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Treasure Coast Citrus Notes

June – 2009

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Hurricane Preparedness Checklist

Now that we are past the driest 6 months in parts of Florida since rainfall records have been kept, it's time to start thinking about removing excess water and preparing for the possibility that another hurricane will draw a bead on the Florida peninsula. Dr. Bob Rouse, SWFREC, published an EDIS Fact Sheet in 2001 entitled Hurricane Preparedness for Citrus Groves. He reviewed the publication in 2008 after we suffered the hurricanes in 2004-2006. Although many of you have developed first class action plans for dealing with a hurricane, it couldn't hurt to read EDIS publication HS – 804 and see if your hurricane plan covers all the bases.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/CH/CH17800.pdf> (Hurricane Preparedness for Citrus Groves)

Quick Reference Guide to Citrus Insecticides and Miticides

This handy publication (ENY- 854) in chart form underwent another revision in May of 2009 that reflects several changes of the pesticides that are registered for use on Florida Citrus. I have a number of laminated copies at my office for distribution or you can click on the following hyperlink and save it as you wish.

http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/greening/PDF/PestTablesrevisedMay2009_000.pdf

2009 Citrus Expo

This year's Citrus Expo will feature the theme "Using Today's Innovations Toward Future Success". The Expo will be held at the Lee Civic Center in Ft. Myers on August 19-20, 2009. Pre-Registering for the event will enter you in a grand prize drawing and help the organizers to plan for your complimentary meal tickets. The program features pest management, production economics, mechanical harvesting, current research and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) topics. There will be CEU and CCA credits offered for appropriate portions of the program on both days. In addition, the Citrus Expo boasts the citrus industry's largest trade show with more than 150 exhibiting companies on display.

Click on the following hyperlink to go to the Citrus Expo website and see a copy of the program, registration details and a list of hotels in the area:

<http://www.citrusexpo.net/>

Notes on Wide Area Psyllid Spraying

Our recent Citrus Canker and Greening Seminar, which featured 5 researchers from the SWFREC in Immokalee, was very well attended by local growers. Dr. Phil Stansly, entomologist, made a very informative presentation regarding Asian Citrus Psyllid management. The essentials of the spray program he recommends for mature trees are area wide applications of broad spectrum insecticides directed at adults during the dormant season, and additional applications as needed during the growing season, preferably with selective materials and when there is a minimum of flush. The dormant sprays can be initiated anytime after fall flush and terminated before spring bud break. The objective is to reduce overwintering psyllid populations to the lowest possible level, and thus reduce the numbers of psyllids multiplying in the spring flush and their subsequent dispersal immediately thereafter when the greatest spread of HLB (Citrus Greening Disease) is likely to occur. This strategy has been shown to provide the most optimal psyllid control with the least possible impact on beneficials.

Just as the most effective sprays are made during dormant season, their effectiveness is multiplied if they are applied area wide. He showed in his presentation how some 80,000 acres in SW Florida were sprayed this winter by air between Dec. and Jan. with excellent results. Next season they are planning 2 area wide dormant sprays, one after fall flush before Christmas (Nov., Dec. and one afterwards before bud break (Jan. to early Feb.).

Dr. Stansly mentioned that their studies have shown that, while psyllids readily move out of spring flush and away from abandoned groves, they have observed little movement at other times between sprayed and unsprayed plots that are otherwise identical. In other words, psyllids won't necessarily move into a neighboring block just because it has been sprayed.

This supports the idea that, during the growing season, psyllids can be managed on a block by block basis. The key is good psyllid scouting to track populations and respond to significant increases with sprays when needed. He said that the "tap" method of monitoring adult psyllids has given consistently reliable results. He highly recommended that growers and consultants monitor all blocks populations on a regular basis: every two weeks during warm weather and at lengthening intervals of 3 to 4 weeks as weather cools and the psyllid life cycle slows down. More information on psyllid scouting and management is available on their website at <http://www.imok.ufl.edu/entlab/>. Dr. Stansly concluded by saying that beneficials are most active during the growing season, especially when there is flush, and that negative impacts

from insecticides would be increased by area wide sprays applied at the wrong time. On the other hand, area wide sprays will provide maximum benefit during the dormant season when psyllids are most vulnerable and beneficials least exposed to collateral damage from insecticides.

Agribusiness Management Degree at UF/IRREC

University of Florida Agribusiness Management degrees provide graduates with a very strong credential in a promising career, as agriculture remains the state's second ranking industry. Recent graduates who earned Bachelor of Science degrees in Agribusiness Management at the Fort Pierce location, the UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center, now hold prominent positions with organizations such as the UF/IFAS St. Lucie Cooperative Extension, Indian River State College, Syngenta Crop Protection and privately owned citrus management and production firms. Starting salaries range from \$35,000 to \$40,000.

An Agribusiness Management degree will satisfy a very wide range of career interests all along the Treasure Coast. Such a degree could provide an exemplary background for those seeking management positions with the large grocery retailers, one of the most secure employment prospects. Those who wish to start a business of their own would hold the knowledge and resources to be successful in a region that supplies the rest of the nation with yearlong food and plant products.

Courses in business management, human resources, and finance are part of a rigorous curriculum offered by the state's most prestigious educational institution—the University of Florida. As competition to enter the University of Florida Gainesville campus becomes increasingly competitive, the UF campus in Fort Pierce has enrollment spaces available now for fall semester 2009.

Jane Bachelor, who holds an MBA, and is a lecturer and marketing coordinator at the UF center, is offering two courses in the fall which support the Agribusiness Management degree program and the professional development certificate program. **Principles of Agribusiness Management** provides participants with general business management and leadership skills. **Advanced Agribusiness Management** further develops those skills as course participants create business plans for their own actual or anticipated future businesses.

Scholarships from the Bud Adams Family, the Bryan Schirard Memorial, the Treasure Coast Gator Club, the Garden Club of Indian River County and the University of Florida College of Agricultural and Life Sciences are available to eligible applicants. For information about UF/IFAS degree and course offerings at the UF Indian River Research and Education Center, please contact Student Support Services Coordinator Jackie White (772) 468-3922, Ext. 148, or by e-mail: jkwhite@ufl.edu

Actara Citrus Label Addition

Syngenta Crop Protection has announced the addition of all citrus varieties, bearing and nonbearing, to their Actara broad spectrum insecticide label. Actara is labeled for control of Citrus Psyllids, Leafminer, Scale Insects, Root Weevils and other insects. The active ingredient is thiamethoxam, a second generation neonicotinoid which gives citrus growers an additional mode of action to manage citrus insect pests. Contact your pesticide supplier or Syngenta representative for additional information.



Packinghouse Day & The Indian River Postharvest Workshop

2009 Programs

Packinghouse Day

When: Thursday, August 27th, 2009

Where: Citrus Research and Education Center, 700 Experiment Station Road,
Lake Alfred, FL 33850

Time: Registration opens at 8:30 A.M., Program starts at 9:30 A.M.

Lunch Sponsor: DECCO

More details to come.

Indian River Postharvest Workshop

When: Friday, August 28th, 2009

Where: Indian River Research and Education Center, 2199 S. Rock Rd., Ft.
Pierce, FL 34945

Time: Registration opens at 8:30 A.M., Program starts at 9:30 A.M.

Lunch Sponsor: JBT FoodTech

More details to come.

For more information, contact Mark Ritenour at 772-468-3922, ext. 167
(mritenour@ifas.ufl.edu) or visit <http://postharvest.ifas.ufl.edu>.

Contact information

Program Coordinator – Mark Ritenour (772) 468-3922, ext. 167
Ritenour@ufl.edu

General Standards (Core) Pesticide Applicator Training

Preparation for the General Standards Exam required for all of the Certified Pesticide Applicator Categories. 2 General Standard CEU's will be offered for individuals who are current license holders (This includes Private Applicator and Ag Tree Crop). Ken Gioeli, Natural Resources Agent will be offering this course on Wednesday, August 5, 2009. **Pre-registration is required** and the cost is \$20. Call (772) 462-1660 for details and to pre-register.

Private Applicator Training and Exam

The Private Applicator License category is for individuals who intend to apply or supervise application of Restricted-Use pesticide materials on properties owned by them or by their employer. Comprehensive training and the exam will be offered on Thursday, July 23, 2009. There will be 2 CEU's offered for current Private Applicator license holders. However, be aware that current Private Applicator License holders may only attend one of these 'training' sessions per year and gain CEU's. Cost is \$20 and **pre-registration is requested**. Call (772) 462-1660 for details and to pre-register.

Just for Fun

Farmer Nugene walked into the bar, sat down and put his legless dog on the stool next to him. The barkeep poured a beer for Nugene, and then, to make conversation, asked the dog's name.

"He don't have a name," replied Nugene.

The barkeep, not sure if he heard him right, asked again, "Come on, Nugene, what's his name?" "Every dog has a name!"

"Not this dog," drawled Nugene. "What good is a name? Can't come when I call him."

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St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension

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(Click on the CITRUS tab at the upper left for my citrus section)

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