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Highlands Citrus Talk
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Highlands County Extension Web Site

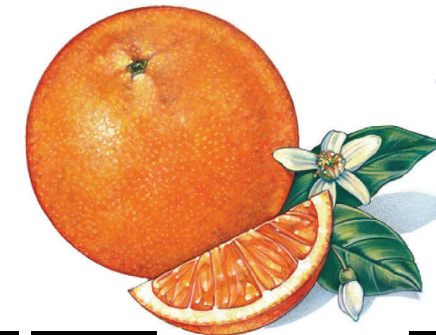
This web site can be found at <http://highlands.ifas.ufl.edu> is developed and managed right here in Highlands County. It contains local extension citrus information, meeting announcements, and links to more information.

Citrus Students Need Internships

Currently there are fifteen students at **Florida Southern College, Horticultural Science Department**, who are studying Citrus Production. Most are from the citrus growing area and some are from citrus families. As we move forward with the challenges we face today in our industry, it is important that we have trained people entering our industry for the future. About half of these students will be Interning next summer.

Good News! HLB Dropped from "Select Agent List"

Effective November 17, 2008, HLB will be officially removed from the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection "Select Agent and Toxin List", according to the USDA APHIS. This will allow researchers more freedom in handling plant material infected with HLB and will greatly reduce the cost of doing research on HLB under the intense regulation of the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act.



The Highlands County Citrus Extension Newsletter

Highlands Citrus Talk

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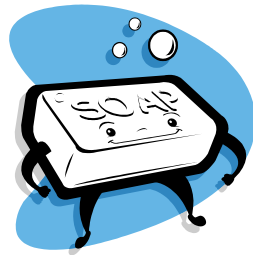
Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Nov. 7, 2008 | Personnel Hygiene Certification Training |
| Nov. 12, 2008 | Canker and HLB ID Training and Decontamination Training |
| Dec. 1 – 5, 2008 | International Research Conference in HLB -
"Reaching Beyond Boundaries" |
| January 28, 2009 | Indian River Citrus Seminar |

Newsletter Topics

This newsletter is a little longer than most, but it reflects the times where information needs to flow. The following are the topics listed in order of which they appear in case you wish to read ahead.

1. Personnel Hygiene Certification Training for Harvesting Crews
2. Ag Center Re-Naming
3. Citrus HLB, Canker ID and Scouting Training for Grove Workers
4. IFAS Pest Posters
5. 2007-2008 Citrus Summary Cost Budgets Available
6. New Variety Development
7. USDA Disaster Assistance Available for Tropical Storm Fay
8. Certified Pile Burners Certification Training Postponed
9. International Research Conference in HLB
"Reaching Beyond Boundaries"
10. Notes on Psyllid Management and Citrus Greening
11. Citrus Grower Tools "Flower Bud Induction Overview and Advisory"
12. Highlands County Citrus Extension "E-Newsletter"
13. Citrus Students Need Internships



Personnel Hygiene Certification Training for Harvesting

Crews

One of the newer regulations for shipping fresh citrus fruit overseas, especially to Europe, requires that those harvesting the citrus fruit have a certification as having been trained in "Personnel Hygiene" while harvesting fruit. Packinghouses that ship fruit overseas are requiring this certification when fruit is being harvested for overseas shipment. This training is designed to avoid the possible contamination of fruit with harmful elements such as what happened recently to the tomato industry. If you have such need for your harvesting crews to be certified your crews should attend:

Highlands County "Personnel Hygiene Training for Harvesting Personnel"

(in English & Spanish)

Includes:

- ◆ hand washing
- ◆ covering of skin cuts
- ◆ limitation on smoking
- ◆ eating & drinking only in designated areas
- ◆ proper use of PPE
- ◆ notification of relevant infectious diseases

November 7th, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. at the **Highlands County Agri-Civic Center Auditorium** US Highway 27 South Sebring

Citrus Harvesting Companies **must register** their crews that will attend, prior to November 5th by calling Tim Hurner at (863) 402-6540. We must know how many will be attending and the breakdown of the number needing Spanish and English Versions.

Ag Center Re-Naming

The Highlands County Board of County Commissioners in June voted to rename the Highlands County Ag Center the Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agricultural Center, and the auditorium the O. S. "Sam" Polston Auditorium. Both men contributed much to making agriculture what it is today in Highlands County. Both were responsible in the establishment of water management strategies, cattle and pasture improvement, and citrus and caladium variety and production improvements that have helped in the success of many people in Highlands County.

You are invited to attend an **"Unveiling and Dedication"** of these new names associated with the **Ag Center at 11:00 a.m. Thursday November 13, 2008.**

Bert Harris and his family and the Sam Polston family will be here for this event. Please come and participate and visit with both of these families.



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

A Special Thank You to these sponsors of the Highlands County Citrus Extension Program.

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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

Notes on Psyllid Management and Citrus Greening Continued:

Patience in Managing Greening

Some growers are concerned that they are still seeing increasing numbers of greening symptomatic trees although they have been for two plus years intensively managing the psyllid. In discussions with researchers I am reminded that symptoms of greening may take between 4 and 22 months to appear in a greening infected tree. This means that infected trees can reside in your grove for almost two years without showing symptoms. If indeed you have been heavily managing the psyllid, you should begin to see a decline in newly symptomatic trees this next year. The trees you have been finding as symptomatic trees could well have been infected two years ago. Research has shown that the adult psyllid is not as effective at obtaining and transmitting the disease as adults. Adults who obtained the inoculum as nymphs are more efficient at transmitting the disease. Nymph as well as adult control is important.

Citrus Grower Tools

As I have mentioned before I want growers to be aware of "Tools" that are available for use. In today's world we all are aware of the many uses we have of computers. One of the most dynamic uses is the access of information.

One tool you may want to use this winter is the:

Flower Bud Induction Overview and Advisory

This tool can be found at: <http://www.lal.ufl.edu/extension/flowerbud/index.htm>. It has been developed for Citrus by Dr. L. Gene Albrigo, Horticulturist CREC, Lake Alfred, Florida. He issues an overview advisory approximately every two weeks between November and March.

Flower Bud Induction timing is an important piece of information for growers. It is a function of accumulated hours of temperatures below 68 degrees F, soil moisture (rainfall and irrigation), etc. The biweekly advisory, prepared by Dr. Albrigo can help the grower predict the bloom period for his area.

This information also is very useful in determining the timing the application of flowering enhancing or reducing sprays. It is also very helpful in timing psyllid management sprays. New flush occurs in sequence with blossoming. This flush account's for about 60% of the leaves on a tree. It is recommended psyllid sprays precede flushes to minimize psyllids capable of feeding and reproduction on new growth. Also, most chemicals that are used to manage psyllids are harmful to bees and should not be used during the spring flush and blossom period when bees are most active in groves.

I urge you to look up this tool and use it this fall and winter!



Citrus HLB, Canker ID and Scouting Training for Grove Workers

Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 9:30 a.m.

Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agricultural Center,
O. S. "Sam" Polston Auditorium



This workshop is designed for those grove employees who are directly or indirectly involved in the identification of Citrus Canker and Citrus Greening in citrus groves. The training is for both retraining those previously trained and those who have not yet been trained.

The training will cover identification of symptoms for both diseases, methods of scouting for both diseases, and decontamination procedures.

Please register by November 10th with the company or owner's name, and the number of employees who will be attending by email to KristinHoffman@ufl.edu, fax (863) 402-6544, or calling (863) 402-6540. (Fax or email preferred)

Please give the company name and the number of employees who will attend.

IFAS Pest Posters

The Florida Citrus Extension Agents have developed a series of five posters that contain pictures of most of the common pests and nutritional disorders of citrus. One poster is devoted entirely to Citrus Greening. The posters are 16" X 30" and are designed for wall mounting. These posters were developed as a part of an educational program funded by the citrus box tax.

The posters are free and are available from the Highlands County Extension office. Due to the high cost of mailing tubes and postage, I would prefer not to mail them. Also, once rolled for mailing, they are more difficult to display.

2007-2008 Citrus Summary Cost Budgets Available

Ron Murraro, Economist at the CREC Lake Alfred has recently released the 2007-08 Citrus Summary Cost Budgets for Central Florida, Southwest Florida and the Indian River. In addition are the Ridge and South Florida Caretaking Rates for 2008, and the Planting and Early Management ... for 2008 reports. You can find these reports at the Citrus Economics web site at

www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/economics . If you cannot access them online call me at (863) 402-6540 and I'll mail you a set.

Ron Murraro has updated these costs to reflect the current increases in fertilizer, fuel, psyllid management and other costs.

New Variety Development



The Citrus New Variety Development & Management Corporation (NVDMC) has been developed by IFAS to oversee the process of development, screening and ultimate release of new varieties of citrus into the industry.

Several times during the year they will have a prospective new variety evaluation event at the Citrus Research & Education Center in Lake Alfred or the A H Whitmore Foundation Farm in Leesburg.

There will be a:

New Variety Display and Evaluation Day at the CREC, Lake Alfred, on Thursday, November 20, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

The NVDMC New Variety Display and Evaluation Events last about one hour. Participants are asked to evaluate each fruit in about twelve different categories such as seediness, juice color, peel separation, taste, etc.

Fresh fruit and processed oranges, and grapefruit varieties are evaluated. This allows growers and others to give input in to the potential for the variety in use by our industry. Those given the highest scores continue in development by the researchers, the lowest rated are dropped. There are two fresh fruit varieties, Early Pride and seedless Surprise, that were developed and screened in this process that are now in the budwood release phase for field trials which is the second phase of new fruit development.

I encourage you to take a little of your time and participate in this opportunity to influence the future of our industry. To register for this event, contact Peter Chaires, NVDMC Chair at pchaires@flcitruspackers.org. (863) 682-0151. The goal is to get 20 – 25 growers at these evaluations. If you would like to go to the November 20th New Variety Display and Evaluation Day let me know and perhaps we could ride up together.

“Congratulations Ron!!!!”

Ron Murraro recently received the “Citrus Researcher of the Year” award from the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association. Ron has for the past thirty years helped the citrus industry track production and other costs. He is indeed most perceptive in developing economic information in a manner most useable by growers. I would urge you to congratulate Ron. You can do so by calling him at (863) 956-1151, or email him at rpm@ufl.edu.

USDA Disaster Assistance Available for Tropical Storm Fay

Highlands County has been listed as one of the primary counties included in a disaster declaration for disaster assistance as a result of Tropical Storm Fay. Assistance is under the USDA Farm Service Agency emergency loans program, for information how to apply call (863) 385-7853.



on



Certified Pile Burners Certification Training Postponed

The Certified Pile Burners Training scheduled for December 18 has been **postponed**. It will probably be rescheduled for February or early March 2009.

To become a Certified Pile Burner you must attend this course. Citrus growers and others who burn trees or other brush piles regularly and are certified, can receive priority to burn even in dry weather, can burn two hours longer each day, and can get multiple day authorizations. Non Certified Pile Burners must use the regular DOF Permit process and are more limited in how they may burn. Certification is good for 5 years. Those who use their certification by requesting a permit to burn 5 times in 5 years will be automatically renewed for five years. Those who do not will have to re-certify.

International Research Conference in HLB “Reaching Beyond Boundaries”

The International Conference on HLB will be held in Orlando December 1 – 5, 2008 in Orlando. 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 would like more information on how to register for the conference, make hotel reservations, see the program, etc. you can go to www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/hlb_conference/.

Psyllid Management and Citrus Greening

Recently in visiting with local growers and research faculty, two subjects have come up often.

Surveying & Borders Management

First is the fact that psyllids seem to build up more rapidly on “borders” both on the outside perimeter of groves and on the perimeters of open areas within a grove. The outside perimeter infestation is often associated with a neighboring grower who is either not controlling psyllids or a grower who is controlling psyllids at a different time than you are. This brings to mind the need for a thorough scouting program to determine when and where psyllids are located and the intensity of the population. This should be then coupled with a flexible yet consistent management program. Consider spraying first in the most intense zones and possibly not spraying where no psyllids are found to save costs. Attempt to get adjacent growers to coordinate ground sprays or consider large area aerial sprays. Follow-up evaluation scouting after spraying is essential.

