

Citrus Notes



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Dear Growers,

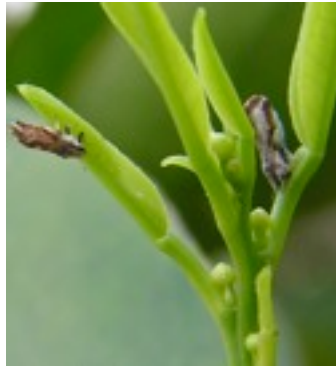
The February 2009 Polk County OJ Break in Bartow will be our "Annual Citrus Pest Management Guide Update". We have approval for 2 CEU's for your restricted pesticide license available for your attendance. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 7, 2009 for the 2009 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute in Bartow. In this issue we have included an article on some observations made in the wake of the January 2009 cold snap. We have documented some of the citrus leaf freezing temperature values for the week of January 20, 2009 with the condition of trees in the blocks from which these samples were taken. The Southwest Florida Water Management District request your help in the timely submission of the amount of water used for cold protection. There are some interesting bits of information in the Pesticide News and Information Section for your review.

Enjoy the issue,

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**February 2009
OJ Break**



Our topic for the Polk County February 2009 OJ Break will be the “Annual Citrus Pest Management Guide Update”. We have invited Dr. Michael Rogers from the Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC) and editor of the 2009 Citrus Integrated Pest Management Guide to bring us up to date with the significant changes in this year’s guide. Michael will also review some of the recommendations on Asian psyllid control in this year’s guide. Dr. Megan Dewdney, our extension pathologist from the CREC, will continue with a review and update on the current recommendations for the control of citrus fungal diseases and resistance management related to citrus fungicides. You will want to attend since there is new information on fungicidal resistance in Florida citrus. If this is not enough, we have Dr. Arnold Schumann, also from CREC, to discuss some modifications in citrus fertilization that could save you a few bucks.

Two CEU’s for your Restricted Pesticide License will be available in the private, agricultural tree crop and research and demonstration categories. So, plan to join us for some OJ, coffee and donuts on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. at the Stuart Conference Center, 1710 Highway 17 S. in Bartow.



Mark your calendars for April 7, 2009, for the 2009 edition of the Florida Citrus Growers’ Institute. This year, due to renovations to the South Florida Community College Auditorium, the Institute will be held in Bartow. The all day program provides some of the latest information on citrus greening. This includes topics on the progress of developing tolerant citrus varieties, new production systems, disease detection and spread, psyllid management, and horticultural responses to greening.

**January
Cold
Snap**



As of this writing of the newsletter it has not quite been a week since we survived a significant freeze event in Florida. I would like to pass on the following observations that have been relayed to me from other growers and some personal observations.

The first night minimum temperatures were in the upper 20’s to low 30’s in most places with enough wind to prevent frost formation in all but the most wind protected areas. This first

night did not appear to be a problem for most growers.

The second night the wind subsided and excellent radiational freeze conditions existed. Beginning at sunset, temperatures fell immediately and significantly. The Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) station in Kenansville fell 10 degrees in one hour after sunset. One report I received indicated a 25° F temperature between 9:00 and 10:00 p.m. The minimum temperatures followed a classic radiational freeze with higher ground warmer than lower ground. Some of the limited reports I received had a minimum temperature of 17° F in eastern Hillsborough County with 19° F in the green swamp. Most other minimums ended up in the low 20's with long durations below 32° F. There was significant frost formation and fog as growers ran microsprinkler irrigation systems (indicating that the micro-climate became supersaturated with moisture) for freeze protection. Many growers commented on the lack of ice formation and this could be attributed to minor differences in the dewpoint and air temperature as the minimums were reached. Another interesting observation was the afternoon dewpoints across central Florida. From the ridge to the west, dewpoints were generally in the low 20's to about 20° F and on the eastern side of the ridge over toward the East coast, dewpoints were in the upper teens.

The third night was again a radiational freeze event with no wind and widespread frost formation. Minimum temperatures began to fall at sunset, but the afternoon high temperatures were warmer than the previous day. This generally resulted in minimum temperatures the third morning running about 4 degrees warmer than the night before with differences between high and low ground.

Tree damage appears to be variable based mostly on pre-freeze tree condition and eleva-

tion. It should also be stated that younger trees took more of a hit and in this case irrigation seemed to provide enough protection to minimize citrus tree damage. The small difference between the air and dewpoint temperature I believe also enhanced the protection from microsprinkler irrigation in this freeze.

We would expect at these low temperatures to have some fruit damage. I have had several separate reports of fruit having been frozen to some degree. The following can be a guide in estimating the potential damage caused by freezing temperature for round oranges (from Gerber and Bartholic). Time will tell, fruit that had received significant damage may start to prematurely drop over the next week or so.

Minimum Temperature (°F)	Duration (hrs)	Fruit Damage (%)
28	12	20
27	10	50
26	8	50
25	6	50
24	6	50
23	5	50
22	3.5	50
21	3	50
20	2	50
19	1.5	50
18	1	50



Citrus Mechanical Harvesting Field Day and Workshop

A spring citrus mechanical harvesting field day and workshop will be held in Immokalee on Wednesday, April 22, 2009. The topic of this year's workshop is "Addressing Processors' Questions", along with a trip to the grove to view citrus mechanical harvesting systems in action. On the last page you will find a flyer with the agenda and RSVP instructions.

Citrus Leaf Freezing Temperatures the Week of January 20, 2009



If you have been following citrus leaf freezing temperatures as a way to track citrus acclimation this winter, you may have noticed the numbers from January 26, 2009. After a week or two of warmer temperatures back in December, the citrus leaf freezing temperatures had begun to increase from a season low during the week of December 1, 2008. During the past 3 weeks, air temperatures have been below normal for this time of the year and the trees began to re-acclimate to these temperatures resulting in the lowest citrus leaf freezing temperatures of the season to-date averaging around 21^o F for the week of January 20, 2009, and 19^o F for the week of January 26, 2009. In collecting leaves samples over the past 2 weeks, field observations made indicate very little or minimal leaf defoliation from these trees in response to the freezing temperatures.



Cold Protection Water Use

The following comes as a reminder from Ron Cohen of the Southwest Florida Water Management District on irrigation used for cold protection.

We hope you and your association members fared well with recent freeze events. As the District has done in the past, we are again asking for your assistance in getting the word out of the importance of reporting cold protection water use. Many of your association members will remember to send the information on time, but for the few who may have forgotten we would appreciate your help reminding them.

Besides being a requirement of a water use permit, reporting cold protection pumpage is needed to help resolve potential compliance issues and to ensure that a permittee's conservation credits are calculated correctly. Cold protection amounts are not limited by a permit's annual average allocation. However, the cold protection amounts need to be reported so that they can be subtracted from the submitted pumpage quantity. If a permittee does not report the use of irrigation for cold protection this could make it appear that the permittee overpumped the permitted quantity and cause the District's computer system to flag the reported high water use as a permit violation.

Reporting cold protection water use also ensures that a permittee receives all the SWUCA conservation credits they have earned. The cold protection pumpage report is used by the District to ensure that conservation credits are not deducted for this important use of irrigation for cold protection.

Please help the District and your associations' members by letting them know the importance of reporting cold protection pumpage. I am attaching a copy of the form to this email and additional copies can be found on the District's web site at:

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/permits/wup/> .

The District realizes that the producers are busy with their crops, but it will be in their own best interest to follow through with this information. If they can get the reports to the District within the next two weeks it will help both them and the District.



Pesticide News and Information

Agri-Mek Label Modification for Aerial Application

Syngenta Crop Protection has received approval for the aerial application of Agri-Mek® Miticide/Insecticide for the control of citrus leafminer to aid in the management of citrus canker. This label is effective immediately. The supplemental labels have been distributed to all local retail outlets and are also available directly from your local Syngenta representative.

Asian Psyllid Material With EUP

On November 8th, the FDACS approved the experimental use permit (EUP) registration of Certis USA LLC's microbial insecticide *Pae-cilomyces fumosoroseus* (PFR-97) to evaluate toxicity to the Asian citrus psyllid in field citrus. The EPA registration number is 70051-19. (FDACS PREC Agenda, 12/4/08).

Field Trials of Red Grapefruit

Early in 2009, Southern Gardens Citrus intends on planting red grapefruit trees developed at Texas A&M that have been shown to resist greening and bacterial canker. (Palm Beach Post, 12/4/08).

March 2009 Hillsborough County Citrus Roundtable

Note Date Change

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 11, 2009, for our Hillsborough County Citrus Roundtable. The Roundtable will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension Service office in Seffner.

This month we have moved our meeting to the second Wednesday of the month. More details and program information will be included in next month's issue of "Citrus Notes".