



The Highlands County Citrus Extension Newsletter

## Highlands Citrus Talk

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

### Upcoming Events

- Jan 31 RUP Exams – Highlands County  
Agri-Civic Center, Sebring
- Feb. 8 – 16 Highlands County Fair, Sebring,  
Youth Citrus Contest
- Feb 20 WPS Train-The-Trainer Workshop  
Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring
- Feb. 28 Highlands County Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP)  
Workshop Training and Exams  
Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring
- March 20 Nutrition of Citrus Trees “OJ Break”  
Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring
- April 8 Citrus Greening Summit at the  
2008 Florida Citrus Growers Institute

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2008

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#### Special points of interest:

- Mailing List Update
- RUP & WPS Workshops
- Nutrition of Citrus Trees
- Grower Tools
- Flower Bud Induction
- Citrus Greening Summit /  
Florida Citrus Growers  
Institute

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### Introduction

I would like to again say “Hello” to you and tell you that I am happy to be back again working with the greatest people in the world. Most of you know me from my previous stint here in Extension (31 years as the Citrus Extension Agent in Highlands County). After a hiatus teaching citrus at South Florida Community College and Florida Southern College, I have returned to see what I can do o help.

My job now is full time working in citrus and my goal is to provide a good educational program for you the citrus industry of Highlands County.

#### Tim Hurner

Multi-County Citrus Extension Agent  
Highlands County, UF/IFAS  
plowboy@ufl.edu

## Citrus Grower Mailing List-Update

One of my first ventures is to determine who is who and where who is. The mailing list I inherited is rather dated and had numerous bad addresses and people no longer in the area or business. The economics of the times does not allow me to be wasteful of postage, paper and other materials.

My last mailing included a form asking it be returned to me to update your contact information. About 60 % responded. If you have not responded and still want to receive information from me, please send me the enclosed pink "Grower Response Form" included with this newsletter, please fill it out and return it to me so I can update your information. If I don't hear from you, I will be purging my mailing list the end of February and will delete you.




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## RUP and WPS Workshops

Another item that came up on my list from several of you is that many are behind in keeping current with their Restricted Use Pesticide Licensing and their Worker Protection Standard Compliance. I have developed two workshops coming up to help in this process.

First, is a **Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Train-The-Trainer Workshop**. It is scheduled for Wednesday February 20, 2008. I am enclosing a flier with the details. It is important that you pre-register so we can adequately prepare for your attendance.

Second, is a **Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) Training and Exam Workshop** scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2008. I am also enclosing a flier and registration form for this workshop. Again pre-registration is necessary so we can adequately prepare for this workshop.

**Participants are encouraged to order study materials directly from the IFAS Bookstore.**

CEU's have been requested for both workshops for Restricted Use Pesticide and CCA credit.

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## Nutrition Of Citrus Trees

Dr. Tom Obreza, IFAS Gainesville, and Dr. Kelly Morgan, Southwest REC Immokalee, have revised the citrus nutrition publication, SL 253 Nutrition of Florida Citrus Trees – Second Edition.

I have invited them to come to Highlands County Thursday, March 20 to give a presentation at an "OJ Break" workshop highlighting this new publication. The workshop will give an opportunity to review the current recommendations for citrus nutrition and to ask questions.

I will be sending out details on how to register for this "OJ Break" soon.

I have reviewed a draft of this publication and it is without a doubt an outstanding reference for citrus growers on citrus nutrition. It is in the context of citrus nutrition BMP's which have been developed based on research since the original publication came out in 1995. Several new sections have been added to make this a complete citrus grower reference on citrus nutrition





## **“Grower Tools”**

One of the features I wish to use in my newsletter will be titled “Grower Tools”. The focus will be to focus on tools that are available primarily through IFAS that can aid a grower in management decisions. This month I am featuring r. Gene Albrigo’s Flower Bud Induction Program.

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## **Flower Bud Induction**

Citrus Flower Bud Induction is initiated usually in the fall and ends in January. The key mechanism is temperature. Accumulation of hours of temperatures below 68 degrees (F) promotes the induction of flower buds. Leaf loss, previous excessive crops, and warm periods during low temperature accumulation all can interfere with flower bud induction. Once the threshold of hours below 68 degrees is reached for flower bud induction, a period of warmer temperatures can initiate flower bud differentiation leading to bloom.



Dr. Albrigo has devised a system of gathering temperature and other data during the fall and winter and then offering to growers a Flower Bud Induction Advisory. This advisory can then help the grower predict the bloom date. Knowing this a grower can make management decisions to optimize various management practices such as nutrition, irrigation, and pest control.

The Flower Bud Induction Overview and Advisory can be reached by going to the following web site: <http://www.lal.ufl.edu/extension/flowerbud/index>.

The Flower Bud Induction Advisory for January 8 was as follows:

“Flower Bud Induction Overview and Advisory

L. Gene Albrigo, Horticulturist

Citrus Research & Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL

### **CURRENT FLOWER BUD INDUCTION OVERVIEW and ADVISORY #6 for 2007-2008-1/08/08**

Currently, all central to northern citrus areas have flower buds initiated and growing. The flowering Monitor System indicates this growth started about 20-22 December and the projected bloom dates for this first wave of flowers is about February 28 to 2 March if normal or warmer weather continues. This first wave was induced at about 800+ accumulated hours below 68 degrees F from Sebring to northern districts. Another 200 hours has accumulated and a second wave of buds will be initiated to flower shortly.

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## **Citrus Greening Summit at the 2008 Florida Citrus Growers Institute**

The Citrus Extension Agents will be holding a “Citrus Greening Summit” at the Florida Citrus Growers Institute on Tuesday, April 8, 2008.

The summit will be held at the South Florida Community College, University Center, Auditorium.

The program is being finalized. **Mark your calendar NOW to attend April 8.**



**Highlands County Extension Service**  
**University of Florida**  
4509 George Boulevard  
Sebring, FL 338751

Highlands Citrus Talk  
Published Monthly  
Volume I, Issue I  
January 2008

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Lakeland, Florida  
Permit No. 5528

## **Youth Citrus Project Citrus Tree Sale**

Again this year, the 4-H and FFA Youth in Highlands County are raising Citrus Trees for show at the county fair. The purpose of the project is to encourage young people to develop an interest in citrus and the citrus industry. Having worked for twelve years in collegiate education, I can tell you we are seriously deficient in young people who would pursue a career in citrus. I know those who say that a career in citrus is like a ticket on the titanic, but those of us who realize we will persevere these trying challenges, recognize we will need the next generation to carry on the business.

We have about fifty young people who last year received a seedling citrus tree and have been nurturing it to show at the Highlands County Fair February 8 – 16. In addition to growing the tree, they research information for an educational display board and prepare a record book of what they have done.

What I am asking you to do is to come down to the county fair and bid on the purchase of one or more of these trees in a silent auction. These young people have invested both financially and in “sweat equity” in raising these trees to show. They need to sell these trees to recover their costs. The top two trees will be sold in a Live Auction on Thursday evening February 14 during the Livestock Sale.

Although you may not find enough trees there to resolve the resetting needs in your grove, you will be helping these young people to develop an interest in the citrus business and whether or not they consider citrus for a career, they will better understand and appreciate what it takes to grow a tree.

If you cannot make it to the fair to bid on one or more of these trees, and wish to do so, please contact me, and I will help you make the bid. If you need more information, let me know.



# Highlands County Worker Protection Standard and

**When:** Wednesday, February 20, 2008 8:00 a.m. – Noon



**Where:** Highlands County Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Florida

**Program Description:**

This training workshop is designed to prepare those individuals who will be responsible for training agricultural workers and pesticide handlers on safe pesticide management as required by the Worker Protection Standard law. Included will be training requirements, central posting requirements notification of employees of pesticide applications, etc.

**Continuing Education:** 4 CEU's for RUP in Private Applicator, Ag Tree Crop, and Ornamental & Turf.  
3 CEU's in CCA, IPM.

**Registration:** All attendees must pre-register by completing the Registration Form and returning it with the registration fee to:

Highlands County Extension Office  
509 George Boulevard  
Sebring, FL 33875

**Registration Fee:** \$20.00 per person payable to "Horticultural Advisory Committee"

**Registration Deadline:** February 15, 2008

**Disabilities:** Persons with individual disabilities that require accommodation must notify the Highlands

**Highlands County Worker Protection Standard  
Train the Trainer Workshop**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Business Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, & Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) Workshop and Exam

### Provided by:

The Highlands County Cooperative Extension Service, UF/IFAS

This workshop is designed to prepare those in commercial agriculture to prepare for and take the necessary

### Program Description:

Restricted Use Pesticide CORE and Category exams to become licensed to purchase and apply pesticides labeled for restricted use. It will also serve as an opportunity to be refreshed in the topics associated with the application of Restricted Use Pesticides and obtain part of the CEU's needed toward renewal of ones RUP license.

### When: **Thursday February 28, 2008**

Registration 8:00 – 8:20 a.m.

Workshop 8:20 a.m. to Noon

Exams 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

### Where: **Highlands County Agri-Civic Center - Auditorium**

**Workshop Topics:** General Standards – CORE • Private Applicator •  
Ag Tree Crop Pest Control • Ornamentals & Turf Pest Control

**CEU's** 2.0 CEU's CORE  
2.0 CEU's Private Applicator, Ag Tree Crop, or Ornamentals & Turf

### Examinations will be given in:

#### CORE Competency Standards Exam

This exam is required to be taken for all specialty categories.

#### **CORE Competency - General Standards**

#### Category Competency Standards Exams

You will take the exam in one category.

#### **Private Applicator Agricultural Pest Control**

#### **Ag Tree Crop Pest Control, or**

#### **Ornamentals & Turf Pest Control**

**Registration Fee:** \$15.00 (check payable to – "Horticulture Advisory Committee")

**Registration:** **Complete the form below and return it with your registration fee to;**  
Highlands County RUP Workshop  
4509 George Boulevard, Sebring, FL 33875

**Registration Deadline:** Monday February 25, Registrations will not be permitted after Monday, or at the door.



**Grower Survey Response Form**  
**Highlands County Extension Citrus Program**

Please complete this form and return to:

Tim Hurner  
Citrus Extension Program  
4509 W. George Boulevard  
Sebring, FL 33875

\_\_\_\_\_ Please retain my name on the Highlands County Extension Citrus Mailing List

\_\_\_\_\_ Please remove my name from the Highlands County Extension Citrus Mailing List

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Web Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in serving on the Highlands County Extension Citrus Advisory Committee? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Are you interested in being a Program Sponsor? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Optional Survey**

Check all that apply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Citrus Grove Owner    \_\_\_\_\_ Citrus Grove Manager    \_\_\_ Citrus Grove Employee

\_\_\_\_\_ Allied Industry Representative    \_\_\_\_\_ Crop Protection Chemicals

\_\_\_\_\_ Fertilizer and Lime Sales

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: Describe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Other Category: Describe \_\_\_\_\_