

The Highlands County Citrus Extension Newsletter

## Highlands Citrus Talk

4509 George Blvd., Sebring, FL 33875 • 863/402-6540

### Control of Citrus Psyllid and Citrus Greening –

#### A Word of Caution

April 2008

It seems that rarely a day goes by that I do not have a discussion with someone regarding the Control of the Citrus Psyllid and Citrus Greening. Without a doubt the two are tied tightly together. Control or management of the psyllid and greening go hand in hand.

Some times growers want to discuss with me the use of pesticides in non-traditional ways or using chemicals that are not traditionally used to manage or control citrus pests. Some people have described our current battle with psyllids and greening as a war and require a war mentality. This is a good approach to our winning this war with greening; however in the process we still need to be cautious in the weapons we use and how we use them.

Fred Fishel and Mark Mossler in the Pesticide Information Office in their March edition of "Chemically Speaking" address these very issues and bring to light our responsibility in the use of pesticides or chemicals that may not be traditionally pesticides but based on their use can become a pesticide. It also re-emphasizes the need to not use a pesticide in a manner inconsistent with the label (a violation of the law).

If you have not read this article, I would urge you to go to the Pesticide Information Office web Site at <http://pested.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter.html> and in the March 2008 Chemically Speaking Newsletter read "Considerations in the Use of Products for Controlling of Citrus Greening". It should help you as you make decisions in your battle with greening.

**Remember, the Pesticide Label is THE LAW.** Certainly we do not need to violate pesticide law or create a chemical residue issues that can have huge penalties and negative impacts.

#### Special points of interest:

- Citrus Grower Tools
- Florida State Horticulture Society
- Florida Citrus Production Research Advisory Council
- HLB Labs

### Highlands County Citrus Extension "E-Newsletter"

I am in the process of introducing a new method of communicating with citrus growers and others, utilizing the computer, in a more timely way. The title of my new communication tool is "**Highlands County Citrus E-Talk**". I will continue this newsletter via standard mail, but I will also send it electronically to any citrus grower, manager, or allied industry representative. I will send it to anyone who has given me their email address. This will also include meeting announcement and reminders, timely information releases, etc.

If you have not already and wish to receive this information via your email, just send me a message at [plowboy@ufl.edu](mailto:plowboy@ufl.edu) and I'll put you on the list.





## Citrus Grower Tools

As I have mentioned before as a “new guy” at this game, I want to be sure that growers know what “Tools” that are available for use. In today’s world we all are becoming aware of the many uses we have of computers. One of the most dynamic uses is the access of information.

In the arena of the local Highlands County Extension Service there are several tools that are available that can be of use to you.

### **Highlands County Extension Web Site**

This web site at <http://highlands.ifas.ufl.edu> was developed and is managed right here in Highlands County. It contains a wealth of information and the links to more information.

On this site you will find copies of this and other newsletters. You will find local extension citrus meeting announcements, registration information, etc. This site will link you to the IFAS EDIS site, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>, and the IFAS Solutions for Life site <http://solutionsforyourlife.com>, where you can obtain a plethora of information on citrus and all of agriculture.

On the “Citrus Page” you will find citrus extension newsletters, citrus program announcements, and access to information on Canker and Greening, and links to other sites related to citrus.

I will continue to add to this web site more “tools” that should be helpful to you. If you have suggestions for additions for this site, let me know.

### **Florida Citrus Extension Web Site**

This web site at <http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu> is a new site which has been developed to help you the grower to access information around the citrus industry. The plan is for you to be able to read their citrus newsletters, learn about the meetings that they have planned, and have access to information throughout the citrus industry.

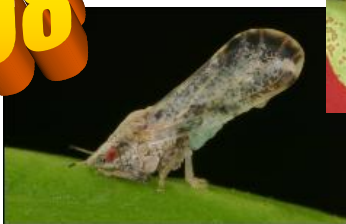
## Florida State Horticultural Society

The Florida State Horticultural Society will hold its annual meeting June 1 – 4, 2008 at the Ft. Lauderdale Marriott North. Presentations this year will include greening and canker control, psyllid management, mechanical harvesting, weather data management decision making and general horticultural practices.

This year the Chairman of the FSHS Board is Peter McClure, the President of FSHS is Dr. Jim Syvertsen, and the Citrus Sectional Vice President is Dr. Kelly Morgan

The FSHS meetings are an ideal place to hear current research findings and also to network with the people doing the research. I would encourage you to attend. For registration information go to [www.fshs.org](http://www.fshs.org) and for Program Information you can contact Dr. Eric Simone at (352) 392-1928, Ext. 208

**June 1-4, 2008**





## **Florida Citrus Production Research Advisory Council**

The FCPRAC also known as the "Grower Box Tax Committee" has since 1991 been the group that has managed monies collected from citrus growers in a per box tax to fund citrus research. In recent months the council has become the mechanism whereby funding from other sources (state and federal) have been funneled to support citrus research, especially research directed at citrus greening, citrus canker and the citrus psyllid.

The council is made up of fourteen growers of which, Bill Barber, Bert Harris, and Steve Farr are from this area. The council's coordinator is Dr. Steve Rogers and their Secretary is Marshall Wiseheart who works for FDACS. Peter McClure has recently been re-elected as chairman and Bill Barber as Vice Chairman.

Since my return here to extension, I have sat in on the FCPRAC meetings and it has been my observation that this council has done a yeoman's job in evaluating research proposals and directing funds to research. This all volunteer group has spent insurmountable time in completing their responsibilities in behalf of the citrus Industry. This past year they have overseen the direction of about \$7 million targeted primarily at citrus greening and psyllid management and control. This coming year they are working at ramping up yet more in research and funding.

The council members are committed to getting the job done and keeping everyone informed. You can get more information on the Council, and its work, current research findings, etc at their web site [www.fcpracs.com](http://www.fcpracs.com). You should go to the site, and register for a Username and Password. You can then access all of the current information about what research is being done, and what new information is being released, as well as how the funds are being spent.

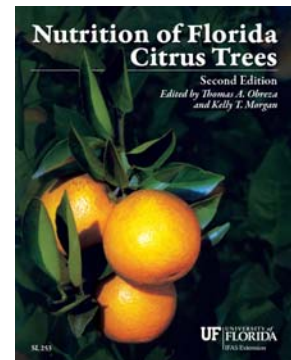
I want to personally thank Dr. Rogers and the Council for the job they have done and are now doing. I would encourage you to do also.

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## **Nutrition of Florida Citrus Trees, SL - 253**

Copies of this Second Edition of this publication are still available here in the Highlands County Extension office. This revision contains timely information of the management of your citrus nutrition program especially in these times of astronomical increases in fertilizer prices.

Copies are available in the Extension office.




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## **HLB Labs**

Two labs are now set up to handle Greening Samples for confirmation of HLB. Their contact information is as follows:

Southern Gardens Citrus - Mike Irely, United States Sugar Corporation  
 Technical Operations, 111 Ponce de Leon Ave.  
 Clewiston, FL 33440 863-902-2249  
[msirely@ussugar.com](mailto:msirely@ussugar.com)

Southwest Florida RREC - HLB Lab, 2686 SR 29 N, Immokalee, FL 34142  
 Phone: 239-658-3400  
[hlblab@ufl.edu](mailto:hlblab@ufl.edu)

Before collecting and submitting samples you should contact them for protocol, forms, etc.

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## **2008 Florida Citrus Pest Management Guides**

Copies of the Citrus Pest Management Guide for 2008, SP 043, are now available. They can be purchased from the IFAS Bookstore at <http://ifasbooks.ufl.edu>. It is also available online at the EDIS Web Site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/> , or the Solutions for Your Life

Web Site at <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu>.

### **2008 Florida Citrus Pest Management Guide**

UF Program 11-01, January 2008, 100 pages, \$4.00  
This guide is available in both print and electronic formats. For more information, visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>  
For a complete list of IFAS publications, visit <http://ifasbooks.ufl.edu/>

