

# Citrus Notes



Polk County Extension Service  
PO Box 9005, Drawer HS03 • Bartow, FL 33831-9005  
(863) 519-8677, Ext. 109 • [wcoswalt@ufl.edu](mailto:wcoswalt@ufl.edu)

Hillsborough County Extension Service  
5339 County Road 579 • Seffner, FL 33584-3334  
(813) 744-5519, Ext. 131

**February 2010**

Vol. 10-02

**Inside this Issue:**

---

February OJ Break	2
EPA Numeric Nutrient Criteria	2 - 3
March Citrus Roundtable	3
2010 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute	3
Coordinated Psyllid Control Districts (CPCD)	3 - 4
Citrus Greening and Freeze Damage	4 - 5
Pesticide News & Information	5 - 7

*Dear Growers,*

*Our February "OJ Break" in Polk County is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2010. This will be our annual citrus pest management guide update. For additional information on speakers and topics see the OJ Break article. There is a very important EPA public hearing scheduled for the middle of February please read the enclosed information this could have a significant affect on Florida agriculture. In March we will be in Hillsborough County for another "Citrus Roundtable". Coordinated psyllid control measures are in full swing in Polk County. See the information in the article about the recent freezes and psyllids. If you are interested in participating in the control effort please contact me here at the office. There is some additional information on some limited observations of freeze damage on citrus greening symptomatic trees.*

*Enjoy the issue,*

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





**February  
Polk County  
OJ Break**

The February, OJ Break will be our annual “Citrus Pest Management Guide” update. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 11, 2010, with registration, OJ, coffee and donuts. We have applied for CEU’s for your “Restricted Pesticide License” (RUP) and “Certified Crop Advisory License” (CCA). The following is the meeting agenda:

***Managing Citrus Disease Resistance and Citrus Canker Management***

Dr. Megan Dewdney  
Extension Citrus Pathologist  
Citrus Research & Education Center  
Lake Alfred, Fl

***Current Understanding of Citrus Greening in Citrus Trees***

Dr. Ron Brlansky  
Research Pathologist  
Extension Citrus Pathologist  
Citrus Research & Education Center  
Lake Alfred, Fl

***Citrus Pest Management Guide Update***

Dr. Michael Rogers  
Extension Entomologist  
Extension Citrus Pathologist  
Citrus Research & Education Center  
Lake Alfred, Fl

***Asian Citrus Psyllid and Citrus Leafminer Control***

Dr. Lukasz Stelinski  
Research Entomologist  
Extension Citrus Pathologist  
Citrus Research & Education Center  
Lake Alfred, Fl

Bayer Crop Science has graciously agreed to sponsor lunch and for that reason I need you to contact Gail Crawford by phone at 863-519-8677 or email [dorothy@ufl.edu](mailto:dorothy@ufl.edu) to pre-register for the meeting.

The OJ Break will be held at the Polk County Cooperative Extension Service, Stuart Conference Center, 1710 Highway 17 S. in Bartow.

***EPA Numeric Nutrient Criteria***



The proposed EPA rule on Numeric Nutrient Criteria for Florida should have been published in the Federal Register on January 14, 2010. This will be followed by a period for comment which will be highlighted by three public hearings (you must sign up to speak).

The dates and locations of the hearings are listed below and posted on the website (<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/rules/florida/>). Brief oral comments and written comments will be accepted at the hearings. Due to the large number of expected commenters, EPA expects to limit each oral comment to five minutes or less to give everyone an opportunity to speak. You do not have to be present at the hearings to provide written comments on the proposed rule (the proposed rule will contain information on how you can submit written comments). The dates and locations of the hearings are as follows:

**February 16, 2010: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.** at the Holiday Inn Capitol East, 1355 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, FL 32301

**February 17, 2010: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.** at the Crowne Plaza Orlando Universal, 7800 Universal Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32819

**February 18, 2010: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.** at the Holiday Inn Palm Beach Airport, 1301 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33405

The information on the proposed rule was included in the October 2009 issue of "Citrus Notes" in the "Pesticide News and Information Section" and can be viewed at the following link:

[http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletters/osw/alt/October%202009%20\(combined\).pdf](http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletters/osw/alt/October%202009%20(combined).pdf)



### ***March Citrus Roundtable in Hillsborough County***

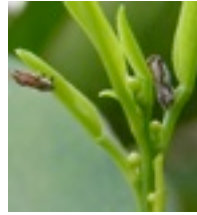
We will be back in Hillsborough County on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, for our Hillsborough County Citrus Roundtable. This month we will be holding our meeting at the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center located at 14625 CR 572 in Balm. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. Program details will be included in next months "Citrus Notes".

### ***2010 Florida Citrus Growers Institute***

Save April 13, 2010 for the "2010 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute". The program will be held at the Avon Park Campus of South Flor-



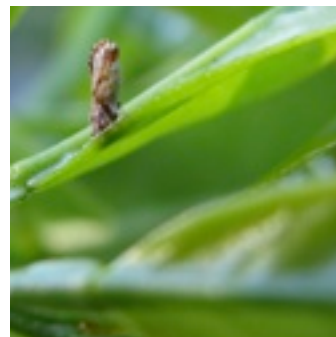
ida Community College. The program details and brochure will be forthcoming as we get closer to the event.



### ***Winter 2010 Polk County Coordinated Psyllid Control Districts***

The coordinated psyllid control district (CPCD) winter psyllid applications have begun in most of the 13 Polk County Districts. If you still have questions about psyllids and the recent low temperatures Dr. Michael Rogers, Extension Entomologist, UF/IFAS, Citrus Research and Education Center and I had a conversation about this last week.

Dr. Michael Rogers conveyed to me the following last week about the effect of low temperatures on psyllid populations. Dr. Rogers indicated that although some expected reductions in populations should occur it will not be significant enough to consider eliminating your planned winter psyllid spray applications. We may find that the low temperatures may enhance psyllid control due in part to potentially lower psyllid populations and more open canopies due to freeze induced tree defoliation seen in some areas of the county. Dr. Rogers was in the field after the freeze and had no trouble finding adult psyllids. We both came to the conclusion that this winter application would still need to be applied.



*Adult psyllid feeding on flush in early January*



*Flush one week later after freeze, this type of injury could explain some of the reduction in psyllid populations, but not the total elimination of adult psyllids*



*Healthy tree in grove in eastern Hillsborough County*

If you need additional information on coordinating your psyllid spray application this winter, give me a call at 863-519-8677.

***Citrus Greening and Freeze Damage***



*Citrus greening symptomatic tree next to healthy tree in Hillsborough County grove*



Last week when I was out collecting leaf samples for determining the citrus leaf freezing points I made the following observation. It appears that trees with a significant amount of citrus greening symptoms had a greater amount of defoliation than apparently healthy non-symptomatic trees in the same block. Along with that observation, in the lab this winter, we have been determining the citrus leaf freezing temperatures of symptomatic and healthy citrus leaves. This past week there was a measurable difference in the leaf freezing temperatures of citrus greening infected trees. This difference for leaf samples collected on January 8, 2010, was 2<sup>o</sup> F between healthy and greening infected trees. The following figures show the difference between healthy and symptomatic trees after the freeze. These 2 trees were in adjacent rows in the same block.



*Excessive defoliation associated with citrus greening symptomatic tree*

*Closeup view of symptomatic foliage on affected tree.*



I am not able to say that this is always a consistent trend, but this observation in one location was interesting, knowing the recent citrus

leaf freezing temperatures of symptomatic and healthy citrus trees.



## *Pesticide News and Information*

### **Court Decision Could Greatly Affect Sugar Beet Planting**

Sugar industry officials say a ban on genetically modified beets would result in severe seed shortages in some areas and billions of dollars in losses such as lost crops, lost jobs, lost farm equipment sales and lost tax revenue. Federal Judge Jeffrey White, in California, ruled earlier this year that the USDA had failed to adequately assess the environmental impacts of Monsanto's Roundup Ready sugar beets, a genetically modified crop. What White does next may have far-reaching consequences in about 11 states where sugar beets are grown.

The case is in the remedy phase, and sugar beet growers across the country worry that the “remedy” could be hard to swallow. The judge has set a hearing date for June, so it's possible that the 2010 beet crop will be planted before a ruling comes down. However, plaintiffs are expected to seek a preliminary injunction prohibiting the planting of modified beets while the USDA completes a full environmental impact study. If granted, growers would have to scramble for whatever conventional seed supplies remain in stock, hoping they would be compatible with their local growing conditions. They'd have to return to conventional herbicides and try to find work crews to hoe their fields again, a practice many growers happily abandoned after switching to Roundup Ready seed.

The estimated 4.7 million tons of sugar beets produced by U.S. farmers accounts for nearly 60 percent of domestic sugar production. Sugar cane production accounts for the rest. The U.S. commercial plantings of Roundup Ready beets went from virtually nothing four years ago to 95 percent of the U.S. beet crop this year. “It’s been by far the fastest adoption of biotech of any crop ever,” said Luther Markwart, executive vice president of the American Sugar Beet Growers Association.

Since 1987, sugar beets have provided more than \$1 billion a year in total farm-gate receipts to growers in about 11 states, including Idaho, California, Oregon, Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota and Minnesota. In 2006, the U.S. sugar beet crop was valued at about \$1.5 billion. But that doesn’t begin to reflect the full economic impact of the industry, Markwart said. It doesn’t include the wages paid by sugar beet processors or the money that those workers spend in their communities. It doesn’t cover the value of the refined sugar or all the money that farmers pay to suppliers for inputs.

The loss of the sugar beet industry in Idaho would have huge ripple effects, University of Idaho economists found in a 2004 study - \$721 million in gross sales, \$163 million in value-added, 3,414 jobs, \$111 million in earnings and \$12 million in indirect business taxes. Without beets, farmers would switch to other crops such as potatoes and onions. That would cause prices for Idaho potatoes to drop by about 17 percent and prices for Idaho onions to decline by about 7 percent, UI economists calculated. A similar study in 2003 by agricultural economists at North Dakota State University calculated the total impact on the states of Montana, North Dakota and Minnesota, accounting for more than half of the U.S. sugar beet acreage, at more than \$3 billion. (*Capital Press*, 12/19/09).

## **Registrants to Lose Inerts Exemption**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced before Christmas that it plans to require pesticide manufacturers to disclose to the public the inert ingredients in their products. An inert ingredient is anything added to a pesticide that does not kill or control a pest. Nearly 4,000 inerts - including several hundred that are considered hazardous under other federal rules - are used in agricultural and residential pesticides.

The EPA's announcement that it will initiate the rulemaking comes 11 years after it had first been petitioned by activist groups and state officials seeking public disclosure of the ingredients. In 2001, the agency denied those petitions filed by ten state attorney generals and an activist coalition, and its decision was upheld by a federal judge in 2004. Now, under a new administration, the EPA has decided that drafting a new regulation will "increase transparency" and help protect public health. "EPA believes disclosure of inert ingredients on product labels is important to consumers who want to be aware of all potentially toxic chemicals, both active and inert ingredients, in pesticide products," according to the agency's website.

Formaldehyde, bisphenol A, sulfuric acid, toluene, benzene and styrene are among the ingredients that are allowed in pesticides but are not identified on labels. Some are carcinogens, while some may cause reproductive or respiratory problems if people are exposed. Other inerts seem benign, such as coffee grounds, sunflower oil and licorice extract. One goal of the planned rule is that pesticide companies would be more likely to replace toxic chemicals if they must identify all ingredients on their labels. "By embarking on such rulemaking, EPA intends to effect a sea change in how inert ingredient information is made available to the public," Debra

Edwards, the EPA's director of pesticide programs, said in a September letter to the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, California Attorney General Edmund G. Brown, Jr. and other petitioners.

Edwards wrote that the EPA will seek "a significant amount of input" from stakeholders as they craft the new rule "because of the magnitude of the change and the difficult issues facing the agency" Under current law, pesticide companies already disclose all ingredients to the EPA. The new rule would make them public.

Jay Vroom, chief executive officer of CropLife America, which represents pesticide manufacturers, said that the registrants are concerned they will be revealing confidential business information, or trade secrets, about their formulas. Vroom said it was "just baffling" that EPA will draft a rule when the pesticide products already undergo risk assessments and are approved for use. He said EPA officials are using "unbridled rhetoric" when addressing the issue of inerts.

"We believe these products already have been regulated to protect public health," he said. "What is confusing is why the agency has been out talking about these products as hazardous inert ingredients. To me, that's an oxymoron." Vroom said the industry will work with the EPA but that no timetable for stakeholder meetings has emerged yet. Options the EPA said it will consider include disclosure of all inert ingredients regardless of hazard or only those that are considered potentially hazardous. Some of the requirements may be voluntary. (*Environmental Health News*, 12/23/09).

## **Mocap® Canceled**

On December 31, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)

canceled the special local needs (SLN) registration FL-870001 Mocap® (ethoprop) use on non-bearing citrus. (FDACS letter, 12/30/09).

### **Movento™ Registration Issues**

A lawsuit was recently filed by the Natural Resource Defense Council and the Xerces Society against the EPA for failing to follow proper protocol in the registration of the pesticide active ingredient spirotetramat (Movento in citrus). The judge in the case agreed with the claim that EPA had failed to follow protocol, in this case no 30 day public comment period was posted, and thus the pesticide registration was invalid. This ruling was based on procedural error, there has not been any negative environmental or health concerns with this product whatsoever.

Bayer Crop Science provided the following information about the recent issue dealing with Movento™.

On January 25, 2010, EPA issued the “Spirotetramat – Notice of Cancellation Order; Opportunity for Public Comment” on their website. EPA plans to issue an order addressing the extent to which EPA will allow the sale and use of existing stocks of Movento and Ultor brand insecticides held by distributors, retailers, and growers as of February 16, 2010. As explained by EPA in the attached document, this action results from a court ruling that overturns EPA’s registration of spirotetramat (the active ingredient in Movento and Ultor) because of EPA’s failure to publish a particular notice during EPA’s consideration of the applications for registration. Bayer has appealed the court’s ruling.

Stakeholders who wish to comment should do so to reinforce with EPA their views about the extent to which existing stocks should be

permitted to be sold and used. Below is the contact information for the person at EPA that will be gathering the comments and the website that EPA posted the attached document on.

**Date comments are due by:** February 8, 2010

**Call or send comments to:**

Ms. Meredith Laws  
[Laws.Meredith@epa.gov](mailto:Laws.Meredith@epa.gov)  
703-308-7038 phone

**Website link:**

<http://www.epa.gov/oppr001/factsheets/spirotetramat-canc-order.pdf>

Please note if you wish to comment you must do so by February 8, 2010.