

10/1/2011

Citrus Health Management Areas (CHMAs) Prep-to-spray?

As we enter into the fall of the year, we again focus on the CHMA program. A fall and winter spray program is a vital tool and jump-start to achieving success in reducing the psyllid population for the upcoming year. With a fall spray program, followed by a winter dormant program, the psyllid population can exhibit great success by reducing the overwintering psyllid populations. If growers follow the recommendations, in a cooperative effort, the psyllid population can be reduced significantly prior to the next season. It's with this cooperative effort that determines the success of the program and hence, the farmers profitability. With these two sprays, the growers will benefit from the length of control as well. The two sprays will control psyllids for approximately half of the upcoming year. When the spray is applied in the winter, the trees are dormant and "hardened off". The psyllids that are overwintering will be reduced significantly. The purpose of the dormant spray will be specifically to target the overwintering psyllids. With the winter dormant spray and winter temperatures, the psyllid population levels will be low prior to the very attractive and susceptible spring flush.

In cooperation with Lake County Extension, agent Gary England and I are encouraging growers to spray for psyllids in our area the week of November 8th.

As recommended from last year's program where the first part of the program included two economical spraying resulting in control of psyllid for half of the year.

- 1) **November:** The fall spray is done after the growing season is over and trees are "hardening off" for winter. At this time, the spray reduces the number of psyllid that will be overwintering in your grove.

2) **February:** The dormant spray in mid-February reduces those few psyllids that have survived the fall spray and the cold weather. This brings you through the spring flush with low psyllid population levels.

Once again, for the February spraying, the Volusia CHMA is, therefore, recommending all citrus growers to apply a Pyrethroid insecticide (i.e. Danitol or Mustang) to all their citrus acres between the dates of February 1-14. Research consistently supports that this "dormant" application provides some of the best psyllid control of the year.

Although tough economical times are at hand for farmers and individuals these days, the investment may payoff in the long-run through more productive and higher quality products.

If you have questions, you can contact Brent Jeanesonne at (386)822-5778. Growers in the Oak Hill area may choose to time their spray activities with Brevard County's CHMA. More information is available at the IFAS website www.flchma.org

So, please remember this information:

Recommended spraying date - **February 1 – 14**

Recommended spray chemical - **Danitol or Mustang**

Brent Jeanesonne
University of Florida/IFAS
Volusia County Extension
DeLand, Florida