



## The Highlands County Citrus Extension Newsletter

# Highlands Citrus E-Talk

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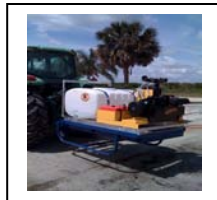
### In this Newsletter:

1. Low Volume Equipment Calibration Rodeo
2. Highlands County Citrus Grower Forum
3. Fall Mini Series- Low Volume Technology
4. RUP CEU Trainings and Exam
5. Certified Pile Burner Class
6. Citrus Leaf Analysis

### Upcoming Events:

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Sept. 15 & 16 | Low Vol. Calibration Rodeo                        |
| Sept. 23      | Highlands Citrus Grower Forum                     |
| Sept 30       | Ag Tree Crop RUPO Review and Exam - Arcadia       |
| Oct. 12       | Private Applicator RUP Review and Exam - Wauchula |
| Oct. 20       | Low Vol. Technology Seminar                       |

### Citrus Low Volume Applicator Calibration Rodeo – For Low Volume Pesticide Application Equipment



This Calibration Rodeo is a cooperative effort of the Florida Citrus Production Research Advisory Council, FCPAC), USDA Ag Research Service (USDA ARS), and the Florida Citrus Extension Agents.

With the advent of low volume spraying (Misting) in citrus, particle size has become important to be sure the spray mist is: moving around and into the tree, where the psyllid pest is located, to maximize contact control, and to comply with low volume label requirements as to micron size for low volume spray.

For those who own and are using low volume sprayers, this is a chance to have your sprayer evaluated as to its calibration. There is no cost to you and the information about your sprayer is confidential.

Attached with this newsletter is a flyer announcing two rodeo events, September 15<sup>th</sup> in

Lake Placid and September 16<sup>th</sup> in Haines City. The evaluation takes about fifteen minutes and reservations will be required. To make your reservation at one of the locations, call Maggie at (352) 343-4101. Appointments are on a first come first served basis.

If you have any questions, you can call me at (863) 402-6540 or email [plowboy@ufl.edu](mailto:plowboy@ufl.edu).

### Highlands Citrus Grower Forum

**Wednesday, September 23, 2009**  
**8:00 a.m.**

**Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agricultural Center**  
**Sebring, Florida**

A “continental type” breakfast  
beginning at 7:30 a.m.

The purpose of the Forum is to allow growers to gather together and share information about their psyllid and greening management programs

A couple of speakers will share experiences on their management programs and the current status of their surveys for symptomatic trees followed by an open discussion.

**Florida Citrus Extension Agents  
Fall Mini Series –**

**Low Volume  
Application  
Technology for  
Citrus Pests**



This program will be held **October 20** at the Bert J. Harris, Jr., Agricultural Center in Sebring.

The topics will cover Low Volume Spray Application Technology.

Attached with this newsletter is a flyer with the details on the meeting and other locations for this series should you have a conflict on the 20<sup>th</sup>. **Registration** is required to plan for the lunch. Call 402-6540 and make your reservation. If you have any questions, you can call me at (863) 402-6540 or email [plowboy@ufl.edu](mailto:plowboy@ufl.edu).

**Highlands County Extension “E-Talk” Citrus Newsletter**

This newsletter is now only being sent via email due to the loss of our postage budget in the cut-backs. Experience is that **people will change e-mail addresses from time to time. When that happens you need to tell me of the change.** All you need to do is email me at [plowboy@ufl.edu](mailto:plowboy@ufl.edu) and I'll make the change on my mailing list.

If you have someone else working with or for you who wishes to receive this newsletter, just email me at [plowboy@ufl.edu](mailto:plowboy@ufl.edu) and give me the name, telephone number, surface mailing address (optional), and email address.

**Additional Newsletter Opportunity**

Each of the Florida Citrus Extension Agents produces a monthly citrus newsletter. Although some of the topics are the same, yet much is different. We each approach our newsletters differently.

If you are interested in reading the other Extension Citrus Newsletters you can go to the Citrus Extension Agents Web Site <http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/> and there find each agents current newsletter and archived newsletters.

**RUP Training and Exams**

There will be two RUP Pesticide Trainings and exams coming up that you may want to be aware of and attend.

1. Sept 30 - **Ag Tree Crop RUP Review and Exam**, 9:00 a.m. – noon. DeSoto County Extension Office – Arcadia. Call (863) 993-4846 for more details and for registration.
2. October 12 – **Private Applicator RUP Review and Exam** 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Hardee County Extension Office – Wauchula. Call (863) 773-2164 for more details and registration.

CEU's are offered in each category and in CORE for those who do not need to take the exam.

**Certified Pile Burner Class**

The Certified Pile Burner Class held August 5 was a success. Everyone in the class passed the exam at the end of the day and now can complete their certification.

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.

**The question is how many people still wish to become certified. DOF wants me to consider another class next spring for this area. I need to hear from you if you are interested in a class to become certified as a pile burner.**

If so, email me at [plowboy@ufl.edu](mailto:plowboy@ufl.edu) so I can determine whether to offer another class.

## Citrus Leaf Analysis



This is the time of year to evaluate the effectiveness of your citrus nutrition program. The pressure of the economic times has caused some to cut expenses where one can and in some cases that has been in the fertilization program.

Leaf Analysis is a very precise tool to evaluate the nutrition status of your trees. This is the optimum time of year to collect leaves for leaf analysis.

Spring flush leaves that are 4 – 6 months old from non-fruiting twigs should be collected. Approximately 100 leaves from 15 – 20 trees per sample should be collected from a common area as to the previous nutrition treatment. If an entire 100 acre block has the same soil type and has received the same nutritional program then one sample could cover 100 acres. If there are areas in the grove that have unique features or have been treated differently nutritionally, then a separate sample is warranted. Leaves damaged by mites or disease should be avoided when sampling.

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Sample leaves should be washed and allowed to dry, placed in a bag that has been labeled and kept cool until delivered to the lab for analysis.

For more details on leaf sampling refer to the most current text on citrus nutrition, SL 253, Nutrition of Florida Citrus Trees. It is on a CD. Copies are available from my office.

### [It is a Different World Out There](#)

The following is an excerpt from the IFAS Chemically Speaking Newsletter.

[In these times a bit of humor never hurt.](#)

Excerpt from the Dorset Echo Newspaper Dorset, UK.

“Alcohol-based hand gel is being banned from entrances at Dorset County (UK) Hospital due to consumption by local vagrants. Homeless alcoholics have been spotted drinking the solution from the dispensers at entrances to the Dorchester hospital. Two homeless people have died in London from drinking the gel used to combat multiple resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and other germs. It will now be removed from all entrances at the hospital and placed near supervised wards. The hospital’s Infection Prevention and Control Committee wanted to do away with the gel - which contains up to 70 percent alcohol - for health and safety reasons.”  
(*Dorset Echo*, 6/30/09).

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