

# Citrus Notes

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## December 2008

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*Dear Growers,*

*In December we will be holding our Polk County OJ Break on Thursday, December 11, 2008. We have put together a great program so, make plans to attend. The University of Florida will be offering, for credit, a course in citrus pest management to be held at the Citrus research and Education Center in Lake Alfred. Please see the article on the particulars of the course. In adopting more aggressive Asian citrus psyllid pest management strategies, growers need to be familiar with citrus pests that have traditionally not been a problem. In this month's issue, we discuss one of these citrus pests that has been showing up more frequently, the wholly whitefly. Last call for the 2008-09 Winter Weather Watch, and in the Pesticide News and Information section, details on Operation Cleansweep for 2009.*

*Enjoy the issue,*

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## ***Polk County December OJ Break***

In December our OJ Break will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2008 in Bartow at the Polk County Citrus Extension Service Office, Stuart Conference Center at 1710 Highway 17 South. This month we are going to focus on how other countries are dealing with the Asian form of citrus greening. Dr. Ron Brlansky, Citrus Pathologist from the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred, will be discussing his recent trip to India. Drs. Tim Spann and Fred Gmitter, Citrus Horticulturalists, also from CREC, will be discussing their observations on how China is dealing with citrus greening. Dr. Jude Grosser, Cell Geneticist from CREC, will be discussing his current work with citrus greening and cell genetics in Florida citrus. We will conclude our program with an update on citrus leaf freezing temperatures and their use in Florida citrus by Dr. Tim Spann.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude by 12:00 noon. Come on down and join us for a great program complete with OJ, donuts and coffee on Thursday, December 11, 2008.

## ***Citrus Pest Management Course Offered this Spring***

Citrus Pest Management (PMA 5205, section no. 2563) will be offered for the Spring 2009 term at the University of Florida/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC) in Lake Alfred and via polycom at the Depart-



ment of Entomology and Nematology in Gainesville. Citrus Pest Management is a graduate-level course (3.0 units) for students and citrus industry personnel working in the area of pest management. The course reviews the latest tactics and strategies available to manage diseases and arthropod, nematode and weed pests of citrus. Emphasis is given to techniques by which pest and disease organisms are monitored and how this information is used to effectively manage pests with the least risk to the environment.

Course topics include:

- Identification and biology of citrus pests and diseases
- Pest and disease monitoring
- Ecological and economic principles as a basis for pest management
- Economic thresholds and pest management models
- Integrated pest management in citrus
- NEW - The evolution of Citrus IPM in the era of citrus greening

The course is coordinated by Dr. Larry Duncan, University of Florida/IFAS, Professor of Nematology.

University credit (3.0) or audit credit. CEU's will be offered.

Dates/Time:

Wednesdays, Jan. 7 – Apr. 29; 3 - 6 p.m. (8-10 period).

Locations:

University of Florida/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center, Ben Hill Griffin, Jr. Citrus Hall Teaching Laboratory, 700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred, Florida. Tel. (863) 956-1151.

University of Florida/IFAS Department of Entomology and Nematology, Bldg 970, Room 127, Natural Area Drive, Gainesville, Florida. Tel (352) 392-1901.

Textbook:

Optional. Citrus Health Management (APS Press). L.W. Timmer and Larry W. Duncan, editors. Written by 26 citrus specialists, Citrus Health Management was designed specifically for this course. Copies will be available for purchase (\$55.00) in class.

Registration: Registration cost for Citrus Pest Management (PMA 5205; Section no. 2563) is \$1,023.87 for Florida residents (\$341.29 per credit hour). Regular and non-degree registration is until Jan. 5 and students are strongly encouraged to register early. Students must complete the registration procedures outline at

[http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/dept\\_disted.htm](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/dept_disted.htm).

This site contains an option for non-degree students with step by step instructions and explanations. Non-degree students are encouraged to visit the site in advance of registration. For registration assistance, please contact Ms Debbie Hall (352-392-1901 x 117; [dahall@ufl.edu](mailto:dahall@ufl.edu)). For additional information about the class, contact Dr. Larry Duncan (863-956-1151; [lwduncan@ufl.edu](mailto:lwduncan@ufl.edu)).

### **Whoolly Whitefly making a Come-back?**

I have had a number of calls this fall about populations of whoolly whitefly in central Florida citrus groves. The whoolly whitefly first appeared as a citrus pest in Tampa back in 1909. It has been effectively under biological control by



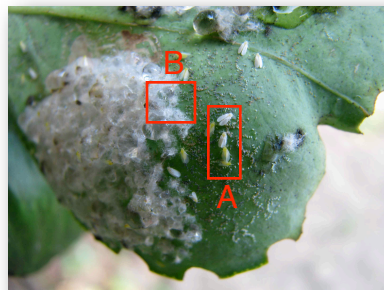
*Sooty mold growing on top of citrus leaf.*

and this could be a result of a decrease in parasitic wasp populations in groves that are under an Asian psyllid management program using broad spectrum insecticides.



*Colony of whoolly whitefly on underside of mature citrus leaf.*

This whitefly can be distinguished from other typical citrus whitefly species by their presence on mature leaves rather than the new



*Closer inspection of underside of infested citrus leaf. See A and B below.*

flush preferred by other citrus whitefly species. By not needing new flush to infest citrus leaves, whoolly whiteflies can become more abundant during non-flushing times of the year. Whoolly whitefly eggs are laid in circles or partial circles on the underside of mature citrus leaves by white adult females. Newly emerging adults are yellowish white in color and seldom fly. The whoolly whitefly also produces copious amounts of honeydew on which sooty mold will rapidly colonize. One of the

parasitic wasps. Only recently have I observed an increase in whoolly whitefly populations

flush preferred by other citrus whitefly species. By not needing new flush to infest citrus leaves, whoolly whiteflies can become more abundant during



defining characteristics that resulted in the naming of the woolly whitefly is the presence of waxy filaments which develop during the pupal stage and can cover the underside of infested leaves.



*A. Close-up showing white adult woolly whiteflies and yellowish white emerging adults. Notice eggs laid in circular and partial circle around adult.*

These increases in woolly whitefly may be temporary and not indicative of a problem associated with



*B. Close-up showing white waxy filaments of pupa stage. Notice eggs and drops of honeydew.*

the increased use of broad spectrum insecticidal materials for psyllid control. Historically, woolly whitefly populations are not considered to be of economic importance in Florida. If you do find that you

have a potential persistent problem with woolly whitefly, then a review of your current pest management program could be warranted.



### **2008-09 Edition of the Winter Weather Watch**

This is your last reminder if you are interested in participating in the 2008-09 Polk County Winter Weather Watch Program. Information and the registration form

can be found at the Citrus Extension Agent's website at <http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/info/pdf/WWWRegForm.pdf>.



### ***Pesticide News and Information***

#### ***Operation Cleansweep***

Time is running out for the 2009 Operation Cleansweep statewide pesticide pick-up program. Operation Cleansweep is a mobile pesticide collection program that provides a safe way to dispose of cancelled, suspended and unusable pesticides at no cost. Participation is limited to farms/groves, nurseries pest control services, greenhouses, forestry and golf courses. Pesticide dealers can participate for a fee. The deadline for requesting a pick-up is December 15, 2008. For more information contact the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services at 877-851-5285 or email at [cleansweep@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:cleansweep@doacs.state.fl.us). Pick-up forms are available at the following website <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/cleansweep-pesticides/>.