

Central Florida Fruit Production News

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Compost for Greening

A lot of growers are using various composts to provide the nutrients and microbes to help citrus fight off greening. Many feel they are having great results. Please let Extension know about your experiences by filling out this very short [survey](#) from Dr. Mongi Zekri. We need to find out what is working.

Peaches

Are you growing peaches? You may be interested in the [2017 Southeastern Peach, Nectarine and Plum Pest Management and Culture Guide](#). It doesn't include Florida cooperators (so no Florida specific information), but it does provide lots of useful information from fertilizer recommendations to weed management and pest control recommendations.

Blackberries

Are you growing blackberries? There is a [2017 Southeast Regional Caneberry Integrated Pest Management Guide](#). No Florida cooperators (so no Florida specific information), but lots of useful pest control recommendations. We have researchers at the UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center working on blackberry cultivar evaluation and breeding now. Hopefully we will have a breakthrough like we have had with the UF Blueberry breeding program to produce low chill cultivars adapted to Florida.

Have you seen this orange fuzz on your blackberry canes? It is Orange Felt, an alga that may lead to cane decline and death directly, as well as cane cracking that will allow in other disease organisms. The hot, wet conditions we have been experiencing make it much worse. Control is with sanitation, practices that allow air movement and quick drying, and Phosphonate rather than copper fungicides. The leaves shown have Cercospora leaf spot. Check out the guide for more control information.



Other News

- St. Johns River Water Management District has an [Ag Cost Share](#) program with a deadline to apply of July 28, 2017. Check it out for details on possible cost share for: Irrigation retrofits, Irrigation conversions from less efficient to more efficient systems, Soil moisture sensors, Variable rate fertilizer systems, CC-Eye sprayer control, Soil grid mapping, and more.
- FDEP will have their rule making workshop on August 2nd at 10 am for Ag water in Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI). The meeting

will be at the Osceola County Extension Office. The CFWI Ag Steering committee would like growers to attend as a show of solidarity for agriculture. Topics of discussion will be Ag annual conservation goal and Ag water demand. The meeting should last until around noon.



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