



## Highlands Citrus E-Talk

4509 George Boulevard, Sebring, Florida 33875 – (863) 402-6540



### **The Highlands County Citrus Extension Newsletter**

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Vol. 4 No.1

January, 2011

#### **January Highlands Citrus OJ Break**

### **“Update on Foliar Nutritionals and Pesticides to Manage Citrus Greening and Canker”**

**Tuesday January 25, 2011**

**9:30 a.m. – Noon**

**Bert J. Harris, Jr. Ag Center, Conference Room # 2**



Topics and Speakers Include:

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Dr. Bob Rouse    | “Foliar Nutrition, the Horticultural Approach to Surviving with HLB”  |
| Dr. Phil Stansly | “Effects of a Foliar Nutrient Program And Insecticidal Control on ACP Populations, HLB Severity, and Yield” |
| Dr. Bob Ebel     | “Current findings on Management of Citrus Canker”   |

#### **Registration:**

Please call registration to Katie (863) 402-6540 or email [katieduncan@ufl.edu](mailto:katieduncan@ufl.edu)

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#### **New Telephone Number**

I now have a telephone number you can use to reach me directly. **It is (863) 402-7150**. This number goes direct to my desk and if I am on the phone or away from the office you can leave me a voicemail. You can still reach me through the Extension Office phone number (863) 402-6540. For some this new number will be more convenient. It will not be a published number so write it in your directory or add it to your cell phone list.

#### **Flower Bud Induction Advisory**

Dr. Gene Albrigo has for several years published a “Flower Bud Induction Advisory” forecast to help growers predict blossoming. Growers want to plan for nutrition, pest management, fruit set enhancing sprays, etc. that center in on the blossom period and the associated leaf flush and expansion.

This program is immensely useful in planning spring production practices. It is updated every two weeks during the fall, winter, and spring.

I have excerpted the “Current Status” of the current advisory, it is:

### **CURRENT FLOWER BUD INDUCTION ADVISORY #4 for 2010-2011-01/05/11**

**Current Status:** Happy New Year and Surprise-Surprise. While we celebrated the holidays, apparently Mother Nature was busy. The Flowering Monitor Model indicates that a first wave of flower buds was initiated to grow between December 17th and 28th depending on the location. The inductive cool hours had reached 800 to 940 in southern areas and 1000 to 1250 in central and northern areas of Florida’s citrus industry. The full bloom dates for this first wave of flower buds is about February 24 to 25 in southern, flatwoods areas and March 2 to 7 for central and northern areas. Since that time another 300 hours have accumulated so that hours of inductive temperatures have now reached 1100 to 1500 hours from South to North in the citrus belt. Induction levels are now good to excellent for all citrus areas.

This advisory is updated every two weeks and can be accessed at:

[http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/flowerbud/2011/01\\_05\\_11.htm](http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/flowerbud/2011/01_05_11.htm)

You can get the full advisory by clicking on this link. Save it in your favorites and keep up with the forecast.

### **Area-Wide Sprays**

Again, last week at the International Conference on HLB, one of the major “take home” messages was **“control the psyllid”**, **“control the psyllid”**, **“control the psyllid”**, **“control the psyllid”**, **“control the psyllid”**. The key to limiting the spread of HLB is contingent on controlling the psyllid. They pointed out again the most effective, cost effective, and efficient way for growers to minimize psyllid populations is “Area-Wide” (CHMA) sprays.

Growers need to coordinate sprays in an area in as small a coordinated window as possible using chemicals of like Mode of Action.

Presently growers in Highlands County CHMA areas are spraying Danitol as a dormant spray to wipe out the adult psyllid population. Most are just finishing up. Although psyllid numbers are low this time of year it is best to drive them lower before the spring flush. Although we have had several freezes, Dr. Michael Rogers at the CRFEC and Dr. Phil Stansly at the SWFREC agree that some psyllids are killed by cold, but a great number survive.

There are three Citrus Health Management Areas (CHMA’s) in Highlands County that are either officially formed or in the process of being formed. They are: Northern Highlands CHMA, Central Highlands 27/17 CHMA, and Southern Highlands CHMA. The Central Highlands extends along U S Highway 27 and SR 17 from just north of Lake Placid to U S Hwy. 98. The Northern Highlands CHMA extends north from there, and the Southern Highlands CHMA extends south. John Gose at Lykes Brothers is giving leadership to the Central Highlands 27/17 CHMA, and Steve Farr with Ben Hill Griffin is giving leadership to the northern and southern

efforts. Ray Royce is a good resource for all of the CHMA areas. If you contact them they will include you in an email batch file that announces what the spray schedule will be. Growers in the CHMA area can select their material to spray, but they are encouraged to use the same MOA and sequence timing with the rest of the area. Steve, John, and Ray should be commended for giving leadership to this program.

Research data shows a strong response to reducing psyllid populations when growers coordinate area-wide sprays.

A web site has been developed by Dr. Michael Rogers at the CFEC, Lake Alfred. The CHMA Web Site is at [www.flchma.org](http://www.flchma.org). On this site you can find details on the CHMA areas and a template for sprays throughout the year, highlighting four that have the greatest potential for area-wide spraying.

The bottom line is a coordinated effort to attack the psyllid.

### **Meet the New Highlands County Extension Director**

IFAS and the Board of County Commissioners have hired a new **County Extension Director** for the Highlands County Extension Office. He is Mike Jensen.

We will be hosting a "Meet and Greet" for Mike Jensen on Tuesday January 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Bert J. Harris, Jr. Ag Center. Refreshments will be served.

Please come and meet Mike and welcome him to Highlands County.

### **Highlands County Extension Has a New 4-H Agent**

We have a new 4-H Agent in the Highlands County Extension Office.

She is Kelly Duke from Avon Park. Kelly has taught at the Avon Park Middle School and was the Avon Park Middle School FFA Advisor. Many of you know Kelly and her husband Max, they are an asset to the community, and I am confident that Kelly will be a great asset to the Highlands County 4-H program

### **Citrus Production School**

Dr. Steve Futch has scheduled a Citrus Production School to be held at the Turner Exhibition Hall, in Arcadia, February 1, 8, & 15, 2011. Topics will include psyllid management, disease management, good ag practices, numeric nutrient criteria, nutritional programs for HLB management, and the impact of HLB on fruit yields. To register for the program, contact the Hardee County Extension office at (863) 773-2164. The registration fee is \$25.00 and will include a copy of the annual Florida Citrus Pest Management Guide (SP-43), program notebook and refreshments.

### **Record Keeping Manual For Private Pesticide Applicators**

We now have available in our office copies of the USDA Record Keeping Manual for Private Pesticide Applicators. This manual covers all of the information you need as a private applicator to keep as a record

when making pesticide applications of restricted use pesticides and for Worker Protection Standard, compliance as required by federal law. This is important should you be audited for compliance.

If you would like a copy, stop by the Extension Office or contact me at (863) 402-6540, [plowboy@ufl.edu](mailto:plowboy@ufl.edu) and I will mail you one.

## **Low Volume Sprayer Evaluation Rodeo**

The Florida Citrus Extension Agents are hosting another round of Low Volume Sprayer Calibration Rodeos next month.

The effectiveness of any Low Volume Spray Application is totally dependent on the accuracy of the spray as to droplet size. In some cases droplet size is specified on the label and critical to a legal application of the product.

Two sites have been scheduled they are:

**Thursday, Feb. 3, 2010 at the Polk County Extension Service, Bartow, and**

**Friday, Feb. 4, 2010 at the Southwest Florida Research & Education Center, Immokalee.**

**Both will be held from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

A USDA ARS research team from Texas that specializes in agricultural equipment calibration will assist with the calibration of low volume sprayers to determine spray particle size distribution. A confidential print out with recommendations for adjustment, if required, will be given the owner of the sprayer.

**To sign up for the event** contact either Steve Futch or Jane Wilson at 863-956-1151 to schedule a time to bring in your spray equipment to one of the above locations. Scheduling will limit the time required to get your sprayer calibrated. **Please sign up ASAP.**

## **Highlands County Youth Citrus Project**

### **Citrus Tree Silent Auction**

In last month's newsletter I told you about this program and the great success it is having. The Youth Citrus Project is an effective means to introduce young people in Highlands County to the Highlands Citrus industry and the citrus business. These young people learn how to grow a potted citrus tree, research an educational display board, and keep records chronicling what they have done and learned.

The participants will exhibit their citrus tree, and their informational display board, and sell their tree at the Highlands County Fair February 11 – 19, 2011.

The citrus tree sale will be a "Silent Auction" except for the Champion and Reserve Champion trees which will be sold in a live auction on Thursday Evening, February 17th, 5:30 p.m., at the Highlands County Fairgrounds.



**I encourage you to purchase a citrus tree(s) at the fair to support these young people in their citrus project.** The trees are inspected by the DPI, and can be used as resets in your grove. They are all Hamlin trees in excellent condition in 5-gallon pots.

Many of the entrants use the money to further their education after high school.

I am attaching to this newsletter a list of young people who will exhibit and sell their trees.

I would encourage you to go to the fair and bid in a tree or trees. If you are unable to go to the fair, you can contact me and I will place your bid(s) for you. You can bid by name or merely set a price and how many trees you wish to buy.

Last year Christy and Cruiser Crews bought the most trees at the fair. They are commended for their support.

For more details on how to purchase a tree, or to bid on trees, contact me, Tim Hurner, at (863) 402-7150 or [plowboy@ufl.edu](mailto:plowboy@ufl.edu).

## **Highlands Grower Forum Report**

The Highlands Grower Forum January 6<sup>th</sup> was another big success. A lot of discussion centered on the area-wide (CHMA) program and the successes growers were having by participating in coordinated sprays. Everyone was in agreement on the need to consistently and constantly attack the psyllid to mitigate the spread of HLB. Some discussion was held on new product labels and label amendments.

A great deal of information was shared by growers present and all agreed that this is one of the most beneficial things we as growers can do.

If you did not attend, you should make it a point to attend the next one.

## **RNAi**

Recently there has become a lot of information on RNAi's floating around as a potential means to control the Asian Citrus Psyllid. Several research projects have been funded by the Florida Citrus Research and Development Foundation and progress is being made on the development of an RNAi on citrus. Several presentations were made on the subject at the HLB Conference last week. Ryan Atwood recently published a good summary article on the subject in the layman's terms. I have placed his article on my web page at the following link: [http://highlands.ifas.ufl.edu/ag\\_citrus.shtml](http://highlands.ifas.ufl.edu/ag_citrus.shtml). I think this article will help you with this subject in the future.

## **HLB Photo Series**

The Florida Citrus Extension Agents have begun a project to chronicle the progress of greening in citrus trees. We are taking photos monthly of a group of citrus trees which are symptomatic and have a positive PCR for Citrus Greening (HLB). I believe this will be beneficial to use as a reference on the progress of the disease. The project is funded by the Citrus Research and Development Foundation and will be helpful in recording the progress of the disease.



To see the pictures of the trees by county click on the following link and select the county of interest: [http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/hlb\\_photos/index.htm](http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/hlb_photos/index.htm).

Tim Hurner,  
Multi-County Citrus Extension Agent  
Highlands County

## Highlands County Citrus Extension Program Sponsors 2010-1011

A special **THANK YOU** to all of the **Highlands Extension Citrus Program** sponsors for their monetary support. If you would like to be among them please contact me at (863) 402-6540 or [plowboy@ufl.edu](mailto:plowboy@ufl.edu).

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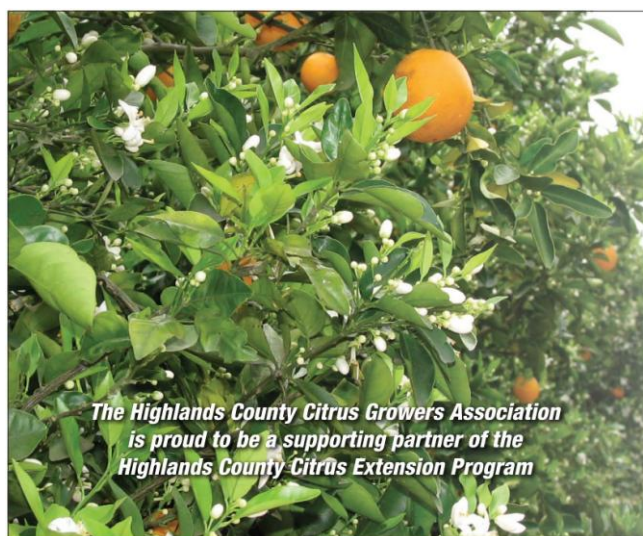


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## 2011 Youth Citrus Program

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Josiah	Berry
Johnathon	Brewington
Mariah	Brewington
Joshua	Brown
Taylor	Brown
Haylee	Brunner
William	Brunner
Tevin	Bullard
David	Bunton
Thomas	Bunton
Logan	Carlson
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Zack	Farr
Dylan	Feickert
Jimmy	Griffin
Sara	Griffin
Kirstin	Halliday
Cassandra	Hare
Kayla	Hart
Shelby	Hill
Kelsie	Jahna
Leighton	Jahna
Amanda	Killmon
Garrett	Knowles
Meghan	Knowles
Ashley	Longabaugh
Tara	Lowder
Tara	O'Berry
Reece	O'Conner
Ashley	Palmer
Haley	Richardson
Colby	Royce
Scout	Royce
Layton	Sapp
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Megan	Sowards
Megan	Stein
Jennifer	Swain
Zachary	Taylor Smith



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