

Central Florida Fruit Production News

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Citrus and Blueberry Fertilizer and Irrigation Programs

February 13 10 am to 2 pm. **Citrus Fertilizer, Compost, and Irrigation with HLB**

Dr. Jude Grosser will talk about nutrition with HLB, Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton will talk about compost use, and Dr. Kelly Morgan will talk about irrigation scheduling for HLB and BMPs. Free program includes lunch. [Register online](#) or contact Juanita.

February 21, 9 am - 1 pm. **Blueberry Fertilizer & Irrigation Management** Field Day at Spring Valley Farms. [Register online](#) or contact Juanita.

Meet Doug Phillips, our new blueberry extension coordinator

My name is Doug Phillips, and I am the new University of Florida blueberry extension coordinator, based out of the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Balm. I recently graduated with a master's degree in horticultural science from UF in the blueberry breeding program, working under Patricio Munoz. Prior to that I received a bachelor's degree in horticultural science, with a minor in soil science, from North Carolina State University. This is a second career for me, following a career in accounting which provided me with a strong business background.

My thesis research for the master's degree involved both breeding and pathology, focusing on susceptibility to a stem lesion form of anthracnose in southern highbush blueberry, so I have knowledge and practical experience working with blueberry disease, as well as breeding for specific traits.

My role in this new position will focus on blueberry production and issues in Florida, especially in the central and south-central parts of the state. I will act as a liaison between commercial blueberry growers and UF blueberry researchers (breeding, pathology, entomology, horticulture, weed science, etc.) to communicate new developments to the grower community, and grower issues, concerns and successes to the UF researchers. This will help to facilitate successful blueberry production in the state, and focus UF research efforts where they will provide the most benefit.

I look forward to meeting and working with blueberry growers throughout the area in the coming

weeks. If you have any questions or concerns I can assist with, please contact me (dal64372@ufl.edu, 813-300-7220).

2018 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at South Florida State College in Avon Park. Details to come.

New WPS Rules to be adopted and enforced soon. If you were trained before Sept. 2016, get your updated training at the WPS TTT class Feb. 8 at the Lake County Extension office. [Registration](#). [Details on the new requirements compared to the old.](#)



[New webpage: Exotic Citrus Diseases we DO NOT have yet, but should be looking out for.](#)

Need CEUs for Ag Tree Crop, Ag Row Crop, and Core? Get 2 of each of those CEUs with **[New Technology for Commercial Crop Production CEU Webinar](#)**. [Details and registration.](#)

Research Update

[Citrus Propagation Method affects the root architecture. Maybe seedling rootstocks are not the best.](#)

[Peaches need to be thinned to get large fruit. This researcher tried high pressure water to thin the flowers.](#)

[Orchard row middles could be an opportunity to grow your own nitrogen fertilizer and organic matter. Depending on the cover crop you are growing, you can add a lot of nitrogen to your rows by mowing and blowing into the row.](#)

St. John's River Water Management District Cost Share

Cost share money for irrigation equipment upgrades, soil moisture sensors, and much more. Deadline is **February 16, 2018**. [Details](#). [Application form](#).