Council
- **Pre-registration Requested.** Call 772 462-1660 for more information

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/6533232073#>

Certified Pesticide Applicator Exams

- Administered at the St. Lucie Extension office in the afternoon on the first and third Wednesday of each month.
- Private Applicator, Ag Tree Crop, O & T, Aquatic, etc.

Citrus Industry Magazine

- CORE CEU articles
- One General Standards (CORE) CEU

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

Florida Grower Magazine

- A Large Selection of General Standards (CORE) and category CEU articles

<http://www.growingproduce.com/crop-protection/ceu-series>

Just for Fun



Intelligent Cow

The fertilizer salesman was out in the "sticks" when his King Ranch F-150 pickup slowed to a stop. As he looked under the steaming hood, a cow that was standing at the nearby fence commented, "I think it's the radiator". The salesman immediately hoofed it to the closest house and banged on the door. When an old farmer answered the door, the salesman blurted, "That cow over there by the fence just told me that my truck ran hot because of the radiator". "Did the cow have brown spots?" asked the farmer. "If that was her, don't pay any attention because she doesn't know anything about trucks."

I'm leaving IFAS Extension as of May 9 and this is my last issue of the Treasure Coast Citrus Notes. I hope over the last 4+ years I have helped you in at least some small way. I wish to extend my thanks to those of you who have helped me in my programming efforts and wish you the best. There are tough times ahead for citrus growers and others in this industry and I hope that a solution for HLB is found soon. There are a lot of smart people working on the problem and I trust they'll find a way out.

Take care,

Tim Gaver, Extension Agent - Citrus
UF/IFAS/St. Lucie County Extension
8400 Picos Rd, Suite 101
Ft. Pierce, FL 34945
(772) 462-1660
Tgaver.49@ufl.edu

UF/IFAS/St. Lucie County Extension Website

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

(Click on the **CITRUS** tab at the upper left for my **CITRUS** pages)



All programs and related activities sponsored for, or assisted by, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences are open to all persons without discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions, or affiliations. Florida Cooperative Extension Service/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences/University of Florida/Dr. Nick T. Place, Dean and Director for Extension.