UF FLORIDA

# IFAS EXTENSION

# **Citrus Notes**

**Polk County Extension Service** 

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Dear Growers,

There are a number of programs scheduled for citrus growers this month. First up will be the 2011 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute on April 6, 2011, then the Citrus Mechanical Harvesting Field Day on April 20, 2011. On April 19, 2011 Florida Citrus Mutual will have their area meeting at the Stuart Conference center here in Bartow. We have an update on black spot and sweet orange scab in this issue. Dr. Michael Rogers provided some additional information on the Citrus Health Management Areas we have been putting together for Polk and Hillsborough Counties. New this month we have a short article from CPA, Tom Bryant, about taxes and record retention. The Division of Forestry asked to include information on their "pile burner certification" program. Don't forget to catch the "pesticide news and information" section.

Enjoy the issue,

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Chris Oswalt Citrus Extension Agent Polk/Hillsborough Counties 863-519-8677 Extension 108 P.O. Box 9005, Drawer HS03 Bartow, FL 33831-9005

The Foundation for The Gator Nation An Equal Opportunity Institution 2011 Florida Citrus Growers Institute 2011 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute April 6, 2011

Last call to register for the 2011 Florida Citrus

Growers' Institute to be held at South Florida Community College in Avon Park. The program starts with registration check-in beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6, 2011. Enclosed with the newsletter is the program brochure, along with a map to the college. If you are still considering attending I would strongly suggest emailing or calling in your registration ASAP.

# Mechanical Harvest Field Day



A citrus mechanical harvesting field day and work-

shop has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2011, at the Southwest Research and Education Center, 2685 SR 29 North, in Immokalee. The program "Getting Ready for Abscission" will begin with registration at 7:30 a.m. I have included the flyer with registration and program information at the end of this newsletter.



What's Happening with Black Spot and Sweet Orange Scab? (Author: Dr. Megan Dewd-

ney, Citrus Extension Pa-

thologist, Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL) Citrus black spot has continued to be a problem in South West Florida in Collier and Hendry Counties. The number of finds and disease intensity are higher than in 2010. We were finding symptoms that were not present last year such as false melanose and virulent spot. So far most finds have been on Valencia and the symptoms have been visible in mid to late March. DPI tells me that there have been no new suspect finds in the last 2 weeks. The quarantine areas have expanded, but revisions from APHIS are expected as the most recent finds are taken into account. In our spore trapping efforts, we found Guignardia spp. ascospores, the spores responsible for the majority of infections, in all months except December 2010 and January 2011. Spores were first found in mid-February and by early March, moderate to large spore numbers were trapped. This means that the fungus is active at the moment but it is unclear what this means in terms of disease control at this time of year. The first year of spore trapping has yet to be completed. Applications for black spot should go out no later than the beginning of May. See the Florida Pest Management Guide for further control details.

Sweet orange scab finds are spreading through the state with 11 counties considered positive. Most of the fruit have been from dooryards with only 2 finds in commercial groves, 1 in Sarasota and another in Indian River. The most recent find was in Polk County but not near commercial sites. Few suspect finds were submitted to DPI in the last few weeks. My lab and DPI continue to be unsuccessful in isolating a fungus but have been able to get a positive PCR test. We are not sure what is actually occurring in Florida yet. Despite this, APHIS had placed Florida under a state-wide quarantine along with Arizona, Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana. In Texas, there have been fungi isolated from fruit in commercial groves. We are working

with Texas to determine if their isolates cause disease but this is on-going.

Citrus Health Management Areas (CHMAs) (Author: Dr. Michael Rogers, Citrus Extension Entomologist,



Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL)

In 2010, a group of scientists from the National Academies, commissioned by the Florida Department of Citrus, released a report outlining the short and long-term priorities for survival of the Florida citrus industry in the presence of HLB. Perhaps the most important short-term recommendation was to establish Citrus Health Management Areas (CHMAs, commonly pronounced "chee-mahs"). One of the primary goals of forming CHMAs is to coordinate the timing of psyllid sprays to enhance psyllid control beyond what one or a few growers can achieve on their own. The report also recommended that growers use the same pesticide mode of action for these coordinated sprays to reduce the likelihood of pesticide resistance development which could result in psyllid control failures in the future.

Over the past several years, there have been a number of instances throughout Florida where growers have joined together to coordinate their psyllid control sprays. Based on the success from many of these efforts, fueled by the report released by the National Academies, grower interest in forming and participating in CHMAs has increased dramatically. However, the main impediment to establishing effective CHMAs is the massive amount of coordination required for such a collective effort. In response to requests from Florida citrus growers, UF-IFAS and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) have teamed-up to establish a statewide CHMA program to provide assistance to growers in the formation of CHMAs. The role of UF-IFAS and FDACS in the CHMA program is to provide information needed to make decisions and facilitate coordination and communication of planned CHMA activities.

The key component of the CHMA program is grower participation! Given the fact that the CHMA program is voluntary (there are no mandates for growers to participate), the level of success obtained by each CHMA will be largely determined by how many growers in an area choose to participate. Thus, the framework established for the CHMA program is designed to meet two goals: 1) enhance the psyllid control efforts of growers participating in a CHMA and 2) provide data to demonstrate the benefit of the program in order to convince more growers to participate. The following is a brief description of how the CHMA program functions to meet these goals.

Because growers are the driving force behind this voluntary program, the first step in establishing a CHMA (as part of this formal program) is for growers to request assistance from UF-IFAS. Requests may come from groups of growers where efforts are already underway to coordinate applications (and may benefit from additional assistance) or from growers in areas where no coordinated efforts have yet been attempted but there is interest in doing so. These grower initiated requests should be directed to the local UF-IFAS citrus extension agent

(http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/locate/).

Upon receiving a request for assistance in establishing a CHMA, the citrus extension agent will work with local grower leaders and other IFAS specialists to arrange CHMA planning meetings. All growers in the area will be encouraged to attend. The purpose of the initial meeting(s) is to identify the CHMA area (based on the grouping of groves in that region) and develop a plan of action for the coming year. Specifically, growers will decide how many coordinated sprays they are willing to commit to, the timing of these applications and the pesticide mode of action to be used for each coordinated spray. As needed, IFAS extension specialists will be available to provide information to help the group develop a plan of action that best fits their particular production situation.

When developing a plan of action, the most critical factor is the timing of the pesticide application. In most situations it is recommended to complete a coordinated spray within a two-week window, the minimum time required for a psyllid to complete one generation (egg to adult). In some instances, such as the winter months when psyllids are less likely to be reproducing, extending the application window beyond 2 weeks could still provide effective control. However, unexpected additional delays due to weather, harvesting or equipment breakdowns could result in a longer than desired application window resulting in greatly reduced effectiveness. Nonetheless, the goal is to get the coordinated spray completed in as short a time as possible.

One common misconception regarding coordinated sprays that has discouraged some growers from participating is that these applications must be made using aerial applications. While there are certainly cases where use of aerial application makes the most sense, growers may choose any number of pesticide application methods to treat their groves; these include aerial, low-volume or traditional airblast sprayers. However, some products may not provide effective control when applied aerially or using low-volume applications. For more information on recommended application methods for a given product, see the document entitled "Developing a psyllid management plan" which can be found on the following webpage (http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/chmas /chma\_toolkit.shtml).

Following the initial CHMA establishment meeting(s), a webpage will be created for each CHMA on the UF-IFAS hosted CHMA website (http://www.flchma.org). The webpage for each CHMA can be found by clicking on the "Active CHMA Websites" link on the CHMA main page. Each CHMA's webpage will contain a map (created by FDACS) showing the location of the commercial citrus groves within that CHMA, the schedule of planned coordinated psyllid sprays, contact information for the grower representatives for that CHMA and a latest news section that will serve to remind growers of upcoming CHMA planning meetings and planned sprays.

Another important aspect of the CHMA program is to demonstrate that there is value for the grower in participating in the coordinated psyllid spray program. Beginning in the late spring or early summer of 2011, personnel from the five FDACS regional offices will initiate a bi-weekly psyllid scouting program for a selected number of CHMAs. The purpose of this scouting program is to compare (within a CHMA) the psyllid population in participating and non-participating groves. The psyllid scouting reports will be posted on the webpage for the CHMAs scouted within 72 hours of the psyllid scouting being completed. These reports will not only provide real-time data on psyllid populations in the area which may be used to guide ongoing psyllid management decisions, but it will also serve the larger goal of convincing additional growers that there is value in participating in the program. Based on the success of the

psyllid scouting conducted during the first year of this program, additional sources of funding could be pursued to expand the scouting program to more CHMAs in the following year.

While the CHMA program is still in the early stages of establishment, the program is growing at a rapid pace. As a result of the numerous CHMA planning meetings held by UF-IFAS citrus extension agents throughout the state, to date, 24 CHMAs are in the process of or have been formally identified on the CHMA website. If you are currently not participating in a CHMA and are interested in doing so, check the CHMA website to see if there is already one established where your grove(s) is located. If not, contact your local UF-IFAS citrus extension agent for assistance in establishing a CHMA in your area.

### Taxes-Records-Taxes

(Author: Thomas J. Bryant, CPA is Tax Partner, Beasley, Bryant & Company, CPA's, P.A., Lakeland, Florida (863)646-1373)

The tax filing date for individuals is upon us again. However, this year the last day for individuals to file Form 1040 (including Schedules C or F) is Monday, April, 18, 2011.

If you have not filed your individual income tax return for 2010 and do not have time to gather all of the information needed, you may want to consider filing Form 4868-Application for Automatic Extension of Time To File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return. Keep in mind, this is an extension to file your return **only**, and is not an extension of payment of tax due. You must make an estimated calculation of the tax you owe and be sure that amount is paid by the due date. You must have paid at least 90% of your final tax due to avoid being subject to late payment penalties. Gross underpayments of estimated tax can result in the IRS invalidating your extension request resulting in additional late filing penalties. As a reminder for future years, those in the agricultural business may avoid estimated tax payments by filing and paying their taxes by March 1, of the following year.

Let's now address the important issue of record retention for all businesses. Generally the IRS requires you to keep records for 3 years. If fraud is involved they can go back 6 years and possibly 10 years if you conduct international business activities. Please visit our website at <u>www.beasleybryantcpa.com</u> for a comprehensive Record Retention Guide. Here are some recommendations and highlights.

- Internal Revenue Service: Three years for all records and documents supporting your tax returns. Core documents like bank statements, canceled checks, sales records, general ledger, and accounting records, electronic or hard copy, forever.
  Tax returns, forever.
  Payroll records, six years, payroll tax returns, forever.
  1099 Forms, other than 1099R Forms, three years.
- Florida Department of Revenue: Documentation to support sales and use tax returns and the sales and use tax returns, three years. If fraud or other irregularities are suspected the State can go back further.
- **Department of Agriculture:** Documentation to support and apply for Disaster Relief, receive Assistance Funds, support Reinvestment and other information, three years. Usually, all information is required up front, but it's not a bad idea to keep the details.

- Social Security Administration: W-2 Forms forever, records used to prepare W-2 Forms, six years.
- **Department of Labor:** Employee personnel records, three years after termination, Forms 1099R, Retirement and Pension records, forever.

An item of concern today is that much of our records are stored in electronic media. Many of our returns are filed electronically and our payments are made EFT. Be sure that you have adequate and reliable backup and also consider hard copy backup. Another important concern is that adequate software be kept so that the information stored can be retrieved in an understandable manner.

For more information on record retention and other relevant topics visit our website at <u>www.beasleybryantcpa.com</u>. Being an agriculture business owner, I am keenly aware of agriculture business problems, tax issues and concerns. We are here to help you. I can be reached at (863)640-2008, or <u>Tom@beasleybryantcpa.com</u>.

The above information is provided as a courtesy by Beasley, Bryant & Company, CPA's, P.A., Lakeland, Florida. The publication of this information by the University of Florida and Polk County Extension Service does not imply any endorsement of the named firm or author.

## Florida Pile Burning Certification Program

In 2005 and 2006 the Florida Division of Forestry, in cooperation with the University of Florida IFAS program, developed a certification program for Florida Pile Burners. The first class was held in Bartow at the Bob Crawford Building in October of 2006. The second session was held at the same location in November of 2006. In 2009 the Florida Department of Agriculture amended the open burning rules and regulations to include the pile burner certification program. Florida Administrative Code (FAC) 5I-2 outlines the steps necessary to become certified and also what is necessary to keep that certification. The rule states that a pile burner maintains their certification if they can show that they have used their certified burn number at least 5 times in the previous five years.

The purpose behind the development and implementation of the Certified Pile Burner program was to raise the overall quality of the open burning program in Florida. Any regulatory agency has two possible paths to follow in order to carry out their legislative responsibilities to the people of the state of Florida. They can act to enforce the law to the letter and in this way improve the program's activities or they can work to educate and enforce where the education fails. The Florida Division of Forestry feels that we serve all of our customers best by improving the overall quality of the program through education, and only using the "stick" of enforcement when absolutely necessary.

At this time the Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry is in the process of sending out notifications to all of those certified pile burners who received their certification in 2006, letting them know if their certification is current or if there is a need for them to complete additional burns before the end of this year to maintain their certification. They are asked to contact Jim Brenner, Fire Management Administrator with the Florida Division of Forestry, if their certification is in jeopardy so that they can find out what must be done to maintain their certification. Jim Brenner can be reached by email at Jim.Brenner@freshfromflorida.com or by phone at 850/488-6480.

This process will be repeated every year at about this time for those that have had their Pile Burner Certification for at least 5 years.

# Florida Citrus Mutual 2011 Area Meetings

The folks at Citrus Mutual asked if we could circulate the enclosed flyer containing information on their 2011 area meetings.



Pesticide News and Information

#### **Belay 50WDG Available**

A 24c (special local need) label has just been approved for the use of Belay 50WDG Insecticide on non-bearing Florida citrus. The active ingredient in this product is clothianidin, a neonicotinoid insecticide with pest control characteristics similar to imidacloprid (Admire) and thiamethoxam (Platinum). <u>The use</u> of this product at the current time is only permitted on non-bearing trees. Specifically, the label states "Do not apply within 1-year of harvest."

Belay (clothianidin) can be applied as a soil drench as one would Admire or Platinum and provides similar levels of psyllid and leafminer control. The benefit of this product to the Florida citrus grower is that this will now allow an additional two soil-applied systemic applications (at the high rate of 6.4 oz /A) to young tree plantings providing additional protection of young trees beyond what can be achieved currently with imidacloprid (Admire) and thiamethoxam (Platinum). Depending on the tree age, growers now have the ability to provide year-long protection of young trees using soil-applied systemic insecticides which is important to help prevent young trees from becoming HLB infected prior to reaching bearing age.

One important word of caution, because Belay (clothianidin), Admire (imidacloprid) and Platinum (thiamethoxam) all have the same mode of action, the potential for psyllids (and leafminer) developing resistance to all three of these products is increased if proper precautions are not taken. Between applications of any of these 3 products, it is recommended that growers apply a foliar insecticide spray with a different mode of action to young trees to minimize the likelihood for pesticide resistance development to this important group of insecticides. Further information on the use of these three neonicotinoids in a season long psyllid suppression program for young trees will be provided soon.

Belay 50WDG is a product of Valent U.S.A. Corporation.

(From: Dr. Michael Rogers, Citrus Extension Entomologist, Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL)

#### **Syngenta Crop Protection**

We have been provided with the following information on a couple of Syngenta crop protection products. Please be advised that there is a 2ee label adding a control claim for Sweet Orange Scab to both the Quadris Top and Abound labels for citrus.

#### EPA Requests Extension on Clean Water Act Permit Requirement for Pesticide Discharges

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requested an extension to allow more time for pesticide operators to obtain permits for pesticide discharges into U.S. waters. EPA is requesting that the deadline be extended from April 9, 2011 to October 31, 2011. During the period while the court is considering the extension request, permits for pesticide applications will not be required under the Clean Water Act.

The Agency is developing a pesticide general permit in response to the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court's 2009 decision, which found that discharges from pesticides into U.S. waters were pollutants, and, therefore, will require a permit under the Clean Water Act as of April 9, 2011.

The extension request is important to allow sufficient time for EPA to engage in Endangered Species Act consultation and complete the development of an electronic database to streamline requests for coverage under the Agency's general permit. It also allows time for authorized states to finish developing their state permits and for permitting authorities to provide additional outreach to stakeholders on pesticide permit requirements. (EPA OPP Update, 3/3/11).

#### PURPOSE OF THE INSTITUTE

Citrus Greening or Huanglongbing (HLB) continues to spread throughout citrus production areas of Florida. The 2011 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute is an opportunity for Florida citrus growers to come together under a single purpose to learn about effective management of this devastating disease. Topics this year include Asian citrus psyllid management, genomics and HLB cultural management.

#### **CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS**

Continuing Education Units (CEU's) will be offered for holders of restricted use pesticide licenses (RUP) and certified crop advisors (CCA). Five CEU's will be offered in the following categories: private applicator and agricultural tree crop for RUP holders. CCA's will be offered CEU's in the pest management (4 CEU's) and nutrient management (1 CEU's) categories.

#### SPONSORS

#### PLATINUM

Bayer CropScience

#### GOLD

Keyplex Syngenta Crop Protection

#### BRONZE

FMC Corporation Magna-Bon, Inc.

Maxijet Corporation

Nutri-Phite Fertilizers

Plant Food Systems

Valent USA



#### DIRECTIONS

The South Florida Community College is located at 600 W College Drive in Avon Park.

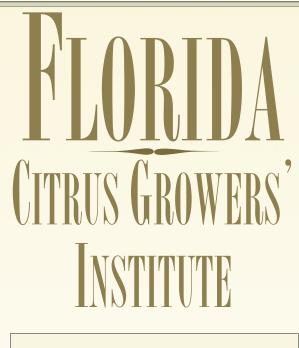
From the South: Take U.S. Hwy. 27/98 north towards Avon Park, turn east onto W College Drive and follow the signs to the Theatre.

From the North: Take U.S. Hwy. 27/98 south to Avon Park, continue south to W College Drive, turn east onto W College Drive and follow the signs to the Theatre.

From the East: Take U.S. Hwy. 98 north to where U.S. Hwy. 27/98 merge south of Sebring. Proceed on U.S. Hwy. 27/98 north towards Avon Park, turn east onto W College Drive and follow the signs to the Theatre.

From the West: Take S.R. 64 east to Avon Park, turn south on U.S. Highway 27/98 to W College Drive, turn east onto W College Drive and follow the signs to the Theatre.

South Florida Community College Theatre for Performing Arts 600 W College Drive Avon Park, FL





#### Conducted by -

University of Florida, IFAS Extension Citrus Research and Development Foundation

South Florida Community College Theatre for Performing Arts Avon Park, Florida April 6, 2011

# 2011 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute

#### **PROGRAM AGENDA** WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2011

8:00 AM - Registration

8:30 AM - Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Mongi Zekri, CES, LaBelle, FL

8:40 AM - An Overview of the Current Citrus **Research and Development Foundation** Investments in Citrus Disease Research. Dr. Tom Turpen, Program Manager, Citrus Research Development Foundation, Lake Alfred, FL

#### **ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID MANAGEMENT**

Moderator: Dr. Steve Futch, CES, Lake Alfred, FL

9:00 AM - Five Years of Experience with Huanglongbing in Florida: Current Assessment; How did we get Here - Dr. Susan Halbert, FDACS/DPI, Gainesville, FL

9:20 AM - Interactions of the Asian Citrus Psyllid with Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus -Dr. Kirsten Pelz-Stelinski, CREC

9:40 AM - Seasonal Changes in the Number of Asian Citrus Psyllids carrying Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus - Dr. Tim Ebert, CREC

10:00 AM - Seasonal Variability in HLB Testing Data in Plant and Psyllid Samples in Florida - Mr. Mike Irey, United States Sugar Corp., Clewiston, FL

10:20 AM - Citrus Health Management Area (CHMA) Program Update - Dr. Michael Rogers, CREC

10:50 AM - Break

Moderator: Mr. Gary England, CES, Bushnell, FL

11:10 AM - HLB Management with Foliar Applications of Nutritionals and Insecticides -Dr. Phil Stansly, SWFREC

11:40 AM - Insecticide Resistance and Susceptibility of Uninfected and Infected Psyllid - Dr. Sid Tiwari, CREC

12:00 PM - Effect of Soil-Applied and Foliar Insecticides on Psyllid Feeding and their Implication for HLB - Ms. Rosana Serikawa, CREC

12:20 PM - Lunch

#### **GENOMICS & CULTURAL MANAGEMENT**

Moderator: Mr. Ryan Atwood, CES, Tavares, FL

1:30 PM - Viral Vectors and Prospects for HLB Control - Dr. Bill Dawson, CREC

1:55 PM - RNAi Strategy to Control Insect Pests - Dr. Wayne Hunter, USDA/ARS, Ft. Pierce, FL

2:20 PM - Managing HLB with Plant Nutrition - Dr. Tim Spann, CREC

2:45 PM - Foliar Nutritional Therapies - Dr. Bob Rouse, SWFREC

3:05 PM - Horticultural Lessons to Manage HLB (summary) - Mr. Chris Oswalt, CES, Bartow, FL

3:30 PM - Adjourn

**CES: County Extension Service** 

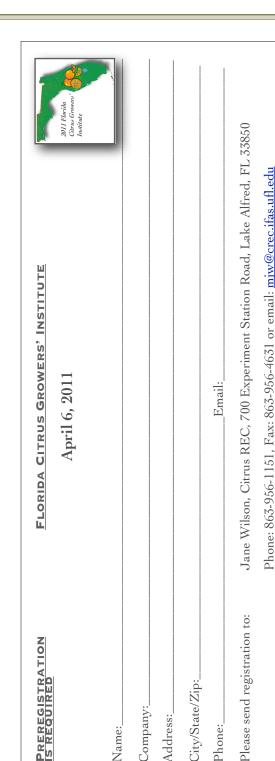
**CREC:** Citrus Research & Education Center, Lake Alfred, FL

FDACS/DPI: Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services/Division of Plant Industry

SWFREC: Southwest Florida Research & Education Center, Immokalee, FL

UF/IFAS: University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

**USDA/ARS: United States Department of** Agriculture/Agricultural Research Service



Address:

Name:

Phone:

mjw@crec.ifas.ufl.edu

email:

or





## Citrus Mechanical Harvesting Field Day and Workshop: GETTING READY FOR ABSCISSION

## Wednesday, April 20, 2011

University of Florida, Southwest FL Research and Education Center 2685 State Road 29 North Immokalee, FL 34142

# Agenda

- **7:30** Registration, coffee and refreshments
- 8:00 Welcome and program outline
- 8:15 UF/IFAS Projects in Citrus Mechanical Harvesting & Abscission

#### 8:30 Travel to SWFREC Concept Grove

- Over the Row Mechanical Harvester Demonstration
- CMNP Sprayer Demonstration
- Abscission Pull-Force Demonstration
- Tree Mapping Technology
- **10:15** Return to SWFREC Main Building
- 10:30 What Do We Know About CMNP and What We Hope to Learn From the EUP
- 11:30 Canopy Uniformity, Fruit Recovery, and CMNP Value
- 12:30 Lunch
- 2:00 Adjourn

To RSVP or further information contact:

Barbara Hyman- <u>hymanb@ufl.edu</u> or (239) 658-3461



# Florida Citrus Mutual 2011 Area Meetings

# All Growers are welcome!

# All meetings start at 11:30 a.m.

| April 19 | Bartow        | W.H. Stuart Ag Center<br>Elections will be held for Districts 5 & 6                           |
|----------|---------------|---|
| April 20 | Vero Beach    | Indian River Citrus League<br>Elections will be held for District 7                           |
| April 26 | Zolfo Springs | The Linda Lou ~ Jay Clark's Ranch<br>Elections will be held for Districts 8 & 9               |
| April 27 | Immokalee     | South West Florida Research & Education Center <b>Elections will be held for Districts 10</b> |
| May 3    | Tavares       | Lake County Extension Office<br>Elections will be held for Districts 1, 2, 3 & 4              |

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED Please RSVP to Clark at 863.682.1111 or email at <u>clarkb@flcitrusmutual.com</u> by the Friday before the date of each meeting.