

## Treasure Coast Citrus Notes

November - 2009

### Inside this Edition

- Florida Citrus Production Research Order
- 2010 Florida Citrus Show
- 2009 Citrus Tree Inventory
- New Fresh Fruit Shipment Procedures
- Increasing Efficiency and Reducing Fertilizer Costs
- Quick Reference Guide to Citrus Insecticides and Miticides
- IRREC Course Offerings for Spring 2010
- Agriculture and Farming for Ecosystem Services program
- Oops!
- Pesticide Applicator Training

### Florida Citrus Production Research Order Referendum

Between now and November 16<sup>th</sup>, citrus grove owners should be receiving a voting ballot regarding a new Florida Citrus Production Research Order (box tax to support research). This marketing order has been in existence since 1991 and has been renewed every six years since that time. The order will generate continued funding for citrus research which is more critical than ever.

Several opportunities are available for you to gain more insight into the referendum and the issues. A statewide conference call will be hosted by Florida Citrus Mutual on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. To join the conference call,

dial 1-866-544-4631 and follow the instructions. You might also contact one of the various grower organizations around the state for information. You can also click on the hyperlink at the end of this section for a “white paper” developed by Florida Citrus Mutual and FDACS on the Proposed Citrus Research Order which outlines the basics of the order and contains answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

Be sure and mark your ballot and **mail it by December 4<sup>th</sup>**. If you do not get a ballot in the mail by November 20<sup>th</sup>, they will be available at the St. Lucie Cooperative Extension Office.

<http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/citrus/State%20Research%20Order%20White%20Paper%2010-20-2009.pdf>

## 2010 Florida Citrus Show

Here’s another reminder about the **Florida Citrus Show** (formerly known as the Indian River Citrus Seminar) for 2010. The venue for 2010 will again be the Havert Fenn Center in Ft. Pierce with the 2-day show being held on January 27-28, 2010. Put those dates on your calendar so you don’t schedule any conflicts. We have also scheduled the **Indian River Ag Worker Training Day** for Wednesday, January 20, 2010. Much more information on both these events will be forthcoming in the next several weeks.

## NASS 2009 Commercial Citrus Inventory

The newest Commercial Citrus Tree Inventory shows **total** Florida citrus acres at 568,814 acres, down from a high of 941, 471 in 1970. Orange acreage declined to 492,529 which is the lowest number since the freezes in the early ‘80’s. Grapefruit acreage has fallen to a new low of 53,863 which represents only 60% of the pre-hurricane acreage and just over 40% of the 1970 acreage. Because of very limited replanting, only 3.6% of the total grapefruit trees are listed in the non-bearing category. Specialty fruit acreage has declined to 22,422 which is only about 20% of the 1970 acreage.

The latest abandoned acreage survey released in September showed 27,289 abandoned acres in St. Lucie County, 15,411 in Martin County and 13,220 in Indian River County.

<http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/citrus/2009%20Commercial%20Inventory.pdf>

## New Fresh Fruit Shipment Rule

The previous requirement that fruit be inspected and found free of citrus canker by APHIS has been eliminated for fruit destined to the interstate market in the US and a number of US territories. However, that previous requirement remains in effect for fruit destined to some foreign markets, including the European Union.

The new rule allows fruit to be shipped interstate from the Florida canker quarantine area under a Federal Certificate provided the fruit:

- Is packed in a commercial packing house whose owner or operator has entered into a compliance agreement with APHIS
- Is treated with a USDA-approved disinfectant
- Is free of leaves, twigs and other plant parts
- Is accompanied by a Federal Certificate

This new rule should be a big help to fresh fruit packers and was made possible by the efforts of a few very dedicated researchers and industry leaders.

[http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/citrus/Fresh%20Fruit%20Shipment%20Procedures%2010-22-09%20Ver%202%200%20\\_2\\_.pdf](http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/citrus/Fresh%20Fruit%20Shipment%20Procedures%2010-22-09%20Ver%202%200%20_2_.pdf)



## Increasing Efficiency and Reducing Fertilizer Costs

EDIS publication SL-222 focuses on the main factors which should be considered when making good economic and horticultural decisions about your citrus nutritional program. A summary of the information provided in this fact sheet would include:

- Increasing the efficiency of applied nutrients is a key to economic citrus production.
- Nitrogen and potassium fertilizers affect fruit production and quality more than any other applied nutrients.
- Management practices that improve fertilizer efficiency include:
  1. Using leaf and soil analysis to guide fertilization programs.
  2. Choosing realistic fertilizer rates based on established guidelines and expected production.
  3. Selecting fertilizer sources appropriate for grove conditions.
  4. Careful placement and timing of fertilizer applications.
  5. Managing irrigation to minimize leaching of soluble nutrients.
- Foliar feeding is appropriate when soil conditions prevent sufficient uptake of nutrients to meet tree demands.
- Phosphorus fertilizer should be applied judiciously because P can accumulate in the soil.
- Micronutrients should be applied only when deficiency symptoms persist.
- Keep soil pH in the range of 5.5 to 6.5. Do not overlime.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/SS442>

[http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC\\_Citrus\\_Nutrition\\_and\\_Fertilization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_Citrus_Nutrition_and_Fertilization)

## **Quick Reference Guide to Citrus Insecticides and Miticides**

This really handy publication was updated again in September '09 and is available as a laminated handout or as EDIS publication ENY-854. The updated version includes "Products labeled for application at reduced volume either by ground or aerial application" on the back side.

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

## IRREC Course Offering for Spring 2010

Those who have knowledge about best management practices for agriculture are becoming more valuable to their employers and to meet that demand. Zhenli He, Ph.D, one of the central figures in the development of best management practices, is offering a new course, **Agriculture and Environmental Quality**. Dr. He is an associate professor of Soil Fertility and Environmental Chemistry at the UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center in Fort Pierce.

Dr. He said the course is designed for growers and others interested in protection of the environment with best management practices for agriculture.

“This course will be of significant value to those students who will be involved in the management of agricultural production and processing industries as well as to those with a special interest in agricultural pollution control and plan further study in this area,” said He.

The course will be delivered by internet format and will include weekly live chat room discussion and guest lecture videos. Dr. He will hold office hours to meet with students at the UF Fort Pierce location. Opening topics will include concepts relating to agriculture, the environment and its quality, and the relationships among the three as they relate to sustainable agriculture. Focus topics will feature wetlands and soil components, their properties and functions such as filtration, waste disposal and contamination screening. Students will learn how to identify sources of pollution, how to manage nutrients so that they will not transform into contamination, how to process waste, land management techniques, integrated pest management and the particulars of the Food Quality Act and wetland protection legislature.

An award-winning, widely-published and internationally-recognized scientist, Zhenli He has served as a scientist and as a professor at institutions in England, Scotland and in China. Zhenli He has served UF/IFAS as a member of the graduate faculty for six years, jointly holding IRREC and Soil and Water Department research and teaching posts with increasing roles of responsibility. To enroll in Agriculture and Environmental Quality please call Jackie White at (772) 468-3922, Ext. 148, or by e-mail at: [jkwhite@ufl.edu](mailto:jkwhite@ufl.edu). For specific information about the course please contact Dr. Zhenli He at (772) 468-3922, Ext. 109, or by e-mail at: [zhe@ufl.edu](mailto:zhe@ufl.edu).

# **Agriculture and Farming for Ecosystem Services**

**Tuesday, November 10, 2009, 8am - 1pm**

**UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center--Immokalee**

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **Farming in the Future – Reaping Ecosystem Services**

Ed Hanlon, UF/IFAS

### **Markets for Ecosystem Services**

Laila Racevskis, UF/IFAS

### **Current Status of U.S. Cap & Trade Policy and an Overview of the European Carbon Market**

Alan Hodges, UF/IFAS

### **Mechanics of Carbon Credit Market – Opportunities in both the U.S. and international Market**

Andrew Walmsley, Florida Farm Bureau

### **Carbon Accounting – Citrus Case Study**

Tom Spreen, UF/IFAS

### **Experiences with Trading Water Quality Credits**

Tatiana Borisova, UF/IFAS

### **Assessing Cost Data from SFWMD Projects**

John Capece, Southern DataStream

### **What's Missing from Current Public Policy That Limits Agriculture's Production of Ecosystem Services**

Speaker to be determined

This workshop includes lunch (American Farmland Trust invited speaker).

To register, please call the Southwest REC at 239-658-3400. A complete agenda will be available soon on the center's web site: <http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu>.

## Oops!

At some point in the process of advertizing the recent **Low Volume Application Technology for Citrus Pests** program, I wrote that 3.5 CEU's would be offered for the program. Well, because the program was only two hours long, the program was only certified for 2 CEU's by the folks at FDACS. The mistake was all mine because I know very well that 1.0 CEU is granted for every 50 minutes of program time. My apologies to those of you who showed up for the program, expecting 3.5 CEU's. On a positive note, the program evaluations indicated that the program was a good educational experience for most of you.

## Pesticide Applicator Training Opportunities

### Ag Tree Crop Training and Exam

- Thursday, November 12, 2009, 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM with exam to follow.
- Cost is \$15 with checks payable to St. Lucie County 4-H Foundation.
- Call (772) 462-1660 to pre-register and for more information:

<http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/citrus/Nov122009AgTreeCrop.pdf>

### Limited Certification Structural Pest Control Training and Exam

- Thursday, November 19, 2009, 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM, exam to follow.
- This training is for individuals who may wish to purchase or apply Restricted Use Pesticides to structures owned by their employer or for employees of government entities. It is not intended for commercial pest control operators or their employees.
- Cost is \$15 with checks payable to St. Lucie County 4-H Foundation
- Call (772) 462-1660 to pre-register and for more information:

[http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/commercial\\_horticulture/Limited%20Structural%20Training%202\\_.pdf](http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/commercial_horticulture/Limited%20Structural%20Training%202_.pdf)

## Just for Fun

Nugene buys a \$1 ticket and wins the lottery. He goes to lottery headquarters to claim it and the lottery official indeed verifies his ticket number.

Nugene says, "That's great, now I want my \$20 million."

The man replied, "No, sir. It doesn't work that way. We give you a million today and then you'll get the rest spread out for the next 19 years."

Nugene replies, "Oh, no. I want all my money right now, I've got bills to pay and a fancy truck to buy!"

Patently, the lottery official once more explains that he would only get a million that day and the rest during the next 19 years.

Well, now Nugene is furious and says, "Look, I want my money! If you're not going to give me my \$20 million right now, then I want my dollar back!"



Take care,

Tim

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UF/IFAS/ St. Lucie Cooperative Extension

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

(Click on the CITRUS tab at the upper left for my citrus section)

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