



UF/IFAS EXTENSION

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

The Highlands County Citrus Extension Newsletter

Highlands Citrus – E-Talk

Florida Citrus Show – Ft. Pierce

Don't Forget the Florida Citrus Show will be held January 25-26, 2012 at the Havert L. Fern Center in Fort Pierce.

For registration and program information, go to: <http://citrusshow.com>

Alternate Crops Extension Program

I have been asked to give leadership to an extension program on the production of some Alternate Crops for Highlands County. In the past few years there has been a growing interest in growing other fruit crops in addition to citrus. During the past few years, also, there have been developments in a couple of new crops that would make them suitable Highlands County.

The crops include Peaches, Blueberries, Pomegranates, and Olives. For both, Peaches and Blueberries we now have several varieties for production in Highlands County that meet our chilling units and should allow a window of opportunity to provide for an early market. Infrastructure for harvesting, packing, and marketing are developing. Olives and Pomegranates have a potential; however, they are not yet as far along as to their economic potential in Highlands County.

I am now publishing a newsletter on these crops which will include marketing, and production information, and announcing programs held in nearby counties that may be of interest. I will be holding some local seminars and workshops over the next year, and will announce them in this newsletter.

If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive this newsletter, please contact me at plowboy@ufl.edu or (863) 402-7150.

Upcoming Alternate Crop Seminars

Attached are two fliers for upcoming seminars that may be of interest to you. Both require pre-registration.

Potential for Producing Olives in Florida – Special Seminar and Workshop

Thursday February 2, 2012
Citrus Research & Education Center
700 Experiment Station Road
Lake Alfred, Florida

2012 Stone Fruit Postharvest Handling Workshop

Thursday February 16, 2012
Citrus Research & Education Center
700 Experiment Station Road
Lake Alfred, Florida

See the attached flier for the agenda and registration information.

Highlands County Youth Citrus Project Citrus Tree Silent Auction

The Highlands County Youth Citrus Project is a program to introduce young people in Highlands County to the Highlands Citrus Industry and the Citrus Business. A small group of growers have formed a committee and sponsored this program for the past several years. The program exposes many Highlands County Youth and their parents to aspects of the citrus business that they need to be aware of.

These young people learn how to grow a potted citrus tree, research an educational display board on citrus topics, 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 citrus tree at the Highlands County Fair February 10 – 18, 2012.

The citrus trees are sold in a “Silent Auction” during the Highlands County Fair. The proceeds reimburse the cost and reward the young people for the work involved in growing the citrus tree.



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.

If you are unable to go to the fair to bid on a citrus tree(s), you can contact me and I will place you bid(s) for you. You can bid by name(s) or merely set a price and how many trees you wish to buy. If you would like to see a list of who the participants are, I could provide you one.

You may also wish to provide an "Add-On" price for each tree instead of purchasing a tree(s). To provide an "Add-On" you must add on to all trees in the show (there are presently 60 trees entered). Minimum add-on is \$5.00 per tree and can increase in increments of \$5.00.

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

February O J Break

Plants are being developed for the February O J Break to visit the Gardinier Grove in Indiantown to see the large Advanced Citrus Production System demonstration Trial.

Mark Your Calendar for Wednesday, February 23rd. Details will be coming out soon

Tim Hurner, CCA
Multi-County Extension Citrus Agent
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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 **Tim Hurner** at **(863) 402-7150** or plowboy@ufl.edu .

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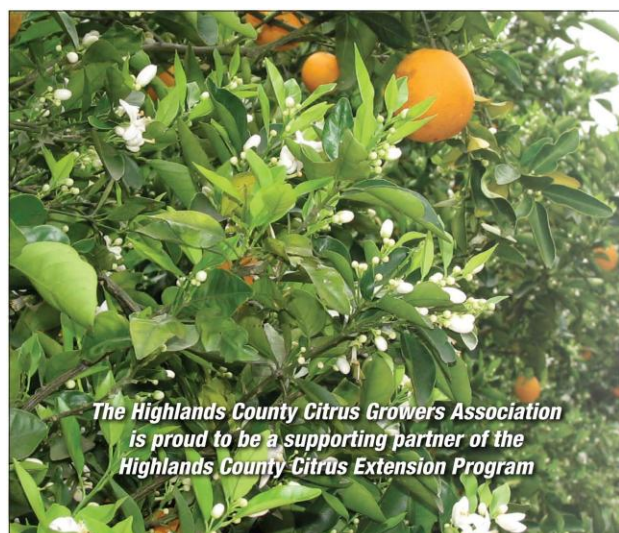


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*The Highlands County Citrus Growers Association
is proud to be a supporting partner of the
Highlands County Citrus Extension Program*



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