

# Citrus Notes



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**July/August 2012**

*Dear Growers,*

**Inside this Issue:**

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2012 Florida Citrus Expo	2
UF/IFAS Florida Labor Supervisor Training Program	2
October Polk County OJ Break	2
Annual Citrus Employee Safety Training and Tractor Rodeo	2
Citrus Research and Education Center Field Day	3
<i>Phytophthora</i> Foot and Root Rot	4
<i>Phytophthora</i> Induced Brown Rot5	
Agricultural Tax Planning <i>Estate Planning - It May Be Too Late</i>	5
Pesticide News and Information	7

*There are a number of educational opportunities being held during the next few months. I thought it would be good to get these out and on your calendars early. I have included a number of flyers and brochures about some of these programs. Over the past year there has been a lot of concern about citrus tree health especially as it relates to citrus root systems. At this point I thought it would be pertinent to review *Phytophthora* spp. disease as it relates to foot, root and brown rot. We have our monthly Ag tax planning article this month discussing estate planning and don't forget the pesticide news and information section.*

*Enjoy,*

Chris Oswalt  
 Citrus Extension Agent  
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 P.O. Box 9005, Drawer HS03  
 Bartow, FL 33831-9005

**2012 Citrus Expo**



The 2012 Citrus Expo will be held on August 15 & 16, 2012 at the Lee Civic Center in North Ft. Myers. The following link has additional information on the program and registration: <http://www.citrusexpo.net/>. For you that receive this newsletter USPS I have included the brochure.



**UF/IFAS Florida Labor Supervisor Training Program**

Enclosed I have included a brochure for the Farm Labor Supervisor Training Program. This training program is for supervisors of farm workers including labor contractors, crew leaders, growers, bus and van drivers, office staff in payroll and human resources. The training will be offered in both English and Spanish. Certificates of attendance will be given to participants that complete each unit. Additional information and program registration are included in the brochure.



**October Polk County OJ Break**

Our October OJ Break will be held on Thursday, October 11, 2012, here in Bartow at the Stuart Conference Center, 1710 US Highway 17 South. The OJ Break will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will be covering the topic of the horticultural management of HLB.

**Annual Citrus Employee Safety Training and Tractor Rodeo**



Our annual citrus employee safety training program and tractor rodeo will be held here in Bartow at the Stuart Conference Center 1710 US highway 17 South on Thursday, November 8, 2012. This annual program will provide certificates of attendance to par-

ticipants that can be included in the employees file as evidence of this training.

**CREC Field Day Scheduled for December 13, 2012**



The UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center will be holding another field day similar to the one held last November. Drs. Arnold Schumann and Jude Grosser will be leading the field day to their respective research projects. Dr. Schumann's "Advanced Citrus Production" planting at Gapway Groves will be one of the stops. The other is Dr. Jude Grosser's "St. Helena" planting at Orié Lee's Grove. Advanced registration opens on August 15, 2012, and space is again as last year limited to the first 200 registered. I have enclosed the informational flyer for the field day at the end of the newsletter.

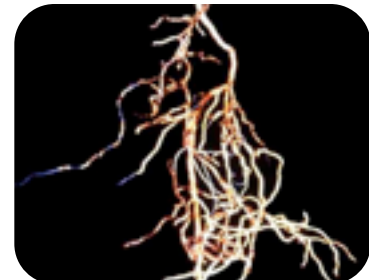


*Phytophthora* foot rot shown above the bud union.

**Phytophthora Foot and Root Rot**

*Phytophthora* foot and root rot can be caused by two species of *phytophthora*: *P. nicotianae* or *P. palmivora*. Foot rot occurs on resistant rootstocks above the bud union, while crown rot is caused by infection of susceptible rootstocks at or just below the soil line. *Phytophthora*

induced root rot occurs on susceptible rootstocks where the outer cortex of the infected roots become soft and water soaked in appearance. This soft rotting cortex part of the root system will slough off leaving



*Phytophthora* root rot showing white thread-like root stele.

only the white thread-like root stele.

The best method of managing *phytophthora* is to use resistant or tolerant rootstocks. Our most commonly used rootstocks today Swingle and Carrizo, are resistant to tolerant *phytophthora* infection. There are many other rootstocks used in Florida that have varying degrees of susceptibility or resistance to *phytophthora* spp. diseases. In addition, avoid planting susceptible rootstocks in areas that have high or seasonally fluctuating water tables. Trees should be planted properly with the bud union well above the soil line. In young citrus trees, avoid overwatering or keeping the trunk wet for excessive periods of time. This is especially true for young trees that have tree wraps.

Guidelines exist for the sampling population densities of *P. nicotianae* in Florida soils. Samples of soil and fibrous roots should be collected from under citrus tree canopies anytime from March through November. Samples should be collected from 20 to 40 trees within a 10 acre block. These composite samples should then be placed in a resealable plastic bag. The samples should be kept cool, but not refrigerated until transported to the analytical lab. Currently, populations in excess of 15 to 20 propagules per cm<sup>3</sup> are considered damaging. It is recommended to also have the same samples checked for nematode populations.

In some grove situations, *phytophthora* can become a significant problem on resistant or tolerant rootstocks when there are high populations of *Diaprepes* root weevils. This is termed the



Adult *Diaprepes* root weevil.

*Phytophthora-Diaprepes* complex. The feeding of larval stage of the *Diaprepes* weevil on the root system of a citrus trees will provide a pathway for *phytophthora*



Root damage from feeding of *Diaprepes* root weevil larva.

root rot infection. Typically there is a closer relationship with the *P. palmivora* (over *P. nicotianae*) species of the disease and the feeding of the weevil larvae.

This far more severe in-

teraction occurs on soils that are finer textured, poorly drained, with high clay content, high soil pH and calcium carbonate levels. In this situation the normally tolerant rootstocks like Swingle citrumelo and Carrizo citrange become susceptible to root rot infection. In well-drained sandy soils this interaction is less severe and resistant and tolerant rootstocks perform more like expected under these *Phytophthora-Diaprepes* complex conditions.

Chemical control of *phytophthora* is recommended based on the observation of in-field disease symptoms and the quantitative measurement of damaging *phytophthora* population densities. Young citrus trees on susceptible rootstocks may require and benefit from preventive treatments. In managing the *Phytophthora-Diaprepes* complex initial rootstock selection of tolerant rootstocks should be practiced. In mature trees the application of fungicides along with good horticultural management should be used to minimized the affect of the complex. Additionally, studies have shown that aggressive adult weevil and larvae control at the earliest onset of disease development has reduced the severity of the complex. On the ridge, practices of fertigation and irrigation that encourage fibrous root growth should be used to regenerate damaged root systems. In the flatwoods, the use of fungicides are recommended under the following situations: grove located on finer textured, more poorly drained, soils with high clay content, high soil pH and calcium carbonate levels, the rootstock is susceptible to either or both species of *phytophthora* and the population densities are above damaging levels (15 to 20 propagules per cm<sup>3</sup> for *P. nicotianae* and 40 propagules per cm<sup>3</sup> for *P. palmivora*).

Specific chemical recommendations for *phytophthora* control can be found at the following link: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/edis.ifas.ufl.edu/cg009> or in 2012 Florida Citrus Pest Management Guide available for free here in our office.

Photos used in the article from: Field Diagnosis and Management of *Phytophthora* Diseases (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs261>) and *Phytophthora*-Related Citrus Diseases Identification Sheet (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp262>).

## *Phytophthora* Induced Brown Rot

During this time of the year growers should be aware of the potential for the development of citrus brown rot disease. Citrus

brown rot can infect fruit this time of the year and if severe, can cause a significant amount of this infected fruit to drop. For this reason, groves with a history of brown rot in areas that recently received a significant amount of rainfall may consider an application of an effective fungicide for the control of citrus brown rot.

Citrus brown rot is caused by *Phytophthora nicotianae* and *Phytophthora palmivora*, the same fungi that cause foot and root rot. Early maturing sweet orange varieties (like Hamlin) are the most susceptible. Brown rot can



Excessive fruit drop associated with brown rot.

*Phytophthora palmivora* infects fruit throughout the tree canopy. At this point growers with brown rot couldn't care less what species of *phytophthora* they have but rather how to stop the fruit drop.

It is extremely important to correctly diagnosis brown rot from other causes of citrus fruit drop. During the past seasons some fruit drop has been attributed to scale insects feeding on the fruit calyx. Excessive rainfall in the late fall, and early winter could lead to fruit splitting and fruit drop. In the fall plant bugs can also cause a certain amount of fruit drop on tangerine varieties. However, brown rot symptoms are unique and include fruit drop in late summer and early fall. The peel will appear leathery with an olive brown discol-



Fruit drop associated with brown rot.

be problematic from mid-August to October and is usually associated with poor drainage and /or limited air movement under the tree canopy.

*Phytophthora nicotianae* infects fruit in the lower third of the tree canopy, while

oration and the fruit will have a distinct rancid odor.

Current recommendations in the 2012 Florida Citrus Pest Management Guide call for the application of an effective fungicide.

Copper, Alliette, Phostrol and ProPhyt are currently recommended for control-

ling brown rot. In general, a single application of a systemic fungicide prior to the onset of visual symptoms in late July will control the disease. Alliette, Phostrol and ProPhyt are systemic fungicides and will provide protection of fruit through the normal infection period (60 to 90 days). If you missed that application or have the onset of symptoms, then copper applied in August will provide protection for 45 to 60 days. If the fall is particularly problematic (continued wet) for brown rot then a follow-up application of one of the systemic fungicides at one-half labeled rate or copper at the full rate can be applied in October.

Remember to read and follow all fungicide label instructions; it's the law.

Photos used in the article from: Field Diagnosis and Management of *Phytophthora* Diseases (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs261>) and *Phytophthora*-Related Citrus Diseases Identification Sheet (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp262>).

## **Agricultural Tax Planning Estate Planning - It May Be Too Late**

(Author: Thomas J. Bryant, CPA is Tax Partner, Beasley, Bryant & Company, CPA's, P.A., Lakeland, Florida (863) 646-1373).

The favorable estate and gift tax rules now in effect are due to expire in December 31, 2012 unless congress takes additional action. In previous articles, I have stated that it usually takes about six months to plan and execute an estate plan (succession plan). By the time you read this article, **you will have less than six months**. However, all is not lost, if you begin now and devote the time required, it can still be done. An estate plan or succession plan is a plan to orderly transition the ownership and management of your farm, ranch and other assets when you die. Without a plan which always includes a will, the state or the courts will de-



Fruit infected with *Phytophthora* induced brown rot.



termine who inherits your assets, you or you and your spouse should make that determination.

The basic favorable estate and gift tax rules now in effect are:

- A combined estate and gift tax exemption of \$5 million, \$10 million for couples.
- The ability to allocate the \$5 million (\$10 million) exemption to generation-skipping transfers.
- A provision making the \$5 million estate tax exemption portable for the first time.
- A reduced estate and gift tax rate of 35%.

As stated earlier, if congress does not act, these favorable laws will sunset on December 31, 2012 and the estate and gift tax exemption again becomes \$1 million and the gift and estate tax rate reverts back to 55%.

Let's get started now, pastures are doing well, crops have been planted, citrus fruit has been harvested, and our crops are in the growing season. A simple question to ask yourself, **if I were to die today, what would my family do and have I properly provided for them.** If you do not have the right answer, now is the time to put your plan in place.

As a general guide, the following steps may be used to begin, execute and put your plan in place.

1. Organize your assets in written form and determine what you want to do with them. You will need a complete listing of your assets, including cost, date purchased, fair market value, and any debt associated with the assets.
2. Select your core group of advisers, an attorney, accountant, and financial planner is a good start. When selecting your advisors, choose professionals you know you can trust. Additionally, they must be knowledgeable and experienced in their chosen profession.
3. Begin putting your plan together. This will start with an initial meeting with your advisors and you will have several more before the process is complete. Each advisor will have questions for you and decisions for you to make. You will most likely need some

appraisals, review and evaluate income tax calculations, uncover some legal issues in the process, and draft, review and execute all of your documents. Your plan will usually include one or more trusts, which gives you more flexibility in formulating your plan.

4. Around this time in the process you will need to select an executor to carry out your plan. This could be your spouse, a sibling or a trusted friend. You should also select a backup, which could be a member of your advisory group.
5. The next step is to implement your estate plan, complete the structure and determine what happens to your assets after your death.

Having a proper estate plan in effect gives you the peace of mind that your family will be provided for when you die and your assets will be passed on to those of your choosing.

Consider this, an estimated 70% of U. S. farmland will change hands in the next 20 years. Also, farm estates are more than twice as likely as a typical estate to owe estate taxes.

In summary, the purpose of this article was not to re-hash information provided in previous articles, but as a reminder **time is quickly running out.** If you don't currently have any type of estate plan, at least have a proper will executed.

For more information on this topic please contact me at (863) 640-2008 or [Tom@beasleybryantcpa.com](mailto:Tom@beasleybryantcpa.com).

For information on other relevant topics, visit our website at [www.beasleybryantcpa.com](http://www.beasleybryantcpa.com). We, at Beasley, Bryant & Company, CPA's, P. A., are experienced in agricultural business problems, tax issues or concerns and are here to help you.

Thomas J. Bryant, CPA is Tax Partner, Beasley, Bryant & Company, CPA's, P. A., Lakeland, Florida (863) 646-1373.



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

### **Pesticide Residue Data Confirms Compliance**

The release of the United States Department of Food and Agriculture's (USDA) Pesticide Data Program results reinforces for consumers that both conventional and organic fruits and vegetables are being grown in an extremely safe manner. This year's report (for samples collected in 2010 from retail outlets) shows that overall pesticide residues found on foods tested are at levels below the tolerances (maximum legal residue levels) set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The USDA PDP tracks and monitors pesticide residues on foods and provides the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with the pesticide information to ensure that EPA's stringent use standards are being followed.

Overall pesticide residues found on foods tested are at levels well below the tolerances set by the EPA. The report does show that residues exceeding the tolerance were detected in 0.25 percent of the samples tested. For baby food – included for the first time in the report – data showed that no residues were found that exceeded the tolerance levels. Some residues were found with no established tolerance levels but the extremely low levels of those residues are not a food safety risk, and the presence of such residues does not pose a safety concern.

In addition to USDA and EPA, the Federal Food and Drug Administration as well as numerous state and county agencies monitor, oversee and enforce pesticide regulations in the U.S. In fact, the government testing requirements for pesticides allowed for use on foods are more extensive than for chemicals in any other category. The U.S. system regulating pesticides is also more stringent than the European standards. Because of these stringent safety standards with compliance verified by monitoring programs, like the USDA's Pesticide Data Program, consumers should not let fears regarding pesticide residues become a barrier to their consumption of the produce commonly found in the U.S. marketplace, regardless if the produce was grown under organic or conventional practices.

Residue levels are protective of all consumers, including infants, children, the elderly, and pregnant women. (*Groceryheadquarters.com*, 5/29/12 & USDA AMS Press Release, 5/25/12).

### **USDA Funding**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will support 321 projects in all 50 states, plus American Samoa and Guam, that help to prevent the introduction or spread of plant pests and diseases threatening U.S. agriculture and the environment. The funding, totaling \$50 million (\$6.7 million in Florida), is provided by Section 10201 of the 2008 Farm Bill.

“We are committed to partnering with our stakeholders to achieve our mutual goals of identifying and mitigating threats to American agriculture, enhancing our emergency response capabilities, and increasing public awareness of the danger of invasive pests and diseases. American agriculture supports 1 in 12 jobs in the United States and provides safe, affordable food to consumers. I am confident that the selected projects will help our farmers, ranchers and foresters continue to flourish and build upon these successes.” Examples of specific projects include among others a nationwide survey of honey bee pests and diseases, the monitoring of high-risk international and domestic pathways for invasive species, applied research to combat citrus pests, the development of detector dog surveillance programs in certain high-risk agricultural states, and targeted invasive species public outreach. (*USAgNet*, 5/25/12).

### **GM Crop News**

France's latest attempt to keep genetically modified (GM) crops from its fields has been rebuked by a scientific panel at the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The EFSA issued an opinion dismissing France's argument that a GM maize variety produced by Monsanto might be harmful to the environment or human health. The opinion is the latest blow in a long-running battle over MON810, also known as Yield-Gard, whose cultivation has been banned in a handful of European countries despite its approval by the European Commission in 1998. The French government, faced with strong public opposition to GM crops,

banned MON810 in 2008 under a so-called "safeguard clause" that gives countries some leeway to ignore European rules. The EFSA rejected the measure later that year, and in 2011, France's Council of State also ruled that the prohibition was out of line. In February, France again asked the European Commission for permission to ban MON810, armed with a new scientific dossier. In it, the French government argues, among other things, that Cry1Ab, a protein produced by MON810 to ward off maize stalk borers, could hurt non-target species such as bees and butterflies, and that it could linger in the soil. But much of the information was the same as that rejected, and EFSA's Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms could not identify any new science-based evidence indicating that maize MON810 cultivation in the EU poses a significant and imminent risk to the human and animal health or the environment. (*ScienceInsider*, 5/22/12).

### **Abound Fungicide**

John Taylor of Syngenta provided the following information on the labeled use of Abound fungicide in Florida citrus.

Please note the Abound fungicide label for citrus has been modified as follows;

- Addition of a general resistance management statement forbidding product use in greenhouses. This applies to all labeled uses, not just citrus.
- Addition of Sweet Orange Scab to the label. This supersedes the 2ee label previously issued for this disease.
- Addition of Citrus Black Spot to the label. This supersedes the 2ee label previously issued for this disease.

## FARM LABOR SUPERVISOR CORE TRAINING PROGRAM

8:00 am—5:00 pm

Training in knowledge and understanding of legal compliance issues in four key areas:

### MORNING SESSION

8:00 am—10:00 am

*WAGE & HOUR* 2 hours

Violations, disclosure of pre-work conditions and rules of deductions, wage summary, minimum wage, hours worked

10:00 am—12:00 pm

*HR COMPLIANCE* 2 hours

Discrimination, temporary disabilities, pregnant women, sexual harassment, child labor, human trafficking

LUNCH—12:00—1:00 pm

### AFTERNOON SESSION

1:00 pm—3:00 pm

*WPS, FIELD SANITATION, FOOD SAFETY*  
2 hours

Pesticides, decontamination, postings, field sanitation regulations, food safety

3:00 pm—5:00 pm

*SAFE DRIVING* 2 hours

Vehicle maintenance, inspections, defensive driving, rural driving

Lunch provided with registration for at least 2 “Core” classes.

## STATE BLOCK GRANT PARTNERSHIP



## Farm Labor Supervisor Training Program

### ONE DAY CORE PROGRAM



WAGE & HOUR



HR COMPLIANCE



WPS, FIELD SANITATION  
FOOD SAFETY



SAFE DRIVING



## LOCATIONS

### Homestead, Tuesday Sept. 11th

UF Miami-Dade County Extension  
18710 SW 288 Street  
Homestead, FL 33030-2309  
(305) 248-3311

### Immokalee, Wednesday Sept. 19th

SW. FL Research & Education Center  
2685 SR 29th N.  
Immokalee, FL 34142-2685  
(239) 658-3400

### Fort Pierce, Wednesday Sept. 26th

Indian River Research & Education Center  
2199 S Rock Road  
Ft Pierce, FL 34945-3138  
(772) 468-3922

### Wimauma, Wednesday Oct. 17th

Gulf Coast Research & Education Center  
14625 CR 672  
Wimauma, FL 33598-6101  
(813) 634-0000

### Arcadia, Tuesday Oct. 23rd

Family Service Center  
310 W Whidden Street  
Arcadia, FL 34266-4193  
(863) 993-4846

### Sebring, Tuesday Oct. 30th

Bert J. Harris Ag Center, Auditorium  
4509 George Blvd  
Sebring, FL 33875-5837  
(863) 402-6540

### Belle Glade, Wednesday Oct. 31st

Everglades Research & Education Center  
3200 E Palm Beach Road  
Belle Glade, FL 33430-4702  
(561) 993-1500

**(More dates and locations can be added as requested)**

## 2012 FALL TRAINING

### DATES

September 11—Homestead  
September 19—Immokalee  
September 26—Fort Pierce  
October 17—Wimauma  
October 23—Arcadia  
October 30—Sebring  
October 31—Belle Glade

**WHO:** Supervisors of farm workers:  
Labor contractors, crew leaders,  
growers, bus and van drivers, office  
staff: payroll and HR.

**LANGUAGE:** English or Spanish

**FEE:** \$ 10.00 per unit  
\$ 40.00 per complete day

### CERTIFICATES:

Participants will receive an *Attendance Certificate* for each unit.



### REGISTRATION FORM:

Make checks or money orders for \$ 10.00 per unit (\$ 40.00 for complete day) to the **University of Florida**. Please mark memo line **“UF-FLS CORE TRAINING.”** Lunch provided with registration for at least 2 classes. Mail payment and registration form to Marcela Rice, UF/IFAS, 2685 State Road 29 N. Immokalee, FL 34142. For questions, call Marcela Rice, phone 239-658-3400 fax 239-658-3469 or by E-mail at: [mlrice@ufl.edu](mailto:mlrice@ufl.edu)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Company \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Language: English or Spanish  
 1: Wage & Hour Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 2: HR Compliance Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 3: WPS Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 4: Safe driving Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

# Citrus Research Field Day

## December 13, 2012

You are cordially invited to attend a field day hosted by the University of Florida-IFAS, Gapway Groves, and Oriee Lee



### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

#### New Citrus Evaluations

- Early maturing Valencia - 'Valquarius'
- Controlled release fertilizer
- Huanglongbing tolerance
- Tree size control, high yields



#### Advanced Citrus Production Systems

- High density planting
- Rootstocks
- Fertigation options for high yields
- Narrow farm equipment, hedging
- Huanglongbing management

### SCHEDULE

Meet at the UF-IFAS-Citrus Research and Education Center, BHG Citrus Hall  
700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred, Florida

Check-in begins at 7:30 am and buses will leave promptly at 8:15 am

A sponsored lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the field day.

Pre-  
registration  
required  
Limited to  
the first 200  
people



### REGISTRATION FORM (Registration opens August 15, 2012)

Please email, fax or mail the following information to : Jane Wilson, 700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred, Florida 33850, [wilsonmj@ufl.edu](mailto:wilsonmj@ufl.edu), Phone: 863-956-8643 Fax: 863-956-4631

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please register by Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Registration will be confirmed by email.*