



Highlands Citrus E-Talk



4509 George Boulevard, Sebring, Florida 33875 – (863) 402-7150

The Highlands County Citrus Extension Newsletter

Vol. 4 No. 7

August 1, 2011

CitrusExpo

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the program for the 20th Anniversary Citrus Expo, which will be held at the Lee Civic center August 17 & 18, 2011.

For more information on the **Citrus Expo** and how to register go to www.CitrusExpo.net.

Central Highlands County 17/27 CHMA

The late summer coordinated spray for our area will be during the time frame of late August to late September. Dr. Rogers has recommended a Pyrethroid for this application. The options Dr. Rogers has listed on the CHMA site are Danitol 2.4EC or Mustang. Plan to make arrangements for this application.

Dr. Rogers said that it is very important to have these sprays out in a two week window or we will fail in our effort to control Psyllids in a wide area.

John Gose Team Leader for the Central Highlands County 17/27 CHMA will send out the notice for timing the spray during the two-week in early August.

The next scheduled application will be in the November to December 2011 time frame.

For growers that may be interested the followings services they can contact:

- Florida Grove Foggers ULV application 863-699-9850 or 863-441-1164
- Ag Flying Service 334-898-7772
- Sunniland Aircraft 863-467-7777
- Lake Placid Caretakers 863-465-2821 or 863-441-5088
- Psyllid inspection service PDM Scouting 863-257-3506
- Malcolm Williams Vector Disease Control International 318-372-4073

For more information on the CHMA Program, coordinated sprays, recommended spray materials, and psyllid management tools go to the CHAM Web Site <http://www.flchma.org/>

John Gose

BMP Compliance and Numeric Nutrient Criteria

I have attached a letter from Adam Putnam, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Herschel Vinyard, Secretary, FDEP, regarding the FDACS Best Management Practices (BMP) program.

I am sure you are aware of the BMP's for Citrus and have submitted your Notice of Intent (NOI) for compliance with the Citrus BMP for the area your groves are in, and are applying the BMP to your production practices, keeping the necessary records.

Two issues are currently rising that we should be aware of.

1. When doing the math, there are NOI's for only about 80+% of the acreage growing citrus in Florida.

This means that either there are those w/o an NOI for all of their citrus acres, or there are those who haven't signed an NOI for any of their acres of citrus.

It is imperative that we reach at or near 100%. Those "environmentalist" who monitor this program, who feel that this program is not what they want to see and do not see the program as effective (which it is) use this percentage of no NOI's as evidence that the program is not working. They want to put more burdens on you the grove owner to "prove" you are not causing groundwater contamination.

2. The EPA is in the process of developing a **Numeric Nutrient Criteria** which includes arbitrary and capricious nutrient loading values that are not attainable. This process has been slowed, but moving ahead nonetheless.

The best defense against this new regulatory plan to manage nutrients in ground and surface waters is to support our existing Florida program "Best Management Practices". Remember the nutrient values were put in place in BMP's are based on science that establishes values that protect the ground and surface water without reducing the ability to produce a profitable crop.

The first Citrus BMP was developed based on a ten year study in citrus groves in Highlands County called the "Ridge Water Quality Project". It gave us our current fertilizer recommendations for citrus in Highlands County

If you would like to update your Citrus BMP grove information, sign a NOI, or have questions answered, you should contact Mark Mealo with FDE in Apopka. His contact information is as follows:

Mark Mealo
 Environmental Specialist III
 2725 S Binion Rd.
 Apopka, FL 32703
 Office: 407-884-2034 x135
Mark.Mealo@FreshFromFlorida.com

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO BE SURE THERE EXISTS A CURRENT "NOI" FOR ALL OF YOUR GROVES.

It is our best way to deal with the Numeric Nutrient issue today.

Prescribed Fire Training

A course in Prescribed Fire Training is being offered to train experienced individuals in public and private agencies and organizations that are charged with the responsibility of performing Prescribed Fire as a production tool. For Highlands County the course will be held September 21 – 23 at the Bassinger Community Center on Highway 98 north of Okeechobee.

Attached is an informational flier and **registration information**. Registration should be made by August 21.

Tangerine and Tangerine Hybrid - Disease Research

Dr. Dewdney, Plant Pathologist from the CREC, Lake Alfred has a graduate student who is doing a state-wide survey of tangerine and tangerine hybrid groves for fungicide resistance. The end result will be a project to address the resistance issues and provide better materials for control of citrus disease pests in fresh fruit varieties. If you have a tangerine or tangerine hybrid block that this student can visit and collect data, please let me know by return email or telephone 402-7150.

Annual Newsletter Survey

Each year I am required to evaluate my programs for effectiveness and to determine areas for improvement. I would like to ask you to take five minutes and fill out a questionnaire evaluating my citrus newsletter "Highlands Citrus E-Talk".

All you have to do is click on the following link and answer the questions: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7LSV5MW> when you are finished, click "Exit this survey". The survey is confidential.

Thank You.

Tim Hurner,
Multi-County Citrus Extension Agent
Highlands County

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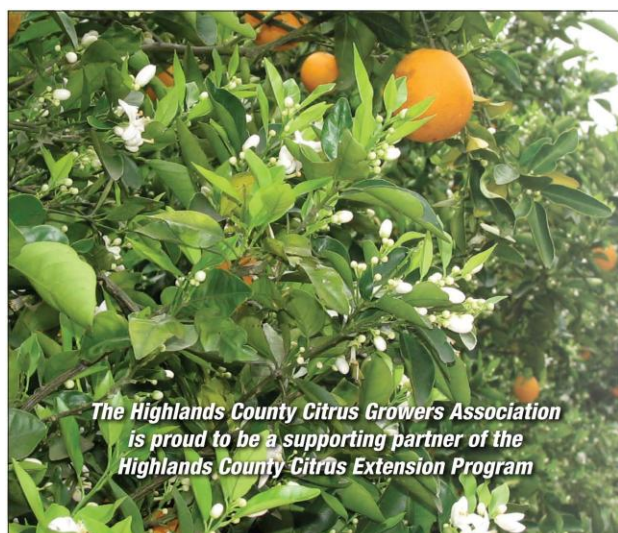
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