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Treasure Coast Citrus Notes

November - 2011

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2012 Florida Citrus Show

The 2012 Florida Citrus Show will be held on January 25 & 26, 2012 at the Havert L. Fenn Center in Ft. Pierce. The program will feature 19 presentations over the 2-day show on topics of major importance to the citrus industry in Florida. The simultaneous trade show will have dozens of exhibitors featuring equipment, software, crop protection and nutritional products and educational booths. Admission to the Florida Citrus Show is free. **Pre-registration** is highly recommended, which will expedite your entrance into the show.

Click on the following link to pre-register and gain more information about this important educational event:

<http://www.citrusshow.com/>

Jamaican Citrus Pest Found in Bahamas

Entomologists at the Division of Plant Industry have identified 2 *Exophthalmus similis* Drury adults in the Bahamas, previously considered endemic to Jamaica and a citrus pest there.

Five species of the genus *Exophthalmus* are known in Jamaica and all are considered to be citrus pests. It has been documented they and other citrus root weevils inflict \$2 million-a-year losses on the citrus crop in Jamaica.

Two adult specimens were found on Paradise Island, an islet just off the coast of New Providence Island, near the city of Nassau. The weevils were feeding on a seagrape tree.

The appearance, life cycle and feeding habits of this insect are similar to *Diaprepes abbreviatus* (Apopka weevil) which is well established in Florida. Photos of adults of these two important pests are shown below.



Exophthalmus similis



Diaprepes abbreviatus

An extensive list of host plants in Jamaica includes peanuts, coco plum, tropical almond, mango, papaya, cassava and breadfruit, as well as citrus.

A Pest Alert publication from DPI contains much more information about this pest which is not yet been found in Florida.

http://www.freshfromflorida.com/pi/pest_alerts/pdf/exophthalmus-similis-pest-alert.pdf.

Advisory from the CRDF

I'm sure that many of you have noticed the recent explosion of HLB symptom expression on infected trees with the advent of some cooler weather. Growers who are ignoring the HLB threat, especially on the east coast, should read the following quote from the Citrus Research and Development Foundation Progress Report, September 2011:

"There will be a great deal of risk and continued uncertainty for some time. Optimizing citrus nutrition is subject to enormous variability in yield that is both site and season dependent. Additionally, the rate of decline of HLB-infected groves is highly dependent on the age of the trees at the time of infection and overall condition of the grove, including genotype, environmental interactions, soil, salinity, root disease and the overall level of abiotic and biotic stress already imposed on a specific site. Therefore, it is prudent for production managers to maintain stringent psyllid control and to monitor nutritional status with accurate tissue and soil sampling to look at the effects of staying toward the high side of the traditionally recommended ranges for nutritional supplements in their groves especially if they choose not to remove infected trees."

IFAS does not have a "nutritional therapy" recommendation for HLB at this time, but we have accumulated enough research and grower experience to know that one application of micronutrients per year and failure to aggressively manage psyllids is not a sustainable program. Several micronutrient applications containing Manganese, Zinc and Boron, along with a complete foliar fertilizer such as a 7-0-7 or 3-18-18 and perhaps phosphites may be needed to be successful in maintaining tree health and yield. This should be in addition to following the basic recommendations for citrus nutrition and root health.

Advanced Citriculture Course

In an effort to reach citrus growers throughout citrus production regions statewide, **Advanced Citriculture II** will be offered for the spring 2011 semester. The course will be delivered with interactive videoconference by University of Florida/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center Professor, Dr. Gene Albrigo. Dr. Albrigo's expertise is with regulation of citrus flowering, fruit set and fruit development. His extensive research experience includes study of climatic effects on fruit quality and citrus stress response. Citriculture II will commence January 9, and will take place weekly from 4 until 7 p.m., and will cover regulation of reproductive growth of citrus.

Student services, computers and networking with fellow students are available at locations convenient to enrollees. As with other UF/IFAS locations, the Indian River Research and Education Center in Fort Pierce will offer course participants state-of-the-art videoconference equipment so that they may interact live with the course as it takes place in several locations simultaneously.

Course enrollees will review literature on climatic, physiological, production practices and other factors which influence vegetative or reproductive development of citrus. Participants will review literature, prepare short reports on several papers and participate in lecture-discussion sessions scheduled for weekly topics.

Each course is graduate-level, 3-credits. Tuition is expected to be about \$1,400 per course. Both courses are available in continuing education for non-degree-seeking students, or as regular graduate school offerings.

Course prerequisites include basic plant physiology, citrus production courses or several years of experience in citrus production.

To enroll in this course, please contact UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center Coordinator of Student Services Jackie White (772) 468-3922, Ext. 144, or by e-mail: jkwhite@ufl.edu. For more information about the courses, please contact Dr. L. Gene Albrigo in Lake Alfred at (863) 956-1151, or by e-mail: albrigo@ufl.edu

Agriculture and Environmental Quality Course

The Treasure Coast's agricultural industry is a leader in agroecology in the development of Best Management Practices. 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 **Agriculture and Environmental Quality**. Dr. He is an associate professor in the UF Department of Soil and Water Science with a specialization in Soil Fertility and Environmental Chemistry at the UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center, 2199 South Rock Road, Ft. Pierce, FL.

The course will be designed for growers and others interested in protection of the environment with best management practices for agriculture. Upon completion of the course, participants will understand how agriculture affects environmental quality, and how agricultural scientists are attempting to minimize agricultural pollution, which is necessary to sustain food production adequate for the world's population.

The course will be delivered by internet format and will include weekly live chat room discussion and guest lecture videos and will begin the first week in January, 2012. 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 contaminants, how to process waste, land management techniques, integrated pest management and the particulars of the Food Quality Act and wetland protection legislature.

Zhenli He has served UF/IFAS as a member of the graduate faculty for eight 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. 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.

2012 Syngenta Crop Protection Florida Internship Opportunities

Syngenta Crop Protection is initiating recruiting efforts for the 2012 Florida Intern Program. Interns play a primary role in supporting key Syngenta brands in the Florida citrus industry. Their field activities provide the key link between Syngenta and growers, while helping ensure optimal product performance.

Intern qualifications:

- Seeking future employment in agriculture.
- Basic familiarity with production agriculture.
- Basic familiarity with insect, disease, and weed control.
- Basic computer skills.
- Willingness to work outdoors.
- Self-motivated, detail oriented, honest, and personable.
- Ability to relocate to or originally from one of the following counties; Orange, Polk, Highlands, Hardee, Desoto, Hendry, Collier, Lee, Okeechobee, Martin, Osceola, St. Lucie, or Indian River.
- College Sophomore or Junior level (Seniors will be considered).

Syngenta is currently recruiting for up to 5 intern positions with an approximate start date of May 14, 2012 and an end date of August 10, 2012.

The internships are to be located as follows;

- 2 east coast - Indian River, St. Lucie, or Martin Counties
- 2 southwest - Lee, Hendry, or Collier Counties
- 2 west central - Highlands, Hardee or Desoto Counties
- 1 central - Orange, Osceola, Polk or Highlands Counties

Interested candidates should email their resumes to Cody Hoffman at cody.hoffman@syngenta.com Interested candidates will be interviewed through the end of February 2012.

Certified Pesticide Applicator Resources in Spanish

Cesar Asuaje, Regional Extension Agent from Palm Beach County has developed two training modules in Spanish for General Standards (CORE) and Private Applicator training. These modules contain both English and Spanish text and audio and should be helpful to associate terms used on the English exams. The exams will continue to be offered in English only, so these training aids could be vital to those that have language issues. The following link will take you to the Palm Beach County Hispanic Farm Labor Development webpage:

<http://pbcgov.com/coextension/agriculture/training/>

Click on the Pesticide Certification tab, then click on the "How To Navigate" tab and go from there.

Agroterrorism/Food Safety Training

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is collaborating with the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security of UC Davis University of California and the Regional Domestic Security Task Forces to offer a series of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) certified agroterrorism awareness courses in Florida. The courses are open to all United States Citizens, and are free of charge (lunch not provided) through DHS grant funding.

All training will be conducted at the Indian River Research and Education Center, 2199 South Rock Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34945.

- Thursday, November 17, 2011 – **AWR 151 Understanding the Dangers of Agroterrorism: Registration at 12:00 pm; Workshop from 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm.**
- Friday, November 18, 2011 – **AWR 152 Principles of Preparedness for Agroterrorism and Food Systems Disasters: Registration at 7:30 am; Workshop from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.**
- Thursday, December 15, 2011 – **AWR 153 Principles of Detection and Diagnosis – Strategies and Technologies: Registration at 7:30 am; Workshop from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.**
- Friday, December 16, 2011 – **AWR 154 Principles of National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) and Risk Communication: Registration at 7:30 am; Workshop from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.**
- Thursday, February 9, 2012 – **AWR 155 Principles of Frontline Response to Agroterrorism and Food Systems Disasters: Registration at 7:30 am; Workshop from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.**
- Friday, February 10, 2012 – **AWR 156 Principles of Planning and Implementing Recovery: Registration at 7:30 am; Workshop from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.**

To find additional information about each course and to register on-site please visit:

<http://dhs.wifss.ucdavis.edu/agroterrorism/classes/classesbydate.php>

Pesticide Applicator Training/CEU Opportunities

Reminder to Notify FDACS of a Change of Address

- Renewing your Certified Pesticide Applicator License every 4 years is required. FDACS, Bureau of Compliance Monitoring will mail your renewal form to the address listed on your license. If you have a new address, complete the form at the following link and mail or fax to FDACS in Tallahassee using the contact info on the form:

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/onestop/forms/13359.pdf>

Ag Tree Crop Training & Testing

- Tuesday, November 22, 2011, 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM with exam to follow at the Windstorm Training Center (Hurricane House), 8350 Picos Rd, Ft. Pierce, FL 34945
- CEUs available in the Ag Tree Crop and Private Applicator categories
- Cost is \$15 with checks payable to SLC Extension Advisory Council
- **Pre-registration Requested.** Call (772) 462-1660 or email tgaver.49@ufl.edu for more information.

Citrus Industry Magazine

- Pesticide Best Management Practices
- One General Standards (CORE) CEU

<http://www.citrusindustry.net/2011ceu2.html>

Florida Grower Magazine

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

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

Just for Fun

Gathering Chickens

The farmer's son was headed home in the old truck from the livestock market with the crate of chickens his father had entrusted to him. About halfway home, the boy swerved hard to miss a wild hog and the rickety chicken crate broke open. Chickens scurried off in different directions, but the determined boy walked all over the rural neighborhood scooping up the wayward birds and returning them to the repaired crate. Hoping he had found them all, the boy reluctantly returned home, expecting the worst.

"Pa, I almost had a wreck on the way home and the chickens got loose," the boy confessed sadly, "but I managed to find all twelve of them."

"Well, you did real good, son," the farmer beamed. "You only left the market with seven!"

Cause for Celebration?

An aged farmer and his wife were leaning against the edge of their pig pen when the old woman wistfully recalled that the next week would mark their golden wedding anniversary.

"Let's kill a pig and have a big barbeque to celebrate!"

The farmer lifted his hat and scratched his head. "Gee, Ethel," he finally answered, "I don't see why a pig should take the blame for something that happened fifty years ago."

Take Care,

Tim Gaver, Extension Agent - Citrus
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