

The Highlands County Extension Citrus E-Newsletter
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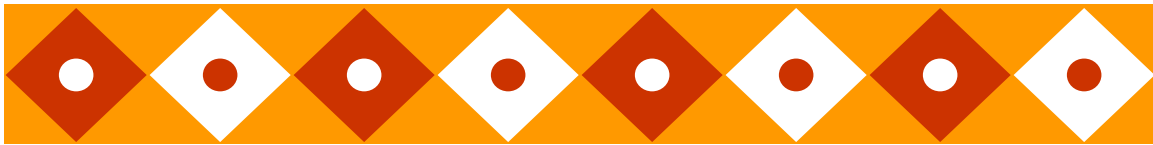
Highlands County Citrus E-Talk

As I write this newsletter my heart like yours is heavy over our losing Mason Smoak from this life to eternal life. Each time I think of Mason, my mind goes into a whirr. There is no one I know or have known like Mason. He is a role model for us all. He wore his faith in God where all could see. He dearly loved Tracee and his children. His faith and family superseded all else he did, yet he was a leader, mentor, confidant, and true friend to each and all of us. I never heard him say no, I can't help. He had a sense of humor that penetrated all he did. We all one time or another were victim to one of his mischievous pranks, only to hear his unique laughter. He came from good stock, a family and extended family whose closeness is very evident. His going home to be with his Maker was not expected, yet he has left so much of himself with us. Although over the past week, I could not see Mason physically present, I have seen and heard Mason. My guess is we will see and hear him for a long time to come. In the celebration of life service held for him he spoke to us reminding us to live life fully and responsibly. Don't forget to tell those close to you and those around you that you love them, and remember our attitude is what we make it. Our lives will be forever better because we knew Mason.



Upcoming Events

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|----------------|--|
| August 20, 21 | Citrus Expo, Ft. Myers |
| September 11 | Packinghouse Field Day, CREC Lake Alfred |
| December 1 – 5 | International Citrus Conference, Orlando |



Due Diligence

We have reached the time of year where the Citrus Psyllid, Huanglongbing, and Citrus Canker are all happy. Warm temperatures, high humidity, recent rainfall, frequent flushes of growth all add up to a "day at the beach" for these formidable foes of citrus. As much as we would like to go on vacation and hope these pest have gone away when we return. That isn't going to happen! NOW is the time to be most diligent and have a good plan of action and be implementing that plan. The portentous nature of these pests is such that they feed off of the weather conditions we have. Exacerbating the situation is the fact that they know no boundaries, so what your neighbor does greatly influence the success you have. NOW is the time to include discussions with neighbors as to how you each are fighting the war and coordinate battle plans.

If you need assistance in developing your plan, I am willing to work with you and offer the best that we have from IFAS. Since returning to IFAS, my glass is still half-full. I am seeing great progress in research and the diligence of citrus growers. The key right now is to carefully continue the battles as we approach having the permanent solutions to defeat the foe.

Citrus Expo

The 2008 Citrus Expo "Seeking Profitability Through Interim Innovations" will be held August 20 & 21, 2008 at the Lee Civic Center in Ft. Myers.

Enclosed is a copy of the program. You can see both days are filled with topic presentations of significant interest. The trade show also offers a value-added opportunity in attending. Pre-registration is preferred, which can be done by mailing in the pre-registration form or on-line at CitrusExpo@southeastagnet.com.

This is the seventeenth year of the Citrus Expo and it certainly has an excellent program. Register early and protect these days on your calendar.

Citrus Grower Tools

Tool # 1 **HLB, Citrus Canker, Psyllid ID Training**

The first line of offense in the ID of HLB, Citrus Bacterial Canker, and the Asian Citrus Psyllid is your grove workers. Their eyes see your trees more than anyone else. Training of workers on how to identify HLB, canker, and the psyllid is your responsibility. Although you may have already had your workers trained, you may need an up-date training for existing workers or new training for new employees.



IFAS, through the Citrus REC at Lake Alfred has a person on board who can provide worker training for you on these subjects. She is Ms. Jamie Yates, Asst. Coordinator, Canker, and Greening Extension Education, at the CREC Lake Alfred. She can be reached at 863-956-1151 ext. 1302, or jdyates@crec.ifas.ufl.edu.

She has many resources such as laminated identification sheets, DVD's, CD's, field ID pocket guides and various handouts which are available for growers to use. Also there are two websites <http://canker.ifas.ufl.edu> and <http://greening.ifas.ufl.edu>, where information is available for use in training.

Ms. Yates is available to train your scouts or grove workers. Trainings can be held in a location convenient for you (i.e. extension office, company office, barn, etc.) and are designed for your needs. Trainings can be held where several growers can get together to have their employees trained at the same time. No grower is too small or too large to receive these tools or trainings.

If you would like to request materials or setup training, please contact Jamie Yates, 863-956-1151 ext. 1302 or jdyates@ufl.edu.

Tool # 2 **HLB Maps**

The Florida department of Agriculture provides regular updates of maps that identify the location of finds of both Citrus Canker and Greening.

The current HLB, citrus greening map dated May 9, 2008 can be found at:

<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/chrp/greening/StatewidePositiveHLBSections.pdf>

The combined map for both citrus canker and greening dated June 4, 2008 can be found at:

http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/chrp/ArcReader/CC_HLB.pdf.

Keep these web addresses in your "favorites" list so you can look up updated maps in the future.

CHRP
2008-2009 Citrus Health Response Program Compliance
Agreements

FDACS, DPI has official announced that the CHRP program from last year will be repeated exactly "as is" for this year. The 07/08 Compliance Agreements will roll forward to this year. Growers and harvesters do not have to re-apply for 08/09 provided they had an agreement in 07/08. This includes the 07/08 Business Plans, and 07/08 Compliance Agreement Numbers. The Compliance Agreement Numbers which remain unchanged for 08/09 must appear on all field trip tickets.

Those who did not develop an agreement in 07/08 must apply now.

Although not likely, there is a potential this decision could change, therefore growers should keep in contact with DPI to track any possible changes.

They are getting ready to do the fresh fruit agreements. Those involved with fresh fruit will have to re-apply for the 2008-2009 season.

A link to the information for the 2008-2009 CHRP Compliance for 2008-2009 is as follows: http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/chrp/images/chrpcompliance_2008.pdf.

If you would like to contact someone directly at DPI, the two contacts given regarding compliance agreements are Mark Estes (863-298-7723) or Tomas Gonzalez (863-298-5244).

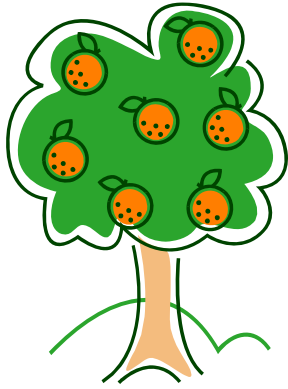


Highlands County Citrus Extension
"E-Newsletter"

I have added to my program an electronic method of conveying this newsletter called "**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 who has given me their email address.

In addition I will use "**Highlands County Citrus E-Talk**" to announce meetings, provide meeting reminders, provide timely information releases, etc. which I may not be able to do with the traditional "snail mail" printed newsletter.

If you have not already and wish to receive "**Highlands County Citrus E-Talk**" via your email, just send me a message at plowboy@ufl.edu and I'll put you on the list.



Citrus Packinghouse Day

The Citrus Packinghouse Day is scheduled for September 11, 2008 at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred, and the Indian River Postharvest Workshop on September 16, 2008 at the Indian River Research and Education Center in Ft. Pierce.

This year's program will include presentations updating the latest information on citrus canker related to fresh citrus, the development of new fresh citrus varieties, national efforts to create commodity specific GAPs, changes in the maximum residue limits for important export markets, practices to reduce peel breakdown on fresh grapefruit, and research into the possible use of laser labeling on citrus.

For more information, contact Mark Ritenour at 772-468-3922, ext. 167 or visit <http://postharvest.ifas.ufl.edu>.

Oriental Fruit Fly

FDACS, DPI has reported finding two Oriental fruit Flies in a sweet orange tree in Winter Park, Florida. DPI is responding based on their protocol with intensive trapping in an 81 square mile area around the find. If more flies are found they will begin a limited treatment program in the area.



In recent past flies were found in 1999, 2001, 2002, and 2007, all resulting in no further flies being detected. With so many potentially devastating pest of citrus out there, we must keep alert for things we may be unfamiliar with.

International Research Conference in HLB

An International Conference on HLB will be held in Orlando December 1 – 5, 2008. The conference is being planned to bring together people from around the world to discuss HLB to exchange the latest information, knowledge, ideas and concepts relative to HLB.

If you are interested in being kept up to date on details of this conference, you should contact Ms. Penny McCurry, mccurp@doacs.state.fl.us.

**Highlands County Extension Service
University of Florida**

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Sebring, FL 338751

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Tim Hurner
Multi-County Citrus Extension Agent

HLB Labs

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

Southern Gardens Citrus -

United States Sugar Corporation,
Mike Irej, Technical Operations,
111 Ponce de Leon Ave.
Clewiston, FL 33440 863-902-2249
msirej@ussugar.com

Southwest Florida RREC -

HLB Lab, 2686 SR 29 N,
Immokalee, FL 34142
Phone: 239-658-3400
<http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/hlb/index.htm>

