

# Citrus Notes



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*Dear Growers,*

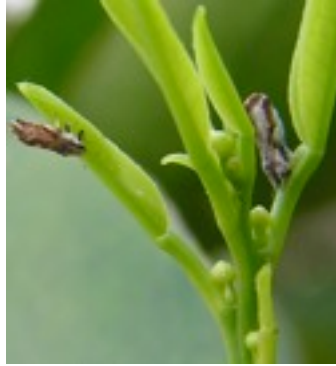
*Our March 2009 Hillsborough County Citrus Roundtable in Seffner will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2009. This is a week later than usual and we have requested one CEU for your restricted pesticide license. We have included a brochure and registration form for the "Citrus Greening Symposium" at the 2009 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute to be held in April. The citrus mechanical harvesting field day and workshop will be held in Immokalee in April. Don't forget to report your water used for cold protection for the last cold spell. Check out the information on the area 2008 Farm Bill informational meetings. Finally, mark your calendars for the annual meeting of the Florida State Horticultural Society in Jacksonville. There are some interesting bits of information in the Pesticide News and Information Section for your review.*

*Enjoy the issue,*

Chris Oswalt  
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***March Citrus Roundtable Scheduled for March 11, 2009***



This month Dr. Megan Dewdney will be our speaker at the March 2009 Citrus Roundtable in Seffner. Dr. Dewdney is our citrus extension plant pathologist at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred. Dr. Dewdney will be reviewing the current recommendations for the control of citrus fungal diseases and fungicide resistance management.

One CEU for your Restricted Pesticide License has been requested in the private, agricultural tree crop and research and demonstration categories. So, plan to join us for some OJ, coffee and donuts on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. at the Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension Service office at 5339 CR 579 in Seffner.



***The "Citrus Greening Symposium" held at the 2009 Florida Citrus Growers Institute***

Mark your calendars for April 7, 2009, for the 2009 edition of the Florida Citrus Growers' Institute. This year the Institute will be designated as the "Citrus Greening Symposium". Enclosed is a meeting brochure and pre-

registration form. Space is limited and registration is limited to the first 300 registrants this year. 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.

***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. For more information contact Barbara Hyman at 239-658-3400 or [hymanb@ufl.edu](mailto:hymanb@ufl.edu).



***Cold Protection Water Use***

Please remember the importance of reporting cold protection water pumpage. If you are in the Southwest Florida Water Management District, reporting forms can be found on the District's web site at: <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/permits/wup/>.

**2008 Farm Bill Informational Meetings**



The Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, commonly known as the 2008 Farm Bill, has become law and rule making is in process. As NRCS in Florida prepares to deliver the conservation programs within the bill, many of which provide cost-share and other financial assistance, we want to ensure that we address the natural resource conservation priorities within the State and get the information out to our partners and Florida's agricultural producers.

As a result, we are holding public information sessions designed to provide NRCS customers and natural resource partners the opportunity to hear what programs will be available with the new 2008 Farm Bill and changes from the 2002 Farm Bill. Information on how to make public comments will be available. A question and answer session will follow.

**Several meetings will be held across Florida where topics ranging from invasive species to water conservation will be discussed.**

	Meeting Room	Date and time	Address	Contact
Marianna	Marianna Agricultural Service Center	March 2, 2009 6 pm – 8 pm	2741 Pennsylvania Ave. Marianna, FL 32448	Jeff Norville (850) 482-2002 x110
Jay	Jay Community Center	March 3, 2009 6 pm – 8 pm	5259 Booker Lane Jay, FL 32565	Jeff Norville (850) 482-2002 x110

Live Oak	Suwannee County Extension Service	March 4, 2009 6 pm – 8 pm	1302 11th Street SW Live Oak, FL 32060-3611	Frank Ellis (386)-755-5100 x103
Gainesville	Doyle Conner Ag. Bldg Auditorium	March 5, 2009 9 am – 11 am	1911 SW 34 Street Gainesville, FL 32608	Frank Ellis (386)-755-5100 x103
La-Belle	USDA Service Center	March 9, 2009 9 am – Noon	1085 Pratt Blvd Labelle, FL 33975	Jeff Schmidt (561) 683-0883
Okeechobee	Okeechobee Ag Civic Center	March 9, 2009 3 pm – 5 pm	US Hwy 98 North Okeechobee, FL 34972	Jeff Schmidt (561) 683-0883
Bartow	Polk County Ag Center South Auditorium	March 10, 2009 1 pm – 3 pm	1702 Highway 17 South Bartow, FL 33830	Jeff White (941) 729-6804
Kissimmee	Osceola Heritage Park Extension Bldg. Room 161	March 11, 2009 1 pm – 3 pm	1921 Kissimmee Valley Ln Kissimmee, FL 34744	Jeff White (941) 729-6804
West Palm Beach	Palm Beach Extension Service-Exhibit Hall A	March 12, 2009 10 am – noon	559 N. Military Trail West Palm Beach, FL	Jeff Schmidt (561) 683-0883

**For additional information about the sessions call the contact person for the meeting nearest you.**

**2009 Annual Meeting of the Florida State Horticultural Society**



The 2009 annual Florida State Horticultural Society meeting will be held June 7 - 9, 2009 at the Windham Riverwalk Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida. A registration form and meeting information can be found at:

<http://www.fshs.org/meetings.htm>



## *Pesticide News and Information*

### **Topsin M Section 18 Label to Expire**

Dr. Megan Dewdney from the Citrus Research and Education Center provided the following information: it seems unlikely at this point that the section 18 for Topsin M will be renewed for Post-bloom Fruit Drop (PFD) control or post-harvest diseases. The section 18 is over on March 19, 2009. Currently Dr. Dewdney is recommending that if you have problems with PFD that they treat for it before March 19<sup>th</sup> (if appropriate of course).

### **How Green is Your Orange?**

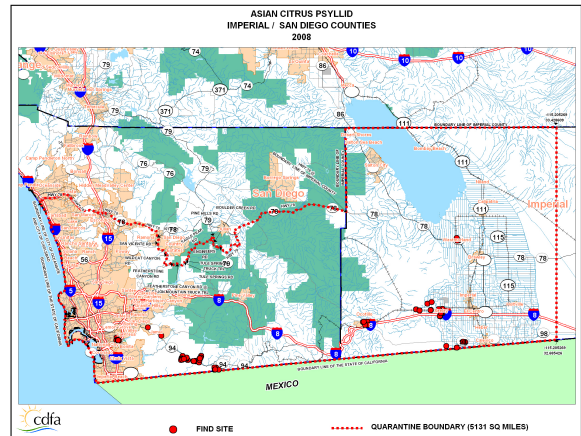


PepsiCo, a manufacturer of soda, salty snacks and cereal based in Purchase, NY, is among a growing number of companies that hope to get ahead of potential government mandates and curb their energy use as prices and long-term supply grow less certain. Orange juice seemed like a good case study. PepsiCo hired experts to perform the assessment, measuring the emissions from such energy-intensive tasks as running a factory and transporting heavy juice cartons. But it turned out that the biggest single source of emissions was simply growing oranges.

PepsiCo finally came up with a number: the equivalent of 3.75 pounds, or 1.7 kilograms, of carbon dioxide are emitted to the atmosphere for each half-gallon, or 1.9 liter, carton of orange juice.

PepsiCo's experience is a snapshot of the complexities it and other companies may face as they come under pressure to calculate their emission of carbon dioxide, a number known as a carbon footprint, and eventually to lower it. "The main thing is helping us figure out where the carbon is in the chain," said Neil Campbell, president of Tropicana North America (a division of PepsiCo). The company also wants to promote supposedly low-carbon products to consumers anxious about rising global temperatures; such labeling has already appeared in Europe. PepsiCo is among the first that will provide consumers with an absolute number for a product's carbon footprint, which many expect to be a trend. The information will be posted on Tropicana's Web site. The company has not yet decided if it will eventually put it on the package. (International Herald Tribune, 1/22/09).

### **California and the Asian Citrus Psyllid**



California State agriculture inspectors are stepping up their efforts after discovering Asian citrus psyllid in the Hillcrest neighborhood of San Diego last week, the farthest north the bug has been found in the city. Agriculture officials warned that the bug was rapidly moving north since crossing the Mexican border at Tijuana in July. The pest



is responsible for spreading citrus greening disease and causing catastrophic damage to orange farms in Florida and Brazil. Agricultural officials warn that the same disease could be a catastrophe for California's \$1.2-billion citrus industry. To slow the pest's advance, officials have established quarantines in parts of San Diego and Imperial counties, prohibiting the movement of citrus plant material out of those areas. Fruit can still be shipped, but it has to be cleaned first. For now, officials believe the state's orange groves are still free of the disease. The danger is that the psyllid, a durable insect that can withstand freezing temperatures and hurricane-force winds, will find trees infected with greening and spread it across the state. (Los Angeles Times, 1/26/09).

keepers to register their locations with county agricultural commissioners by March 1st so growers can monitor hives within two miles of their groves. If bees are too close, growers can ask beekeepers to move and hope they comply. (AP, 1/9/09).

## Bee Movie?



California state agriculture officials are caught between beekeepers who prize orange blossom honey and citrus growers who blame the bees for causing otherwise seedless mandarin oranges to develop pips (small seeds). "Both sides are unwilling to give any ground, and both have valid points," said Jerry Prieto, the former Fresno County agricultural commissioner who has spent six months mediating the dispute. The fight comes amid a worldwide consumer taste shift toward seedless grapes, watermelons and tangerines - at the same time the nation's struggling bee colonies look for winter food. The California Department of Food and Agriculture is scheduled to soon issue draft regulations that will require bee-