

# Citrus Notes



Chris Oswalt  
UF/IFAS Citrus  
Extension Agent  
for  
Polk &  
Hillsborough  
Counties

## IMPORTANT DATES

**JANUARY 14, 2020**

**JANUARY OJ BREAK**

Lake Alfred, FL

**JANUARY 15, 2020**

**CERTIFIED PILE BURNER PROGRAM**

Lake Alfred, FL

**FEBRUARY 5, 2020**

**CERTIFIED PILE BURNER PROGRAM**

Immokalee, FL  
([click here for registration](#))

**FEBRUARY 11, 2020**

**PRODUCE SAFETY ALLIANCE CITRUS GROWER TRAINING**

Lake Alfred, FL

## CONTACT INFO

**POLK & HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE**

PO Box 9005, Drawer HS03  
Bartow, FL 33831

(863) 519-1052 (Polk)

(813) 744-5519  
Ext. 541231 (Hillsborough)

Email: [wcoswalt@ufl.edu](mailto:wcoswalt@ufl.edu)

January 2020

## OJ Break



Our January 2020 Citrus Growers OJ Break meeting to be held at the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center BHG Citrus Hall at 700 Experimentation Station Road in Lake Alfred. The program is on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, beginning at 10:15 a.m.

This month Dr. Lauren Diepenbrock, Citrus Extension Entomologist from CREC speaking about the recently discovered Lebbeck mealybug. Earlier this week, Dr. Diepenbrock indicated she was sending off samples collected in Polk County for identification and confirmation. Also, there will be a discussion and demonstration of how you can routinely monitor your soil pH without having to send samples to the lab. This methodology uses handheld pH meters and your collected soil samples. Handheld meters would be a great way to maintain and monitor your grove soil pH accurately. Recent research has demonstrated the advantage of having a more acidic soil pH with HLB affected citrus trees. The monitoring of soil pH becomes a significant issue if you are acidifying your irrigation water.

Roy Morris and Bayer Crop Science will be our sponsors. If you are planning to attend, please register by Sunday, January 12, 2020. We need this not only

for lunch but also for any handouts we may have for you. CEU's will be available for your Restricted Use Pesticide License (1 CEU in the following: private, ag tree crop, demonstration and research, regulatory inspection and sampling and regulatory pest control). Certified Crop Advisors can receive 1.5 CEU's, one in pest management, and 0.5 in soil and water categories.

Please register at <https://polkoj2020.eventbrite.com/>, or you can send an email to Gail Crawford at [dorothy@c@ufl.edu](mailto:dorothy@c@ufl.edu) or call her at 863-519-1042.

## Florida Forest Service Certified Pile Burner Program

The Florida Forest Service Certified Pile Burner Program will be at the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center, BHG Citrus Hall, on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. Registration information is at the end of this issue of the newsletter. **If you wish to attend, we will need your registration by Monday, January 13, 2020.** There is another opportunity in Immokalee on February 5, 2020, use the link in the sidebar to register.

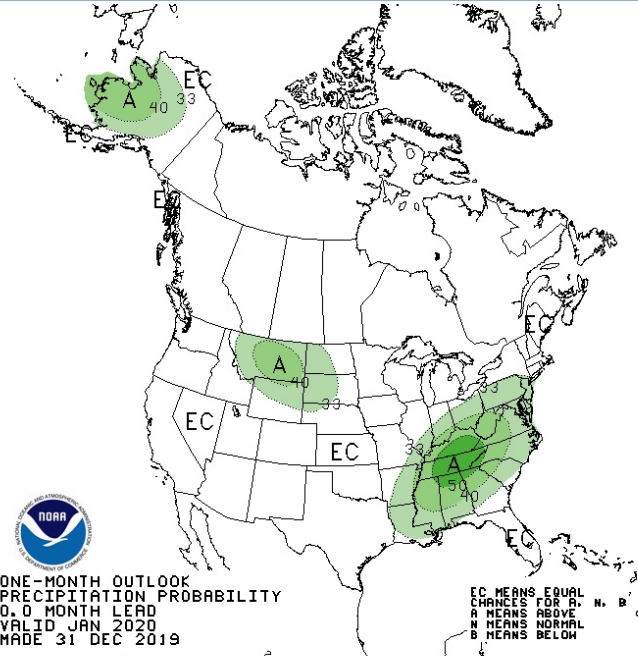
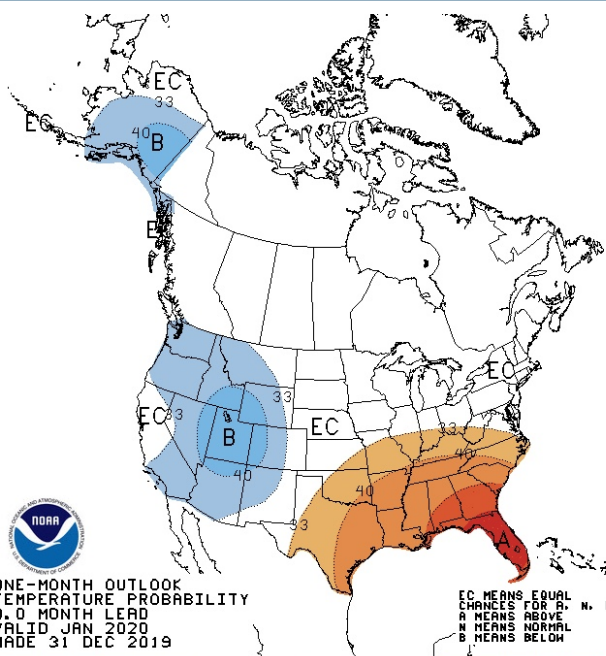
**UF** | IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

*The Foundation for the Gator Nation*

*An Equal Opportunity Institution*

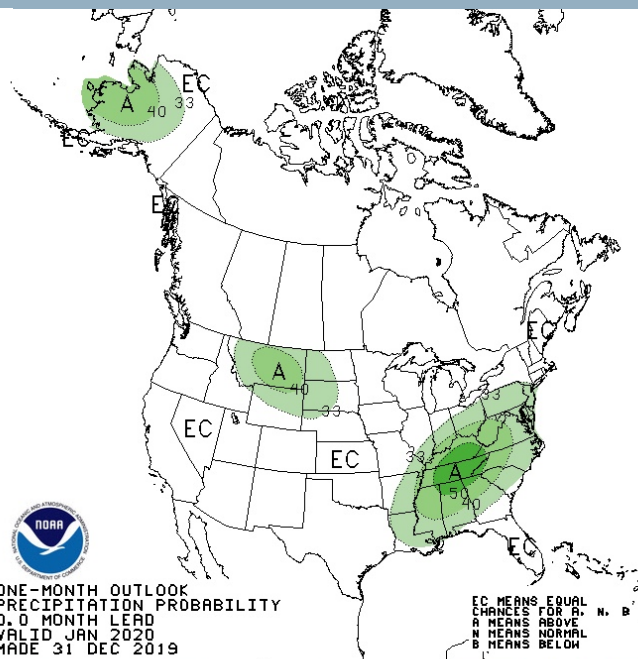
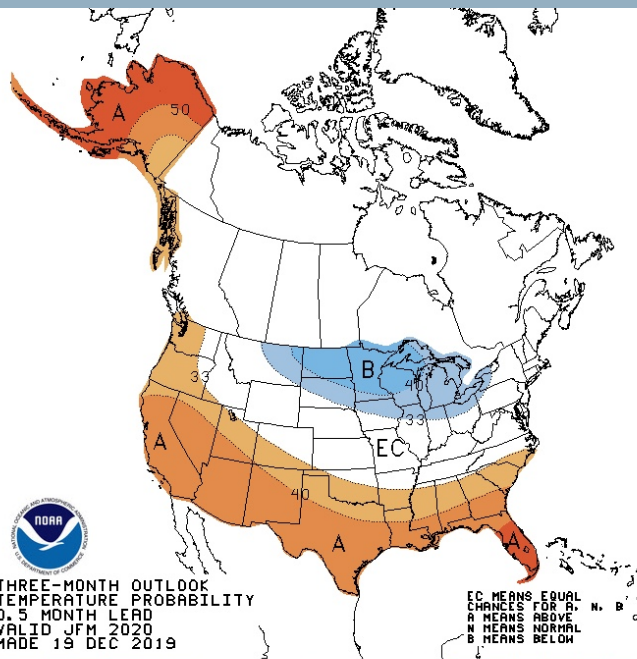
# WEATHER OUTLOOK

## MONTHLY OUTLOOK FOR JANUARY 2020 - TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION



# WEATHER OUTLOOK

## MONTHLY OUTLOOK FOR JAN/FEB/MAR 2020 - TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION



### 2019-20 Citrus Leaf Freezing Temperatures

Once again this year, we are providing the citrus leaf freezing temperatures throughout the winter. The information is on the [FAWN](#) website.

We ran our first set of leaf samples the first week of December, and plan to provide this information until we start to get resumption of citrus tree growth in the spring (about mid-March depending on location).

New this year is a location of Valencias on US 942. The new UF/IFAS

rootstock guide indicates the expectation of good cold tolerance ([rootstock guide](#)). We are also running Bingo and Sugar Belle varieties this winter. To my knowledge, this is the first quantitative information on cold acclimation of these varieties.

# Lebeck Mealybug, *Nipaecoccus viridis* (Newstead): An Emerging Pest in Florida Citrus

## Where did it originate and where is it now?

*Nipaecoccus viridis* (Newstead) is native to the Middle East, Mediterranean, and Southern African regions. In November 2009, the insect was found on dodder in Palm Beach County. In June 2019, it was documented feeding on citrus in Highlands County.

The species has a wide range of hosts in Florida including: citrus, mango, pomegranate, grapevine, and several ornamental plants like hibiscus and mulberry.

## What does it look like?

*N. viridis* adult females are small (<4 mm) and oval with spiky wax coverings. When they begin laying eggs, the females develop an extensive, white waxy ovisac (protective egg sack) which contains hundreds of tiny, red eggs smaller than a grain of ground pepper.

The adult males are 1.3-2.5 mm long and are brownish-purple with well developed wings.

Eggs develop into crawlers, which are mobile nymphs (offspring). These nymphs are very small (< 1 mm), reddish-purple. With magnification, the legs and antennae are easily seen.

## What type of damage does it cause?

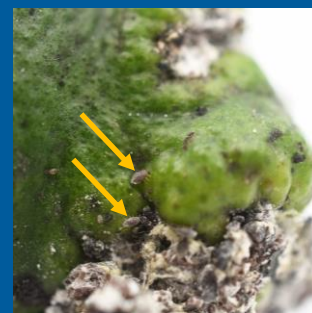
*N. viridis* prefers to feed and reproduce on fast growing plant parts like new flush, branches, and fruit. The fruit damage is distinct and makes the fruit unsightly and unmarketable. Fruit feeding causes hardened lumps and/or discoloration. Leaves also become twisted/distorted from feeding. In South Africa, fruit drop causes 50% or more crop loss.

**If you think you may have the Lebeck Mealybug, please contact the Florida Division of Plant Industry.  
1-800-282-5153**

For more information, please contact Dr. Lauren Diepenbrock,  
UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred  
[ldiepenbrock@ufl.edu](mailto:ldiepenbrock@ufl.edu)



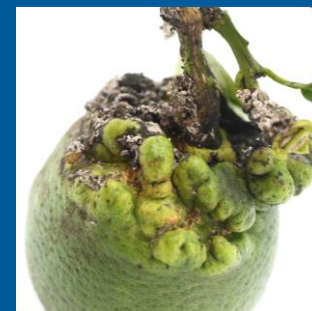
Individual adult female



Female life stages



Leaf damage due to insect feeding



Fruit damage due to insect feeding



**Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences  
UF-IFAS Polk County Extension Service**

**1702 US Highway 17 S  
Bartow, FL 33830**

Information for the next Certified Pile Burners Course:

The Florida Forest Service and University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service will be conducting a Certified Pile Burners Course on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. This course will show you how to burn piles *legally, safely and efficiently*. Most importantly, it could save a life. If you burn piles regularly, don't put off registering for this training. When the weather is dry, certified pile burners will receive priority for authorization to burn. Also, certified pile burners are allowed to burn up to two hours longer per day and get multiple day authorizations. Don't wait. The number of trainings offered and attendance at each training is LIMITED. This training will be held from 8:30 am till 4:30 pm at the **UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center, Ben Hill Griffin Jr. Citrus Hall, Lake Alfred, Florida**. Included are a registration form and program agenda.

Registration is required to attend and class size is limited. To attend please send the following information (see form on next page):

1. Your full name (as wanted on your pile burning certificate).
2. Your mailing address (where you want the certificate mailed).
3. Your Florida Forest Service Customer Number (It is the number that you are required to give the FFS when you call in for your burn permits. If you do not know it please call the local FFS office and ask them to create one for you).
4. Your email address (if you have one) and/or contact phone number.
5. A check made out to: Polk County BOCC for \$50.00.

The first fifty individuals to provide these five requirements will be registered; there will be a 7-day non refundable fee limit. If you do not make the training and did not contact our office at least one week before the class, you will not receive a refund. There will be a test at the end of the session. You must receive a grade of 70% or higher on the exam and demonstrate a proper pile burn with your local FFS office to become certified. Once you are certified it will be noted with your customer number, thus it is important for us to have the proper number. If you do not have a customer number the FFS office will set one up for you. Fill out the registration form on the next page and return as directed.

Sincerely,

**Chris Oswald**  
UF/IFAS Commercial Citrus  
Extension Agent  
Polk & Hillsborough Counties

---

For Questions Contact: Chris Oswald at [wcoswalt@ufl.edu](mailto:wcoswalt@ufl.edu) or 863-519-1052

# Registration Form

Florida's Certified Pile Burner Program  
Wednesday, January 15, 2020

UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center  
Ben Hill Griffin Jr. Citrus Hall  
700 Experiment Station Rd, Lake Alfred, FL 33850  
863-519-1041

**Please send this form and a check for \$50.00 made payable to:**

**Polk County BOCC**

**Mail to: Polk County Cooperative Extension Service  
Attn: Gail Crawford  
P. O. Box 9005, Drawer HS03  
Bartow, FL 33831**

---

Name

---

Mailing address

---

Email address

---

Phone Number

---

FFS Customer Number



**Florida's Certified Pile Burner Training**  
**Wednesday, January 15, 2020**  
**UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center**  
**Ben Hill Griffin Jr. Citrus Hall**  
**700 Experiment Station Rd, Lake Alfred, FL 33850**  
**(863) 519-1041**

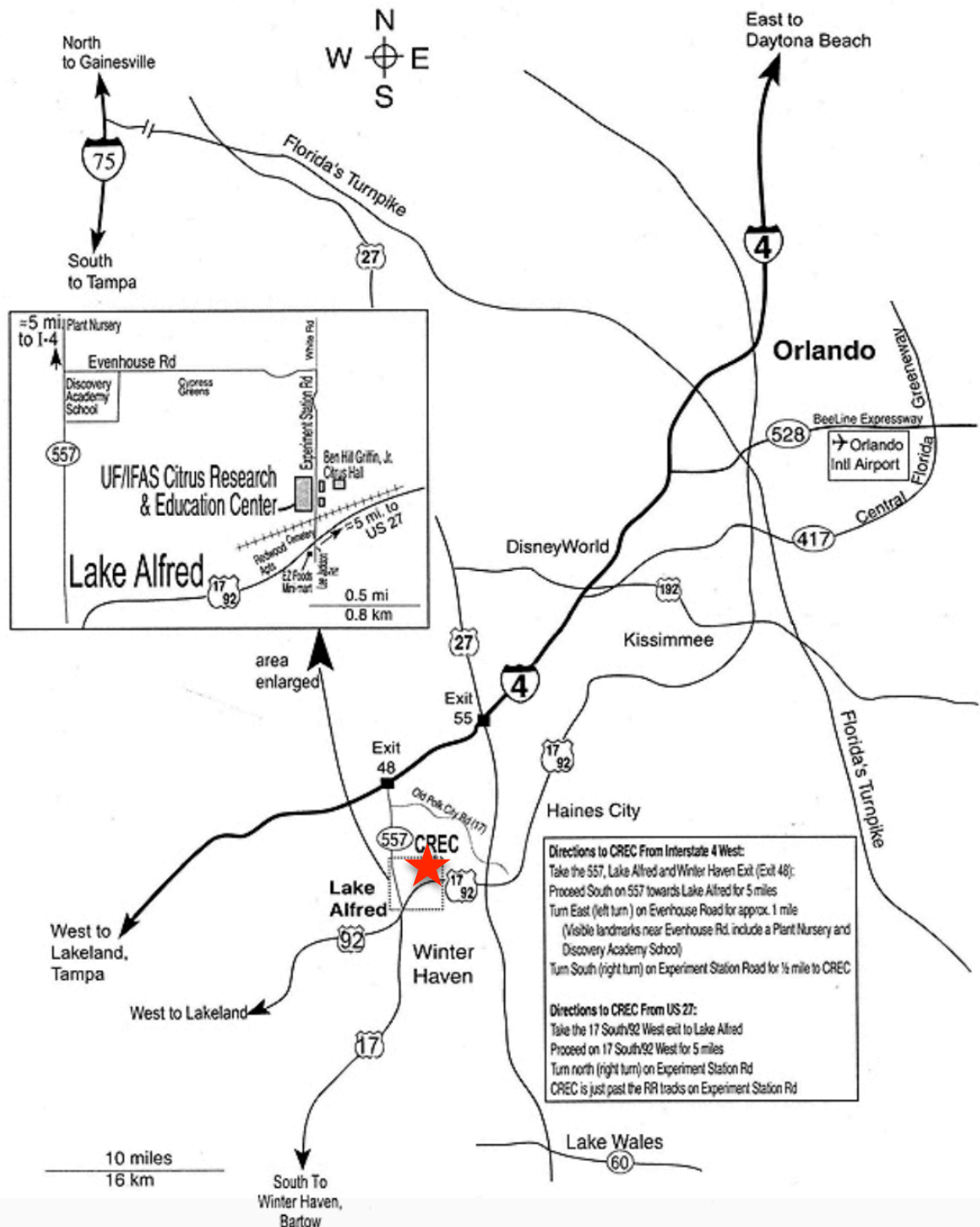
**All Times Are Local**

1. Opening Comments and Introduction	08:30 – 09:10
2. Fire Weather	09:10 – 09:50
3. BREAK	09:50 – 10:00
4. Smoke Management	10:00 – 11:20
5. Open Burning Regulations	11:20 – 12:15
6. LUNCH (provided)	12:15 – 01:15
7. Planning and Implementation	01:15 – 02:30
8. Safety	02:30 – 03:10
9. BREAK	03:10 – 03:20
10. Public Relations	03:20 – 04:00
11. Wrap Up & Test	04:00 – 04:30

**Please bring a Pencil for the Exam!**



**UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center**  
**Ben Hill Griffin Jr. Citrus Hall**  
**700 Experiment Station Rd, Lake Alfred, FL 33850**  
**863-519-1041 (Registration Information)**  
**863-956-1151 (Center Information)**





## **Florida's Certified Pile Burner Training**

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

#### **Q: Why should I be a certified pile burner?**

A: Certified pile burners are trained to burn piles **legally, safely and efficiently**. Most importantly, it could save a life. Also, when the weather is dry, certified pile burners will receive priority for authorization to burn by the Florida Forest Service (FFS). Also, certified pile burners are allowed to burn up to two hours longer per day and get multiple day authorizations.

#### **Q: What is a Pile Burner Customer Number?**

A: When you call the FFS for an authorization to burn, you will be assigned a personal customer number. This number references your information so it doesn't need to be gathered each time you call for an authorization. You must have your individual FFS customer number in order to be certified.

#### **Q: Is there a test?**

A: Yes, the test is 20 questions and open-book. You must receive a score of at least 70% to pass.

#### **Q: What if I don't pass?**

A: Very few people fail the test but if you do, you will be provided another opportunity to take the test at a later date. If you fail the second time, you must re-register and take the training again.

#### **Q: Why do you ask for my email on the application form?**

A: Email is the fastest and most convenient method to inform registrants of their registration status. If no email address is provided then all correspondence will be sent through the federal mail. This can take several days to relay messages and this may not be practical if changes are made to the course schedule or for last minute registrations.

#### **Q: How much does it cost to register for the training?**

A: Registration for the training is \$50 per person and includes lunch, training materials and testing.

#### **Q: How long does my certification last, and how long do I have to complete the certification from the time I finish the class?**

A: As long as the person with the certification uses their number at least 5 times in a period of 5 years their certification will not expire under the current program. You **MUST** complete the certification burn within a year of taking the class.

#### **Q: Will certified burners be notified if their certification expires?**

A: Yes, notification will be sent out to them to let them know of their upcoming certification expiration date.

#### **Q: Will I be certified at the end of the one day training?**

A: No, you will need to follow the written instructions that you will receive from the FFS to become certified. You will need to complete a simple burn plan, have it reviewed and approved locally by the FFS and also have the burn itself reviewed and approved by the FFS.

#### **Q: Is there a minimum age to be a certified pile burner?**

A: Yes, you must be at least 18 years old to take the test and be a certified pile burner.





# 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](mailto:sarahmccoy@ufl.edu).

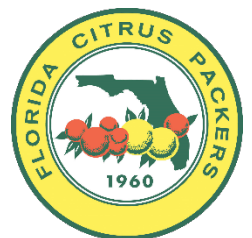
**Please note: NO substitutions, transfers, or refunds will be issued within one week of the training start date.**



Produce  
Safety  
ALLIANCE

FFVA  
FLORIDA FRUIT  
& VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION

UF | IFAS  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



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 6<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:taylorlangford@ufl.edu)



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