

West Central Citrus Letter

DeSoto Extension Service

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863/993-4846

Hardee Extension Service

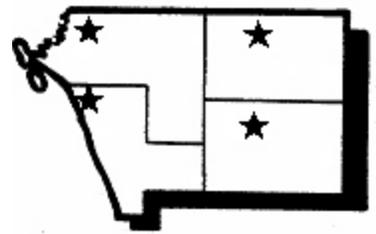
507 Civic Center Drive • Wauchula FL 33873
863/773-2164

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Sarasota Extension Service

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March 9, 2010

Citrus Growers' Institute, April 13, Avon Park

The 2010 Citrus Growers' Institute will be held at South Florida Community College in Avon Park on April 13th. The program will highlight presentations on Asian Citrus Psyllid Management & Practical HLB Field Experiences; HLB Management; and, Plant Improvement and Genomics. The program is free but does require preregistration to attend. To register, please see the enclosed program flyer.

CEUs for both the restricted use pesticide (6) and certified crop advisor (4.5) licenses will be granted for those attending the program. To receive CEU credit, you have to have a valid license.

Program highlights will be posted to the citrus agents' website (citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/) after the completion of the program. Program highlights from previous Institute programs (2008 and 2009) are available at that site for your continued use.

Brazil Citrus Tour, June 19-26, 2010

I will be conducting a Florida citrus grower tour to Brazil June 19-26, 2010. This tour will visit citrus sites in the State of Sao Paulo. Citrus producing areas near Limeira, Araraquara and Sao Jose do Rio Preto will be highlighted during the week tour. The final agenda listing locations visited will be available by mid-March. The approximate cost for the tour will vary depending on the number of participants and is estimated to be \$3,400 if 10 participate or \$2,800 if 15 participate. A \$1,000 non-refundable deposit will be required by April 17, 2010. The above fee includes airline tickets

(international and domestic), hotel accommodations and ground transportation.

The tour will depart from Miami on Saturday, June 19 (9:35 PM) and return to Miami on Saturday, June 26 (7:10 AM). Departure from other locations can be arranged, but at a slightly higher cost.

If interested in participating in this citrus tour, please contact Steve Futch at shf@ufl.edu or by phone at 863-956-1151.

IFAS HLB Management Document

A six-page document has recently been developed to discuss management decisions regarding HLB and is included with this newsletter for your consideration. This information reflects the current thinking of IFAS citrus researchers, based on current scientific evidence and observations in Florida as of spring of 2010. The document will change and be updated as necessary based on new research findings. Please look over the document and I would be more than happy to discuss the information contained in the paper at any time.

Citrus Grower Survey

The citrus agents are conducting a survey to determine the impact of previous citrus extension programs and are in need of your assistance. The survey is based upon the 2009 Citrus Growers' Institute and October's Low Volume Extension Program. To take the survey, please go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BWBDFYH>.

The survey can also be accessed by going to the "Citrus Agents" website on the web. Once at that site, look for the statewide survey link in the middle of the home page.

The survey will take only a few minutes of your time. Your participation in the survey will allow the citrus extension agents to improve and enhance program information provided to citrus growers.

Flower Bud Induction Advisory, #10

Due to the cool weather, full bloom dates have been pushed back a little. The predicted full bloom dates are 16 to 18 March in southern areas, 20 to 22 March in central areas and 23 to 24 March in northern areas. These dates may be pushed back a little more if cool weather continues. If however, the weather finally turned warm, the bud growth is advanced enough that full bloom could come very quickly.

In Central Florida, pinhead flowers can be seen with several leaves in most inflorescences. Only a few flower-only buds were observed. Weak trees may be at the popcorn stage. A scattering of inflorescences were observed that were near full bloom. These probably relate to the early bud swelling observed and reported on January 6th, report #6. Although most new growth appears to have a single flower surrounded by leaves, it is too early to tell whether additional flowers are present or not without dissecting the inflorescences. With the induction levels experienced this year, it is expected most buds would produce more than one flower.

Additional reports will be provided later in March. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Gene Albrigo (albrigo@ufl.edu) or visit the web for a complete listing of his reports at: <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/flowerbud/index.htm>.

Citrus Mechanical Harvesting Field Day, April 21, Immokalee

The 2010 Citrus Mechanical Harvesting Field Day and Workshop will be held on April 21 at the Southwest Florida Research & Education Center in Immokalee. The program is titled "Overcoming Obstacles and Making the Transition." The program begins with registration at 7:30 AM and the presentations begin at 8:00 AM. A field visit is also

included to see mechanical harvesting equipment in action. Preregistration for the program is required prior to April 14th. To register for the workshop and/or field trip, please contact Barbara Hyman at hymanb@ufl.edu or by phone at 239-658-3400.

A copy of the program agenda is also included with this newsletter for your review and consideration.

Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing (Core & Private), April 7, 2010

A three-hour pesticide license review and testing class will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at the Hardee County Extension Service Office at 507 Civic Center Drive in Wauchula. The class will review the materials contained in the tests to obtain a private applicator restricted use pesticide license. The class begins at 9:00 A.M. and concludes at noon with the test being given at 1:00 P.M. Three CEUs (2 Core and 1 Private) will be offered to individuals having a current pesticide license and will be renewing using CEUs. A registration fee of \$25.00 per person is charged to cover the study manuals and refreshments. To attend the class for only CEUs, the registration fee is \$5.00. If you wish to attend the class to obtain CEUs or to take the test, please call the Hardee County Extension Service Office at 863-773-2164 to register. Preregistration is requested prior to April 1, 2010.

Citrus Irrigation Scheduler

With the days getting longer and spring just around the corner, or at least I hope, it is time to begin to think about irrigation scheduling as we approach our dry season. Remember that proper irrigation scheduling is essential to maximum fruit set and growth.

For those who have not looked at FAWN (Florida Automated Weather Network, <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/>) recently, an excellent citrus microsprinkler irrigation scheduler is available for your use. The scheduler requires minimal data input from the user. Items needed are the tree spacing (in row and between row spacing), emitter information (diameter, rate per hour, pattern and system efficiency) and site information (soil type, depth of irrigation) and the nearest FAWN station.

Once the required information is entered, it will create a 2-week schedule as to irrigation duration and frequency. This schedule is site specific and developed using your site information.

The irrigation scheduler is found at the FAWN site under FAWN Tools or at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/tools/irrigation/citrus/scheduler/>

Citrus Canker

In a few grove locations last year, growers may have seen more canker than expected. For spray programs to be effective, control must be started early enough to provide early season control. The control frequency will vary with seasons and citrus variety grown. Early orange and grapefruit varieties generally require more sprays than Valencia.

For most early oranges, control programs must be initiated in April and continue through July, totaling 5 sprays. These sprays would be timed at 21-day intervals utilizing copper materials. The first spray would be applied in April when the fruit is about ¼ to ½ inch in diameter and then followed at the above recommended 21-day frequency.

For Valencia and mid season oranges, three applications most likely would be needed and begin in April when the fruit is ¼ to ½ inch in diameter and followed with two additional sprays timed again at approximately 21-day intervals.

Early Gold, Westin, Ruby and Itaborai are more susceptible than Hamlin. These varieties will require additional sprays as compared to other varieties.

Programs developed for young trees (regardless of variety) will need to be more aggressive than in mature groves. Young trees flush more frequently than mature trees and you are trying to protect the new flush and usually not the fruit.

Growers must also look at practices that address citrus leafminer control. When plant tissue is damaged by the mining of the leaf, these leafminer galleries greatly increase the ease at which the bacterium can enter the leaf and cause damage. In many seasons, the spring flush is usually not significantly impacted due to low pest numbers when the flush emerges. However, subsequent flushes develop when pest numbers are higher and mining activity is usually greater, thus allowing greater canker infection.

For more information on citrus canker control, please see the following document: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/cg040>.

CEU Day, March 30

University of Florida, IFAS will be conducting a CEU day on March 30, 2010. This event will be available at many County Extension Service Offices around the state, including DeSoto Extension Service in Arcadia. The program is being broadcast to the office and begins at 8:30 AM and concludes at 4:00 PM. Participants in the program can receive up to 6 CEUs in a number of different categories including: ag row, ag tree, aquatic, ornamental and turf, private, limited lawn and ornamental, and more. To attend the class in Arcadia, please contact the DeSoto County Extension Service Office at 863-993-4846. Other Extension Service Offices will be hosting the program as well, thus you may want to contact them if they are closer to your location.

Dates to Remember:

- March 30 CEU Day, Arcadia and other locations
- April 7 Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing, Wauchula
- April 13 Citrus Growers' Institute, Avon Park
- April 21 Mechanical Harvesting Field Day, Immokalee
- June 19-26 Brazil Citrus Tour

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Futch

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Enclosures: IFAS Guidance for HLB Management
Citrus Growers Institute Flier
Mechanical Harvesting Field Day