

Citrus connection



HIGHLANDS COUNTY CITRUS GROWERS **President's Column** by Aaron Nelson

After Hurricane Ian last summer, we all were looking forward to getting back into a more routine weather pattern in the summer of 2023. When the calendar turned to the month of June, I eagerly anticipated the start of the rainy season. Having building afternoon clouds followed by a thunderstorm that dumps inches of rain at a time is something I really look forward to in July and August.

This year has been a little different. Unlike most years by this time, consistent rains still haven't come for the most part and, in many areas, growers are still having to irrigate several times each week (unless you are on the East coast). The absence of the late day storms that usually helps moderate evening temperatures has really allowed daytime highs to soar. When the overnight low is only in the upper 70's or even 80 degrees, it doesn't take long for the morning sun to heat things back up to the mid 90's. As if the mid 90's aren't hot enough, without cooling rains to keep them in check, heat indices many days now are in excess of 110 degrees.

Farmers aren't the only ones who are noticing the hot and relatively dry conditions. A neighbor of mine recently commented on how her air conditioner doesn't ever shut off and that her grass is crunchy! She's not imagining the hot and dry weather either, Tampa recently recorded the hottest July on record.

In the groves, microjet systems are having a hard time keeping up with the water demands of a citrus tree that are enduring the stress this weather cycle has brought. Central Florida would certainly benefit from more consistent rain to help make up the rainfall deficit and moderate the overall environment.

Mark Twain (may or may not have) famously said, "Everyone likes to talk about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." That quote helps put things in perspective for me. I could continue to bemoan the less-than-ideal weather we've been having and how it may or may not affect the groves, but then I'd just be talking about the weather and not doing anything about it.

As I've written before, this business has a real way of humbling you. We all like to believe that we have more control over the outcome of things than we really do. Truth be told, we have a lot less influence over things than we'd like. The best we can really do, despite droughts, hurricanes or freezes, is to do the things that are actually within our control and do them well. We can leave everything else to the only one who can do anything about the weather at all. And there's no doubt that's good enough.

Aaron Nelson

JULY 2023

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2023 Calendar of Events

September 6-8

49th Annual Agricultural Labor Relations Forum @ Wyndham Grand Orlando Resort Bonnet Creek

October 12

Initial 2023-2024 USDA Citrus Crop Forecast and Florida Citrus Mutual Grower Luncheon

November 14-16

Ag-Venture @ Highlands County Fairgrounds

December 9

2023 HCCGA Citrus Fun Shoot @ OK Corral Gun Club



For additional information about any of these meetings or events, contact Ray or Jan at the HCCGA office



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Executive Director's Report

BY RAY ROYCE

Recently I had the opportunity to meet, and visit some with, Florida Senator Jay Collins who is the Florida Senate Ag Committee Chairman at an Ag leadership conference. Not only does he have an extremely compelling back story from his twenty plus years of service in the US Armed Forces, but grew up intimately involved in a struggling agricultural environment in another state.



I believe we have a true agricultural advocate in Sen. Collins that understands the situation that the Florida Citrus industry finds itself in. During the conference, I witnessed his interactions with UF/IFAS senior leadership as he several times very clearly encouraged them to work harder and faster on finding potential solutions to a number of issues that affect Florida citrus.

While nothing moves as quickly as any of us would like in the state or federal political environments – please know that we do have many advocates that understand our needs, and Senator Collins is certainly one of them.

All current Association members should receive their 2023 HCCGA Member Directory in the mail shortly. The directory is designed to be a great year round resource tool. So I encourage you to take a quick look at who our Associate members and advertisers are; they are supporting our industry and Association, and I hope you will give them due consideration when you are in the market for goods and services.

We have started planning for the 2023 HCCGA Citrus Fun Shoot, so save Saturday, December 9th on your calendar for this great outdoor recreational and fellowship event. We are moving the shoot to a new venue this year, so we look forward to the hospitality of the OK Corral Gun Club located just east of Okeechobee. Contact our office if you have interest in being one of our Title Sponsors, so we can get your company's logo on the shoot flyer before its distribution commencement next month.

Every year in my July newsletter report I take the opportunity to preach a little bit about Prostate Cancer (*hope you all don't mind*). It has now been twenty-one years since I was surprised to be diagnosed with a relatively advanced stage of this disease, and very soon thereafter underwent surgery and follow-up hormone treatments. I also underwent radiation treatment a little less than fourteen years ago to treat a reoccurrence. These bouts with cancer treatments, post treatment ramifications and the potential for future reoccurrences impact many aspects, both mentally and physically, of my life on a day to day basis.

I am also aware of others in our industry that have had to deal with this disease at relatively younger ages, so I want to strongly encourage all of our male members and friends over the age of 35-40 to get their **PSA** checked each and every time they have any blood work done. It takes absolutely no additional effort. Prostate cancer is the leading cancer that most men will have to face in their lifetime, and there is some research that shows a *significantly higher disease incidence among men who work with agricultural chemicals*.

Do not let your physician tell you that this is a disease of just older men or to not worry about testing for it until later in life (*one of my doctors did just that*). I was 44 years old at the time and my disease was already relatively advanced. I hope you don't mind me getting up on my prostate cancer soap box once a year, but early detection and action can help save your life!

While we strive to keep our members as informed as possible on a wide range of local issues, please never hesitate in contacting me day or night (cell phone: 863-381-8551) for additional information if you need it; or if I can be of any assistance on any matter, large or small.

Thanks, Ray



Info Notes



2023 Ag Labor Relations Forum

Save the dates of September 6th-8th for the 49th Annual Agricultural Labor Relations Forum at the Wyndham Grand Orlando Resort Bonnet Creek. Presented by the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation, the forum educates agricultural employers, including growers, shippers, farm labor contractors, and other employers, on compliance with agricultural labor laws and sound relations practices. Registration information and the agenda should be available, and shared, soon.

2022-2023 Florida Citrus Production Guides

The 2022-2023 Florida Citrus Production Guides are available to pick up at the UF/IFAS Highlands County Extension office or the handbooks are available online (with printable sections) at: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/cg101>.

2023 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute Presentations Online

The 2023 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute was held on April 4th at the South Florida State College Avon Park campus. The educational presentations were recorded and are available online at the citrus agent's website: Here you will also find PDF versions of the slides. <https://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/archived-presentations/2023/>

UF/IFAS Podcasts for Growers

UF/IFAS and Southeast AgNet have partnered to provide the latest news on citrus-related research in a monthly "All in for Citrus" podcast. The podcasts feature short interviews with scientists working to find solutions to citrus greening and other devastating citrus diseases. The podcast complements the new research update website and citrus newsletter at: <http://citrusresearch.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter-sign-up/>. Podcasts may be downloaded to your mobile phone, tablet or computer to be listened to at your convenience.

FDOC Webinars

The Florida Department of Citrus hosts monthly webinars in order to provide key information on various topics important to the Florida Citrus industry. To receive notifications on webinars and other topics, please e-mail news@citrus.myflorida.com and ask to be added to FDOC's email distribution list.

Sales Tax Exemption Forms for Ag Uses

Florida Farm Bureau has a very informative page on their website that lists a number of potential agriculturally related items that may be exempt from sales tax. It also contains a recommended exemption form to be utilized. It can be found at: <https://www.floridafarmbureau.org/agricultural-sales-tax-exemptions-in-florida/>

UF/IFAS Research Website

The updated Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC) website at <https://crec.ifas.ufl.edu/citrus-research/> is now live. The revamped site has the latest research information on HLB management, detailed information on rootstock trials, access to on-line presentations from UF/IFAS research scientists, EDIS documents sorted by topic for easy access, and more.

UF/IFAS OJ Break Programs

The central Florida UF/IFAS citrus extension agents are providing an OJ Break Grower meeting series in a twice monthly virtual program format. Upon registration you will be sent a Zoom link for each meeting. To see the upcoming meeting topics and register for the Zoom notice – go to: <https://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/oj-break/>.

Restricted Use Pesticide Exams

Restricted Use Pesticide exams are done using laptops at most UF/IFAS county Extension offices. Whether you are taking the test for the first time, renewing your license, or adding a new category, you can take your exam at most county Extension offices. In Highlands County, the Extension office is scheduling exams for Wednesdays and Fridays. You can schedule your exam online at <https://pesticideexam.ifas.ufl.edu/public/countyList.faces>.

"Florida OJ Break" Tags

The HCCGA office has a very good supply of the "Take A Florida Orange Juice Break" license plates to share. Please feel free to stop by the HCCGA office and get one for your vehicles. We also have a limited supply of a few other types of OJ related tags.



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A Guide to Safe, Effective Pesticide Use

By Danielle S. Williams

Pesticides are vital tools in agriculture that help protect crops from pests and diseases. Pesticide use must be managed responsibly to ensure the safety of humans, wildlife and the environment. One crucial aspect of responsible pesticide use is understanding and interpreting the pesticide label. These labels provide essential information on proper handling, application and safety precautions. Labels also give instructions on using the product effectively.

A pesticide label is the information on or attached to the pesticide container. It is more than just a piece of paper; it is a legal document. The term “label” is defined as “the written, printed, or graphic matter on, or attached to, the pesticide or device or any of its containers or wrappers.” Many applicators are familiar with the phrase “the label is the law.” That is because this document is a contract between the product manufacturer, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the end user. Using a pesticide in a way that is inconsistent with its label is a violation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). It is the end user’s responsibility to use the product properly.

All pesticide products must be registered with the EPA, and each product is given a unique registration number. According to FIFRA, there are four different types of pesticide registration:

- Section 3 – The product has a standard registration (the most common pesticide registration).
- Section 18 – The product has been given an emergency exemption due to an urgent need to control a pest or disease, and no suitable registered alternatives are available. These exemptions are typically time-limited and granted under strict conditions.
- Section 24(c) – The product has been registered based on a special local need (SLN). SLN registrations are granted when a certain region or area has unique pest control needs that can’t be addressed with existing registered pesticides.
- Section 25(b) – The product has been exempted from registration because it poses minimal risk to humans and the environment.

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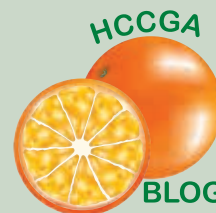
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PESTICIDES, Con't from page 6

KEY ELEMENTS OF PESTICIDE LABELS

Name and Ingredient Statement

The brand, trade or product name identifies and markets the product. It is found on the front panel of the pesticide label. Different manufacturers may use different brand names to market products, even if the same pesticide active ingredient is used. The ingredient statement, also normally found on the front panel of the label, identifies the name and percentage weight of each active ingredient. The active ingredients, identified by the common name and the chemical name, are the chemicals responsible for killing, repelling or controlling the target pest. In addition to the active ingredients, the total percentage of inert or inactive ingredients will also be included on the label. These are considered proprietary information and not named.

Use Classification

The EPA is required to classify pesticides for either general use or restricted use, based on the toxicity of the product, how it will be used and the effect of the pesticide on the environment. General-use pesticides are usually less toxic or less environmentally hazardous than restricted-use pesticides. When a pesticide is classified as restricted, the label will state "Restricted Use Pesticide" at the top of the front panel. To purchase and apply restricted-use pesticides, a person must be certified and licensed in the state of Florida or work under the direct supervision of a certified applicator.

Child Hazard Warning

The front panel of every pesticide label must have the statement "KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN" due to poisoning being a major cause of injury to children.

Signal Words and Symbols

A pesticide label must also display a signal word on the front panel of the label to identify the relative toxicity of the product. The signal word is based on the entire contents of the product, not just the active ingredients. Signal words are:

- DANGER: Highly toxic
- WARNING: Moderately toxic
- CAUTION: Slightly toxic

Pesticides that are highly toxic and likely to cause acute illness through oral, dermal or inhalation exposure have DANGER as the signal word. They will also carry the word POISON printed in red along with the skull and crossbones symbol.

Statement of Practical Treatment

The statement of practical treatment, or first aid statement, describes what to do if a person is exposed to the pesticide. Applicators should be familiar with this section before using a product, and it should be readily available in case of an emergency.

Hazards to Humans and Domestic Animals

This section of the label includes statements indicating specific hazards, routes of pesticide exposure and precautions to avoid human and animal injury. Examples of statements in this section include:

- "Harmful if absorbed through skin or swallowed."
- "Causes moderate eye irritation."
- "Avoid contact with skin, eyes, or clothing."

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

This section of the label contains specific instructions about the type of clothing that must be worn during the handling and mixing process. The required PPE may vary depending on the task. The PPE listed is the minimum protection that should be worn while handling the pesticide.

See Pesticides on page 8

PESTICIDES, Con't from page 7

Environmental Hazard Statement

This section of the label describes a product's potential hazards to the environment, including soil, water, air, wildlife, fish and nontarget plants. Endangered species protection information may also be mentioned here. Examples of environmental hazard statements include:

- "This product is highly toxic to bees."
- "This product is toxic to fish, aquatic invertebrates, and plants."
- "Do not apply where runoff is likely to occur."

Directions for Use

This is the bulk of the pesticide label and typically begins with the statement: "It is a violation of federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling." This section provides detailed instructions on how to correctly apply the pesticide, including application rate, timing, methods and frequency. It specifies the target pests, recommended application rates and the appropriate timing for application. Applying a pesticide to a site not listed on its label is illegal. Products intended for use in agriculture will have an "Agricultural Use Requirements" box included in this section that will contain information related to the Worker Protection Standard, 40 CFR Part 170

Storage and Disposal

Each pesticide has general storage and disposal instructions. Most pesticide labels will contain a general statement to the effect of "do not contaminate water, food, or feed by storage, disposal, or cleaning of equipment" and "store in original containers only." This section of the label provides guidance on how to store the product safely, including temperature requirements, shelf-life and precautions to prevent contamination. It also outlines guidelines for disposing of unused pesticides or empty containers to prevent environmental harm.

SUMMARY

The primary objective of the pesticide label is to provide users with the necessary information to handle, apply and store pesticides safely. Proper interpretation and adherence to pesticide labels can minimize health risks, prevent environmental contamination and maximize the effectiveness of the product. It is ultimately the applicator's responsibility to ensure pesticides are being applied safely and effectively.

**Danielle S. Williams is a UF/IFAS Extension commercial horticulture agent in Quincy.
Source: Applying Pesticides Correctly, 7th Edition by F. Fishel**

IN Memoria

Bonnie Crutchfield passed away on July 26th at the age of 79. Bonnie and her family were founding grower members of our Association. She is survived by her husband of 61 years Tom, her son Scott and daughter Heidi and extended family.

She was a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother who always had a smile on her face and an interesting story to tell. In addition to her love of agriculture, she was a talented interior design professional and active member within her church and community.

Bonnie will be missed by all that had the honor of interacting with her!

Agriculture Literacy Days



Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida Dairy Farmers created this year's Agriculture Literacy Day book titled **Moovers, Shakers and Milk Makers** that highlights the Florida dairy industry.

Any interested agriculture industry representatives are invited to read to local elementary school kids. You are asked to schedule classroom visits with schools at least two weeks before readings. For more information about the program, and to secure the materials you need for a classroom visit, go to: <https://faitc.org/ag-literacy-day>.

There is no set date for this program, please find a date that works best for you as the volunteer reader and the school. We believe that **Everyday is Ag Literacy Day!**



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IN Memoria

On July 18th HCCGA Board of Directors member, and great friend to many of us, Joe Collins passed away at the age of 55. Joe, a professional agricultural engineer, who worked for Lykes Bros. for 32 years was serving as the Senior Vice President responsible for all agricultural operations in Florida and Texas. Joe was a widely respected and active member of Florida's agricultural community.

Not only was Joe an integral part of our area's agricultural fabric, he was a loving husband, devoted father and dedicated community member. Joe had been a resident of Highlands County since 1991, and has served as volunteer in, and leader of, a wide range organizations seeking to improve the quality of life within not only our region but across the State of Florida. Joe was also a distinguished alumnus of the University of Florida and proud Gator fan.

Joe is survived by his wife, Lisa, and sons Benjamin, Eli and Pate as well as an extended family. Joe will certainly be missed – but never forgotten!



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, December 9, 2023

Citrus Sporting Clays

Fun Shoot

Seafood &

Prime Rib Luncheon

OK Corral Gun Club

CRDF Board Focused on HLB Treatments

The Citrus Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) board of directors meeting in July focused largely on the use of oxytetracycline (OTC) as an HLB treatment in citrus. The board considered projects testing it in combination with other antimicrobial compounds or as a standalone treatment.

Trunk injection of OTC has given the Florida citrus industry hope that it might be a viable treatment and bridge to a longer-term solution to HLB.

“While there is literature to suggest that resistance to OTC by the HLB pathogen is likely much farther out than some think, we should have a backup antimicrobial ready in case resistance develops,” said CRDF chief operating officer Rick Dantzler. “There also might be ways to increase the potency of OTC or combine it with something else that might be effective against other diseases. The expense of applying OTC (via trunk injection) is significant, so we are looking for ways to give the tree other products it could use while this expense is being incurred.”

The CRDF board turned down two proposed projects and asked researchers on three other projects to come back with more information to support their proposals. All of these proposals had to do with maximizing the efficacy of OTC or developing substitute products.

The board also voted to repeat a plant growth regulator (PGR) trial to see if the results can be replicated. Benefits were noted in some treatments but not in others.

“With last year’s hurricanes, the results on the PRG trial could be skewed, so we need to do this again to make sure,” Dantzler said. “This is a therapy that has been shown to work as an HLB treatment, so we need to find out for sure.”

Courtesy of Frank Giles, Editor-in-Chief, AgNet Media Publications

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CRAFT's mission is to move lab and research solutions into commercial groves for commercial-scale field trials, collect data on the results of those field trials and create an integrated data management system allowing growers, researchers and other interested parties to analyze the efficacy and efficiency of various strategies, treatments and therapies.

For additional information, contact Tamara Wood - 863.698.9276 or tamara@craftfdn.org

Aldicarb Re-Registration

AgLogic has asked the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to approve use of AgLogic 15GG (**Aldicarb**) for Florida oranges and grapefruit. For decades, Aldicarb served as one of the most effective production practice inputs to manage a broad range of citrus pests. However, in 2010 Bayer voluntarily withdrew it from the citrus market.

The EPA had approved a similar Aldicarb registration request by AgLogic in 2021, but then Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Nikki Fried didn't allow the pesticide to be utilized in the state. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ultimately reversed the EPA's approval citing the lack of an Endangered Species Assessment (ESA), so the registration process had to be renewed.

In HCCGA's letter of support for the AgLogic application, we share that "It is our understanding that AgLogic Chemical LLC has provided a full data assessments the species that overlap with citrus production in Florida, and that the EPA has the information needed to approve this product again. Our organization encourages the EPA to rely on the best available science in the decision making process as you work to complete the ESA assessment".

If you are interested in supporting AgLogic's request, you can contact Ray for additional information about how to best submit public comment to the EPA.

New Citrus Production Guide

The 2023–2024 Citrus Production Guide should now be available to growers. The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) publication includes the latest technical advice on HLB management, tree nutrition, grove management and other aspects of Florida citrus cultivation. The guide is a comprehensive reference meant to assist growers in development and management of citrus groves in Florida, said Tripti Vashisth, a UF/IFAS horticulture associate professor and a member of the guide's editorial team.

Additions this year include new fertilizer recommendations for some nutrients that have been recently changed and information on the plant growth regulator gibberellic acid. Information on pesticides registered for use in Florida citrus is also updated in every new edition.

Topics covered in the guide include planting, irrigation, fertilization, weed control, insect management and disease management. For a grove management practice to be recommended in the guide, a minimum of two years of field-validated data is required. About 50 UF/IFAS personnel contributed to the latest edition.

"Each year, we update the guide with new information as it becomes available," Vashisth said. "This is a fundamental component of the UF/IFAS faculty mission to continue to meet the needs of our growers as we learn about and/or develop new tools and strategies for citrus production."

Hard copies of the updated production guide will be available at local UF/IFAS Extension offices in citrus-growing counties and at the UF/IFAS CREC in Lake Alfred. The guides are also available online at: <https://crec.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/production-guide/>



“Hairy Root” Technology

Developing disease-resistant, high-quality improved crop varieties may seem like a “hairy” task, but Texas A&M AgriLife Research scientists may have gotten to the root of the issue. A new biological technology that develops and multiplies disease-resistant citrus plants is under development by an AgriLife Research team led by Kranthi Mandadi.

Mandadi is an associate professor at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Weslaco. He is a faculty member of the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology and the Institute for Advancing Health Through Agriculture in Bryan-College Station.

The project is developing new ways to fight fastidious pathogens that infect plants and resist growth in a lab setting for study. One such fastidious pathogen causes HLB. Since 2021, Mandadi has spearheaded a \$7 million U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) multi-state coordinated agricultural project that is also a designated NIFA Center of Excellence to combat HLB.

In recent years, Mandadi and his team developed a breakthrough method as an alternative means to propagate fastidious bacteria responsible for HLB and other insect-vectored diseases. “We developed a technology that uses pathogen-infected host tissues to produce so-called ‘hairy roots’ that can serve as biological vessels for the propagation of these pathogens in the laboratory,” Mandadi said.

The hairy root screening technique has led to the discovery of new antimicrobial peptides and chemicals with proven efficacy in plant materials, said Sonia Irigoyen, an AgriLife Research scientist who helped develop the hairy root technology. She said these antimicrobials could be used as therapies to control HLB and other plant diseases. In their most recent study, team members investigated how to use this hairy root technique in plant transformation and bioengineering improved citrus.

In the study published in the *Plant Biotechnology Journal*, team members showed proof of the concept of engineering citrus using hairy roots. In addition to Mandadi and Irigoyen, study co-authors include Manikandan Ramasamy, Michelle Dominguez and Carmen Padilla, all AgriLife Research scientists at Weslaco. The study was supported by grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research, Texas A&M AgriLife Research Insect-Vectored Disease Seed Grants and the Institute for Advancing Health Through Agriculture.

“Developing new plant varieties with improved genetics using conventional breeding or the latest bioengineering and CRISPR tools can be quite laborious, often taking multiple years,” Mandadi said. “The ability to overcome this bottleneck and improve this process, particularly for hardy, slow-growing, perennial trees like citrus, can be a game changer.”

Ramasamy said the efficiency of genetic modification of tree crops like citrus has been challenging due to their slow growth and difficulties in regeneration. “However, we were able to demonstrate a versatile *R. rhizogenes*-mediated hairy root induction, plant regeneration and clonal propagation approach that could be helpful for multiple bioengineering and gene-editing applications in citrus and other tree crops,” he said.

The proposed *R. rhizogenes*-mediated citrus hairy root induction, shoot regeneration and multiplication process achieved in about six months what typically took approximately 12 to 18 months. “The entire throughput for developing more disease-resistant citrus and other plants will be greatly expedited” as a result of the research, Mandadi said. He added that the hairy-root mediated transformation could speed the development of new varieties with superior disease resistance, resilience to environmental stresses, increased production efficiency and improved nutritional quality.

Source: Texas A&M AgriLife Research

CRAFT Update



The Citrus Research and Field Trial (CRAFT) Foundation has reopened the application window for its Existing Tree Therapy program. The program is designed to provide the industry with a better understanding of the best use patterns, combinations, and timing of newly developed therapies. Eligible therapies have shown promise in restoring health and improving juice quality and quantity, as well as fruit retention in Florida.

The Existing Tree Therapies Program focuses on four primary therapies used on existing plantings, including gibberellic acid, 2,4-D, brassinosteroids and the direct systemic application of approved antimicrobials such as oxytetracycline. Existing groves between 10 and 250 acres that will be treated with one or a combination of the aforementioned therapies will be eligible for application into the program. A control area of at least 10 untreated trees must be included in the application. This control may be contained within the treated block, or in an adjacent, similar block.

Much like the original CRAFT new planting program, participants will be required to submit related production records and yield data to the CRAFT-USDA Data Portal as a part of the program. In exchange for their participation, growers will receive payments totaling \$350 per acre over the course of their three-year agreement.

The application period will be open until 5:00 p.m. on August 31, 2023. Participants will be selected through a random lottery, administered by a third-party entity. If you previously applied for the Existing Tree Therapies program and were not selected in the first lottery, your original application will automatically be reentered into the new lottery pool. If you do not wish to have your prior application considered for the new round, please contact Tamara Wood at tamara@craftfdn.org

Interested growers can apply for the Existing Tree Therapies program now at www.craftfdn.org. Additional rules and information can also be found online at www.craftfdn.org or by contacting Program Manager Tamara Wood at tamara@craftfdn.org or 863-698-9276, or Assistant Program Manager Tina Buice at tina@craftfdn.org or 863-214-3731.

More information on the next round of the traditional CRAFT New Planting program will be provided at a later date.

USDA Citrus Crop Forecast

October 12th

The initial USDA Citrus Crop Forecast will be released at 12:00 noon on Thursday, October 12th. Florida Citrus Mutual will host a grower gathering and BBQ lunch that day at the Putnam Ranch near Zolfo Springs starting at 11:00 AM.

In addition to a wide array of industry related folks sharing updated industry news, there will also certainly be a number of political leaders including the planned attendance of US Congressman Scott Franklin - so save the date.

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Florida Ag Hall of Fame Nominations

The Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame, which honors producers, commodity leaders, educators, scientists, and others who have made significant contributions to the production of food in the Sunshine State, is accepting nominations for its class of 2024 inductees. Since 1980, the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame has honored 173 men and women who have made lasting contributions to agriculture in this state and to mentoring of our youth, who represent the future of agriculture in Florida.

There are two ways to nominate:

1) Submit an application and supporting materials via Jotform at: <https://form.jotform.com/FloridaAgHallofFame/2024-florida-ag-hall-of-fame-nomina>. Jotform is an online tool the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame is using for submitting applications.

(This Method is Recommended)

2) Download the editable PDF at <https://floridaaghalloffame.org/nominate/> and email the form and all required materials to nominate@floridaaghalloffame.org.

Nominations and supporting materials must be submitted electronically no later than Sept. 1 and no hard copies are accepted.

“The Hall of Fame celebrates the rich history of Florida agriculture, connecting the present-day community with the giants on whose shoulders we all stand,” said Ray Hodge, president of the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame Foundation. “We invite the agriculture community and others to nominate those who have demonstrated selfless dedication to advocacy and advances in agricultural production, innovation, and education.

Inductees will be honored in February 2024 at a banquet during the Florida State Fair in Tampa. This year, more than 500 people attended the dinner and ceremony to recognize the 2023 honorees.

“It is such an honor just to be nominated, much less inducted. To get added to such an august roster of Florida agriculture legends is a gift I will always treasure,” said 2023 inductee John Woeste, emeritus dean of Extension for UF/IFAS. “But it’s not just about me or my fellow inductees. This is about lifting an entire industry by telling our story and elevating the people who make Florida one of the most important and productive agricultural regions of the world.”

For more information, call the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame office at 813-230-1918 or visit: <https://floridaaghalloffame.org/nominate/>.

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HCCGA Annual Member Directory

All current HCCGA members should receive a copy of the 2023 Annual HCCGA Grower & Associate Member Directory very shortly. This year's 72 page 8.5 X 11 full color booklet includes Association information such as: Grower contact information, Associate Member Bios, Sponsorship Recognitions, Board Members, Officers, etc.

This booklet has become a valuable year-round resource guide for all of our members, grower and associate alike, so take a few moments to peruse through it and take note of who our members and supporters are.

Thank you to the sixty-seven Associate members who through advertising investment have made the production and distribution of this directory possible. Please try to patronize the directory's advertisers whenever they can provide a good or service to your business – because we appreciate their investment in our Association.



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PRIVATE APPLICATOR EXAM REVIEW

**Lourdes Pérez Cordero , UF/IFAS
Extension Highlands County**



Photo courtesy Lourdes Pérez Cordero

Photo credits: Tyler Jones, UF/IFAS



The UF/IFAS Extension Highlands County in collaboration with the UF/IFAS Extension Polk County presents “Private Applicator Exam Review.” Course presenters will be Lourdes Pérez: UF/IFAS Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent of Highlands County and Luis Rodríguez: UF/IFAS Small Farms & Pesticide Education Agent of Polk County.

This presentation is will be conducted on September 28, 2023 beginning at 8:30 AM. This training is designed to prepare students for the Ch. 487 pesticide licensing exam which will be offered that afternoon. Applicators will learn about pest and pest control strategies in agricultural settings, Worker Protection Standards, application equipment, calculations, and other topics..

The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to our events. For disability accommodations, please contact Lourdes Pérez Cordero at least 2 weeks in advance. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.

September 28, 2023

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Location:

Bet J Harris Jr. Agricultural Center
Conference Room 2, 4509 George
Blvd, Sebring, FL 33825

Pre-registration required.

<https://privateapplicator.eventbrite.com/>

Cost: \$15 per person



CEUs Available:

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For more information contact:

Lourdes Pérez Cordero,
lperezcordero@ufl.edu
863-402-6540

<http://highlands.ifas.ufl.edu>

2023 HCCGA Citrus Fun Shoot December 9th

Preliminary planning is underway for the 2023 HCCGA Citrus Sporting Clays Fun Shoot. While our Fun Shoot has continued to evolve over the past 26 plus years, some things remain the same for us – providing a great opportunity for fellowship with others within our industry and greater agricultural community, fun shooting, great food and some fabulous green bird station and raffle prizes.

So save the date, **Saturday December 9th**, on your calendar for our 26th Annual Citrus Fun Shoot and Prime Rib & Seafood luncheon extravaganza.

The 2023 Citrus Fun Shoot will be held at the **OK Corral Gun Club**, a world class shooting destination located just east of Okeechobee, for the first time this year.

OK Corral Gun Club, situated on a 350 acre site, is one of Florida's premier outdoor shooting and recreational facilities. The club has two 15 station sporting clays courses, a 7 station sub gauge course, 2 FITSAC Parcours, rifle and pistol ranges, a cowboy action shooting range, an elevated wobble deck, a trap and skeet range and a fully stocked pro shop. The club also has a large air-conditioned ballroom that our event's Seafood & Prime Rib luncheon will be based in, 24 cabins and several multi bedroom houses available for rent if desired. They have also recently added several pickle ball courts if you, or others in your party, want to add other activities to the day or an overnight stay. For more information about **OK Corral Gun Club**, go to: www.okcorralgunclub.com.

We are now in the process of getting our event's Title Sponsors into place so we can finalize our shoot flier and get it out to our members and the public by early September for shoot registration. We expect that most, if not all, of last year's major sponsors will re-up for this year – however, every year once the flier comes out, some associate member inevitably says "boy I wish I could have been a major sponsor of the shoot".

So if you are potentially interested in being one of our Title Sponsors (a \$1,500.00 investment includes placement for 8 shooters, use of one shooting cart and a lot of great PR), get with Ray or Jan at the HCCGA office ASAP for more details.

Look forward to seeing many of you at **OK Corral Gun Club** on **Saturday, December 9th**!



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CRAFT Public Dashboard

The Citrus Research and Field Trial Foundation (CRAFT) was created to assist Florida's citrus growers in a number of ways utilizing grower based scientific research in real world field trials. Not only does the program have cost share opportunities that help get new trees in the ground or partially fund multiple tree health therapies to be utilized in production programs, but CRAFT also provides data and information to growers for you to consider incorporating into your production programs.

A great component of the program is that all of the information and data that growers are required to share from the field trials on a timely basis through an online portal is available to the grower public for their educational use through the program's **Public Dashboard** that is located on CRAFT's website at: www.craftfdn.org.

When you enter the Public Dashboard page, you will find "Examine Plots and Layouts" which will also show a map of where all of the projects are located. So if you are primarily interested in information from your specific ecoregion – you can confine your searches to that. From there you can navigate through a number of options and different categories to view data on each field trial. Users can access the type of information you want based on contract year, contract number, county, ecoregion, trial group, rootstock, and scion. Each of these categories provides the ability to select one or more options to broaden or narrow the scope of the data to view.

Directions on how to utilize different parts of the site and an explanation of the data for each of the options selected can be found on the left side of the screen. If data is not readily displayed, click on the corresponding arrow to bring it up. The grower survey for each grove block provides detailed information for that trial block such as treatment, tree spacing, pesticide use, fertilizer use, and related costs.

Remember that since the oldest trees in the program are only 3-4 years old that harvest data may be limited. However, harvest data from the first field trials includes total harvest yield, pre-harvest fruit drop, boxes per acre, and acid/brix ratio and harvest info will continue to be in subsequent seasons.

The Public Dashboard, and the information disseminated through it, may be the most important or useful component of the CRAFT program for many growers – so please consider utilizing it.

The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and Southeast AgNet have partnered to provide the latest news on citrus-related research in monthly podcasts at: <http://citrusindustry.net/allinforcitrus/>
The podcast, "All in for Citrus," features short interviews with scientists working to find solutions to citrus greening and other devastating citrus diseases. The podcast complements the UF/IFAS Citrus Research website at: citrusresearch.ifas.ufl.edu, and their monthly newsletter.



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Informational Websites



FDOC Grower Website

The Florida Department of Citrus website at: www.FDOCGrower.com. is in place to provide growers with relevant information about the citrus industry. FDOC Grower features timely information about economic and market research, scientific updates, marketing activities and Florida Citrus Commission meetings in an easy-to-navigate format.

2022-2023 Florida Citrus Production Guides

The 2022-2023 Florida Citrus Production Guides are available online (with printable sections) at: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/cg101>.

HLB Nutrient Management Web Site

Some HLB nutrient management information to accompany the HLB Guidance document has been put on the CREC website at: <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/greening/index.shtml>.

CREC Citrus Industry Update

The UF/IFAS Citrus Industry Update can be found on the CREC website: www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu. These informational newsletters can be located in the publications area. Growers that would like to be added to the e-mail distribution list can do so by contacting the CREC staff at: cankergreeningupdates@crec.ifas.ufl.edu.

Black Spot Info

Information about citrus black spot is available on the Lake Alfred CREC website at: www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/black_spot/citrus_black_spot.htm

Citrus Research & Education Center Lake Alfred

www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu.

2023 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute Presentations Online

The 2023 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute was held on April 4th at the South Florida State College Avon Park campus. The educational presentations were recorded and are available online at the citrus agent's website: Here you will also find PDF versions of the slides. <https://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/archived-presentations/2023>

South Florida Water Management District

www.sfwmd.gov.

Safe Fruits & Veggies Website

The Alliance for Food and Farming (AFF) was formed in 1989 to represent farmers of fruit and vegetables. The information on their website linked below was developed in conjunction with experts in the fields of toxicology, risk analysis, nutrition, health and farming to demonstrate how safe the food supply raised by Americans farmers is for the consuming public. You should consider utilizing facts and videos from this website in social media posts to help promote agricultural products to the general public. <https://www.safefruitsandveggies.com>

CRDF Website

The Citrus Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) has a renovated website designed to make it easier for users to find information on research projects. For the latest in cutting edge citrus disease research information: www.citrusrdf.org.

Research Updates Website

There is a website that provides a venue where you can check on all ongoing citrus related research. Each research project has a brief synopsis of what is happening so far, who is funding it, who the researchers are, etc. The site also provides a wide range of other updated information from UF/IFAS. So check out <http://citrusresearch.ifas.ufl.edu>.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com>

University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

www.ifas.ufl.edu.

Indian River Research and Education Center, Ft. Pierce

<http://irrec.ifas.ufl.edu>.

United States Horticultural Research Laboratory, Ft. Pierce

http://www.ars.usda.gov/main/site_main.htm?modecode=66-18-00-00

Florida Citrus Extension Agents Web Site

This web site: <http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu> has been developed to help growers' access information from around the citrus industry. You are able to read their citrus newsletters, learn about scheduled meetings, and disseminate information across the citrus industry.

Highlands County Extension Web Site

This web site: <http://highlands.ifas.ufl.edu> was developed and is managed right here in Highlands County. It contains a wealth of information, and links to even more information. You will find local extension citrus meeting announcements, registration information, etc.

IFAS EDIS/IFAS Solutions for Life sites

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> and <http://solutionsforyourlife.com>, for a plethora of information on citrus and other types of agriculture.

Soil and Leaf Tissue Testing

Information about techniques associated with soil and leaf tissue testing at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss531>.

Citrus Nutrition

For information on citrus nutrition, you can consult "Nutrition of Florida Citrus Trees" by Drs. Obreza and Morgan. The entire publication can be viewed at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss478>.

FDOC Greening Research Updates

The latest greening research information can be viewed online at: <http://www.floridacitrus.org/oj/?s=greening>

FASS Reports

Florida Agricultural Statistics Service (FASS) Reports. https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/.

USDA Citrus Crop Update Website

The USDA adjusts the citrus crop estimate on a monthly basis. Get the latest citrus crop estimate updates at: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Publications/Citrus/index

Southeast AgNet

Daily Ag news posts, audio clips and updates, including citrus news, from the state's only farm broadcast service. They Tweet and provide RSS feeds too. www.southeastagnet.com

Citrus Industry Magazine

Citrus Industry Magazine has been a grower and industry favorite for 90 years. CEU Credit articles are now available on-line here with several scheduled to appear throughout the year. www.citrusindustry.net.

Low Volume Spray Application Techniques

Information from the Low Volume Spray Program series can be found online at: http://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/events/PDF/LowVolumeApplication/LVA_program.htm The information includes currently labeled products for low volume application (2-5 gallons per acre), worker safety, application considerations and factors affecting application success.

SWFWMD Permit Info

You can search for SWFWMD pending permits (by application number, project name, or by county) or sign up for electronic notification of application requests at <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us>. Click on the E-Permitting link on the Features List. Click the following link for access: <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/permits/>

OSHA's Agricultural Website

This link is to OSHA's agricultural web page. <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/agriculturaloperations/index.html>

Florida Citrus Mutual

<http://flcitrusmutual.com>.

Florida Farm Bureau

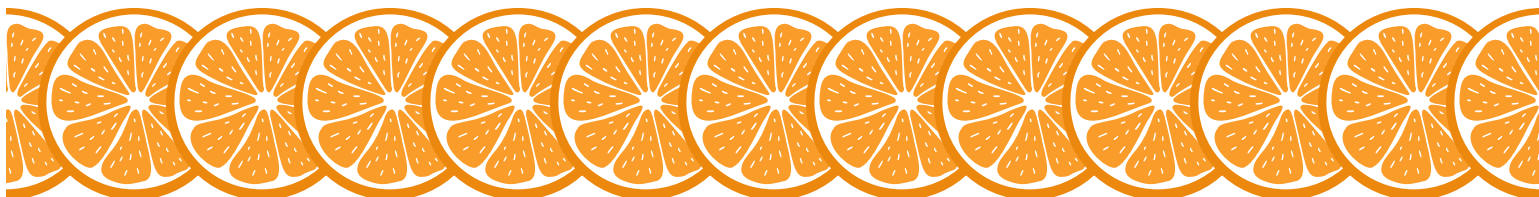
www.floridafarmbureau.org.

FAWN

The Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) can be accessed on the web at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu>

Weather Underground

www.wunderground.com



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Cutting Edge Nutrition & Crop Protection for Trees Impacted by Citrus HLB

BRANDT, a leading provider of specialty inputs, offers a wide range of proprietary nutrition and crop protection products. The following products are recommended to help treat trees that have been impacted by Citrus HLB.

Spring Pre-Bloom through Post-Bloom Sprays:

Foliar Feed with Boron, Calcium and Magnesium

- **BRANDT® Manni-Plex® Cal-Mag** - high efficiency foliar calcium/magnesium
- **BRANDT Manni-Plex for Citrus** - high efficiency foliar nutrient combo for citrus
- **BRANDT Smart B-Mo** - high efficiency foliar boron/molybdenum
- **Celite® 610** - mechanical insecticide that contains 100% diatomaceous earth, OMRI Listed

Complexed Nutrients:

Feed with Dry Lignosulfates

- **Agra Sol** - dry soluble powder chelated micronutrients

Summer Oil Sprays:

Foliar Feed and Protect

- **BRANDT Smart K B** - high efficiency foliar potassium/boron
- **Nordox® 75 WG or 30/30** - copper fungicide, OMRI Listed
- **TresOil®** - emulsified fungicide/insecticide spray oil, OMRI Listed

*For more information, contact J.R. Gough at
Jr.Gough@brandt.co or 863 781 0363*

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