

Citrus Notes



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UF/IFAS Citrus
Extension Agent
for
Polk &
Hillsborough
Counties

IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

PRODUCE SAFETY ALLIANCE CITRUS GROWER TRAINING

Lake Alfred, FL

FEBRUARY 18, 2020

PRODUCE SAFETY ALLIANCE CITRUS GROWER TRAINING

Arcadia, FL

MARCH 3, 2020

MARCH OJ BREAK

Lake Alfred, FL

MARCH 10, 2020

CITRUS EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING

Arcadia, FL

CONTACT INFO

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Bartow, FL 33831

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(813) 744-5519

Ext. 541231 (Hillsborough)

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February Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

Produce Safety Rule

The Word is that the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services have recently been scheduling Produce Safety Rule inspections of citrus growers and packinghouses. We have a couple of opportunities in central Florida, over the next few weeks, to get this training before the inspector schedules a visit. There will be two over the next few weeks, one in Lake Alfred next week and one in Arcadia the following week. I have included flyers for the training, so make sure you fill out the correct registration for the location of your choice. The flyers look very similar.



March 2020 OJ Break

Our March OJ Break Program will be at the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education

Center, BHG Citrus Hall, on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. The meeting is a week earlier than what is our regular schedule. We have had scheduling difficulties in securing a facility for our meeting. Specific details for the session, including CEU and registration information, will be in next month's newsletter. I just wanted to get it on your calendars due to the date change.

Annual Citrus Safety Training Arcadia



For our growers in DeSoto, Hardee, Sarasota, and Manatee Counties, the annual 2020

Citrus Employee Safety Training Program will be at the Turner Agri-Civic Center in Arcadia on the morning of March 10, 2020. Plans are at this time to send out the registration and additional information in the very near future. Your new UF/IFAS Citrus Extension Agent, Ajia Paolillo, will be developing this year's program. Ajia's phone number is 863-251-4763; email is ajiacunningham@ufl.edu.

2019 - 2020

Operation Cleansweep

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has announced that there is funding this year for "Operation Cleansweep" This program outlined in the included flyer allows growers to dispose of canceled, suspended and unstable pesticides properly.

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CITRUS DISEASE TOOLS

At the UF/IFAS AgroClimate website (<http://agroclimate.org>) under the tools tab, you will notice pests and diseases. Once you enter the pest and disease area, you will see two disease models of interest for Florida citrus growers. One is the “citrus copper scheduler” (<http://agroclimate.org/tools/citrus-copper-application-scheduler/>). This model estimates the remaining copper residues for various citrus varieties. It takes into account the date and amount of copper applied, rainfall (at a nearby FAWN site, or you can upload your data) and fruit expansion over time. The second model I want to call your attention to is also under the pest and disease tab called the “citrus advisory system” (<http://agroclimate.org/tools/cas/>). This model predicts when conditions are favorable for post-bloom fruit drop and recommends when a fungicide application should be applied. Data used to make this recommendation include environmental collected from a selected FAWN site, the stage of bloom (grower inputted), and the last fungicide application. You can display the disease simulation, view the daily summary data, and 15-minute weather data used in the model.

Be Prepared to Meet Food Safety Requirements

If you haven't already attended a Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) training, this spring could be your last chance to attend the one-day PSA training before undergoing a Produce Safety Rule (PSR) inspection. The PSR specifically requires that at least one responsible person from every operation covered under the rule attend a food safety training that covers key objectives. The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy this Produce Safety Rule requirement. For fresh-market citrus growers who sell to a co-op or other packinghouse that handles all of the harvesting and packing, the requirements are relatively straightforward. Your packinghouse is likely facing pressure from their upstream buyers to ensure these requirements are being met and they are working hard to satisfy these customers. You'll make their jobs a lot easier by getting this training requirement out of the way now.

Growers who grow fruit for commercial juice processing are eligible for an exemption from most PSR requirements but have to provide written

disclosures accompanying the fruit indicating that their fruit has not yet received processing “to adequately reduce the presence of microorganisms of public health significance.” If there are any uncertainties about securing a contract to provide your fruit for juice processing, plan to attend an upcoming PSA training if you haven't already done so and plan to meet relevant PSR requirements in order to be able to maintain the option to sell fruit through other channels. Upcoming PSA trainings through May 2020 are listed below, including one coming up next week in Lake Alfred and another the following week in Arcadia. External support for these courses will eventually diminish and they will become more sparse and more expensive so take advantage of these offerings.

**•2/11/20 –Lake Alfred (Citrus
Grower Training)**

<https://psa021120.eventbrite.com>

•2/18/20 –Arcadia

<https://psa021820.eventbrite.com>

•2/27/20 –Monticello

<https://psa022720.eventbrite.com>

•3/17/20 –Belle Glade

<https://psa031720.eventbrite.com>

•4/22/20 –Wimauma

<https://psa042220.eventbrite.com>

•4/28/20 –Naples

<https://psa042820.eventbrite.com>

•5/5/20 –West Palm Beach

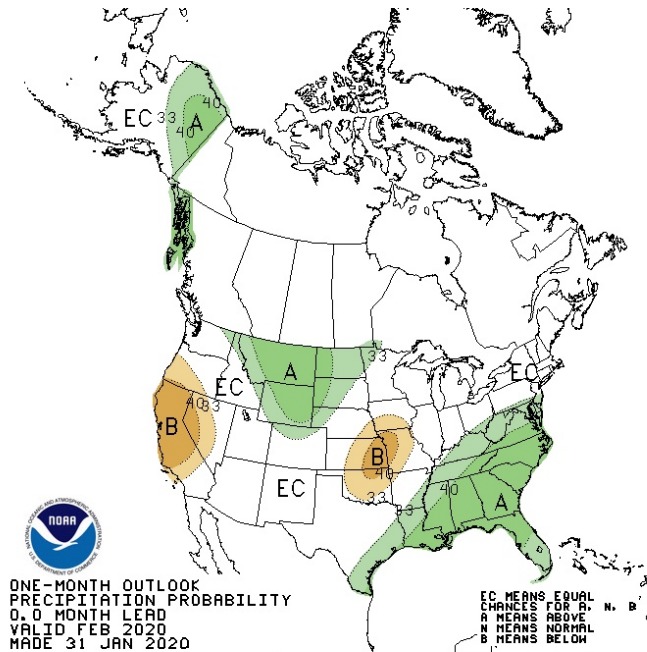
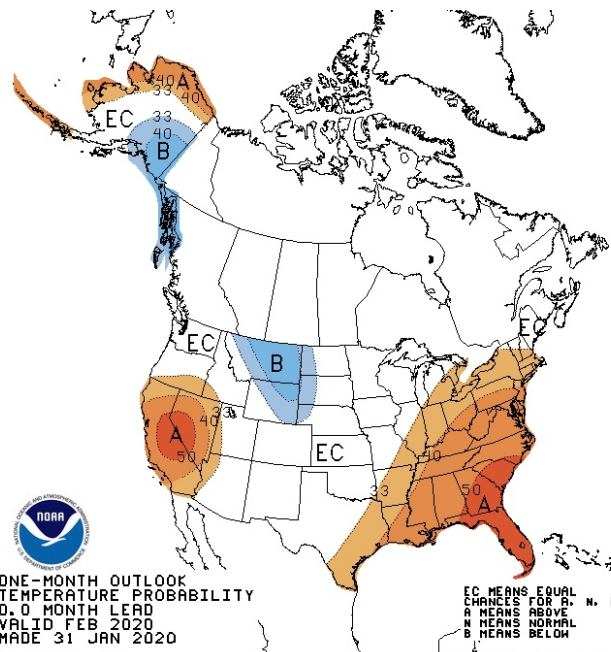
<https://psa050520.eventbrite.com>

Also, don't forget about the voluntary and free On-Farm Readiness Review (OFRR) program. Those are still being offered. It's an “educational” (as opposed to regulatory inspection) on-site visit by FDACS and UF/IFAS intended to walk growers/harvesters/packers through what the regulatory requirements relevant to their specific operation look like. If you're interested, you can sign up at <https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Fruit-and-Vegetables/Food-Safety-Modernization-Act-Produce-Safety-Rule/On-Farm-Readiness-Review>.

Source: Travis Chapin, State Specialized Extension Agent, Food Safety, University of Florida IFAS Extension.

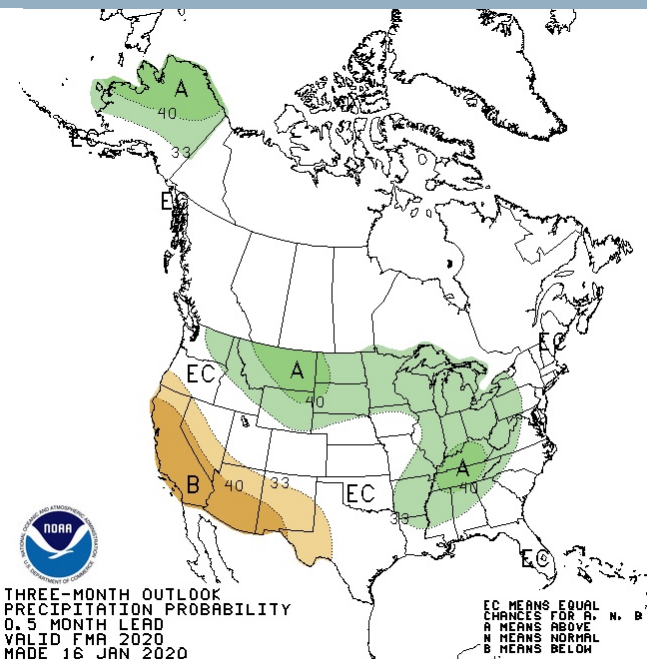
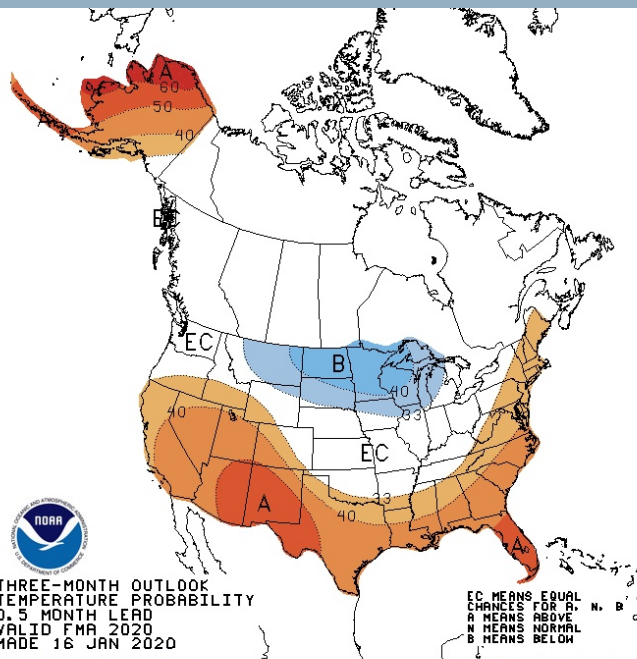
WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONTHLY OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY 2020 - TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION



WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONTHLY OUTLOOK FOR FEB/MAR/APR 2020 - TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION



2019-20 Winter Outlook

Please note that as we wind through the winter season into the spring and citrus bloom, we must monitor environmental conditions that would be favorable for post-bloom fruit drop (PFD).

In February, the forecast is for an above-average amount of rainfall with the three-month outlook for an equal chance for average rainfall. The above-average rainfall forecast is somewhat potentially problematic since we are now starting to see some newly emerging flush and flowering of citrus trees.

This scattered flowering could, under the right environmental conditions, become a source of PFD inoculum during full bloom.

The citrus flowering model can help predict when flowering will occur (Click "[Run Model](#)") to enter parameters for your grove and run the Monitor).



OPERATION CLEANSWEEP 2019 – 2020

**STATEWIDE
PESTICIDE PICK-UP
UP TO 1,000 LBS
FREE**

**CALL NOW TO SIGN UP
(877) 851 - 5285**

Operation Cleansweep is a mobile pesticide collection program that provides a safe way to dispose of cancelled, suspended and unusable pesticides.

EMAIL: CLEANSWEEP@FDACS.GOV

CONTACT:

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SERVICES**

**SHANNON TURNER
TOLL-FREE NUMBER:
(877) 851 - 5285**

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- ✓ **NURSERIES**
- ✓ **GOLF COURSES**
- ✓ **PEST CONTROL SERVICES**

PARTNERS & REPRESENTATIVES:

FL Peanut Producers Assoc.
FL Farm Bureau
FL Fruit & Vegetable Assoc.
FL Nursery Growers & Landscape Assoc.
FL Forestry Assoc.
FL Landscape Maintenance Assoc.
FL Dept of Ag and Consumer Service
FL Golf Course Superintendents Assoc.
FL Turfgrass Assoc.
FL Fertilizer & Agrichemical Assoc.
FL Pest Management Assoc.
FL Tomato Committee
FL Citrus Mutual
FL Dept of Environmental Protection
Certified Pest Control Operator Assoc.
UF Institute of Food & Ag Sciences
Turfgrass Producers of FL Coop.





Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

for Citrus
Growers

February 11, 2020 8:00am – 5:00pm

UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center
700 Experiment Station Road • Lake Alfred, FL 33850

Who Should Attend

Citrus growers and others interested in learning about produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety are encouraged to attend. The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement.

What to Expect

The trainers will spend approximately seven hours of instruction time covering content contained in these seven modules:

- Introduction to Produce Safety
- Worker Health, Hygiene, and Training
- Soil Amendments
- Wildlife, Domesticated Animals, and Land Use
- Agricultural Water (Part I: Production Water; Part II: Postharvest Water)
- Postharvest Handling and Sanitation
- How to Develop a Farm Food Safety Plan

In addition to learning about produce safety best practices, key parts of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements are outlined within each module.

All standard course material will be covered, but instructors will focus the course on topics relevant to fresh-market Florida citrus growers.

There will be time for questions and discussion, so participants should come prepared to share their experiences and produce safety questions.

Benefits of Attending

The course will provide a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and co-management information, FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements, and details on how to develop a farm food safety plan.

After attending the entire course, participants will be eligible to receive a certificate from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) that verifies they have completed the training course.

Cost to Attend: \$25 Please register at: <https://psa021120.eventbrite.com>

Cost includes the training materials, lunch, refreshments, and a certificate of attendance issued by AFDO.

Seats are limited to 50. For questions, email Sarah McCoy at sarahmccoy@ufl.edu.

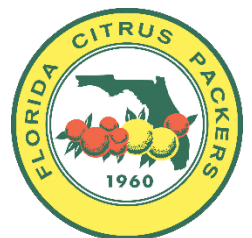
Please note: NO substitutions, transfers, or refunds will be issued within one week of the training start date.



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Training materials and certificate are funded through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FAIN #U18FD005909)



Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training



REGISTRATION FORM

Registration is also available online at: <https://psa021120.eventbrite.com>

Please note: NO substitutions, transfers, or refunds will be issued within one week of the training start date.

UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center – February 11, 2020

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Special meal requirements (vegetarian, etc.)?: _____

Your name EXACTLY as you would like it to appear on your certificate:

Important: Make checks payable to “University of Florida”

Course registration of \$25 is requested by February 6th, 2020. Registration will be confirmed upon receipt of registration materials.

Mail check and registration to: University of Florida
ATTN: Taylor Langford
572 Newell Drive, P.O. Box 110370
Gainesville, FL 32611
taylorlangford@ufl.edu



Training materials and certificate are funded through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FAIN #U18FD005909)



Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

February 18, 2020 8:00am – 5:00pm

UF/IFAS Extension DeSoto County

2150 NW Roan Street • Arcadia, FL 34266

Who Should Attend

Fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in learning about produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety are encouraged to attend. The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement.

What to Expect

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- Introduction to Produce Safety
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Company: _____

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Phone: _____

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