



Green-Up News

By Dana Venrick, Commercial Horticulture Agent II



Securing Legal Labor, Winter Weather Watch and Pesticide Applicator Safety Training

2 CEUs

Safety Training

2 CEUs

Tuesday, December 12, 2006
9:00 a.m. – Noon

Pierson Lions Club 143 W. First Ave, Pierson

*Come enjoy Holiday coffee and snacks compliments of
Regina Thomas and Farm Credit of Central Florida*

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 9:00 – 9:40 | Securing a Temporary Legal Workforce from Offshore By Michael Gibson, Manager International and Immigration Services |
| 9:40 – 10:00 | FAWN Cold Protection Tools By John Jackson, retired IFAS Citrus Specialist |
| 10:00 – 10:20 | The Weather Watch Program By Ryan Atwood, IFAS Multi-County Citrus Agent |
| 10:20 – Noon | Transportation, Storage and Disposal of Pesticides (2.0 Core CEUs)
By Dana Venrick |

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New Tax Exemption For Agricultural Producers From the Florida Agri-Journal July 21, 2006

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson announced a new state law that takes effect in July 2006 exempting electricity used for agricultural production from the state's sales tax.

"We are grateful that the Legislature enacted this meaningful relief measure, which will assist our agricultural producers in helping them hold down their production costs," Bronson said.

Under terms of the law, which took effect July 1, the exemption requires that those requesting it separately me-

ter electricity used in production activities from the electricity used in production activities from the electricity used in production activities from the electricity is centrally metered and is used for both tax-exempt and taxable purposes, the purchase of the electricity is subject to tax.

The exemption covers all aspects of a farmer or rancher's business operation, including the preparation, planting, cultivating, harvesting and processing of agricultural products. It includes aquaculture, horticulture,

floriculture, viticulture, forestry, dairy, livestock, poultry, bees and any or all forms of farm products.

To qualify for the exemption, agricultural producers must furnish their utility provider with an exemption certificate stating that the electricity will be used directly and exclusively for the production or processing of agricultural products. For more information, contact the Florida Department of Revenue at www.myflorida.com or call the tax payers services section at 1-800-352-3671 or 850-488-6800.



DOWN CITRUS LANE



135 MILLION BOXES FORECAST

The Florida crop of oranges is expected to total only about 135 million boxes, about 9 percent less than last year.

Such a small harvest can be attributed to several factors: carryover damage from multiple hurricanes in 2004-05, a late freeze this spring, an extended drought, and loss of trees from Canker, Greening, Tristeza, etc!

According to the USDA, the grapefruit crop will actually increase about 35 percent, from 19.3 million boxes to 26 million boxes.

The good news is that pricing for oranges is very good. Contracts for packing house navels are now around \$6.00 per box on the tree or higher and as much as \$1.75 or more per pound solids processed. Because production is not expected to increase significantly during the next several years, the outlook for continuing high prices remains very positive.

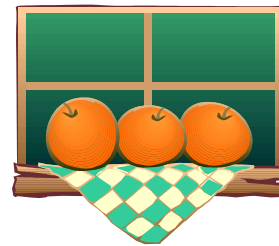
FLORIDA CITRUS AGENTS LEARN FROM BRAZIL

Chris Oswalt, Polk County Citrus Extension Agent, who recently went with a group of UF/IFAS Agents to Brazil, said that there is extensive fencing of citrus groves in Brazil to help control the spread of bacterial diseases such as canker. He said that there are single entrances and exits, where vehicles and workers are decontaminated with anti-bacterial sprays.

Oswalt also said that growers use copper-based sprays as many as six times a year on young fruit trees and never harvest after rains to help prevent the spread of canker.

Gary England, Sumter County Citrus Extension Agent, said that to control psyllids (which spread the bacterial citrus greening disease), Brazilian growers monitor the spread of psyllids with “sticky traps” and then control them with sprays. Any trees that show signs of disease are destroyed.

UF/IFAS Agents and Specialists are now designing systems that will work for Florida growers. In the meantime, implementation of windbreaks as well as some of the Brazilian practices would be advisable for growers. And don't forget tree health and high quality fertilizer and nutritional sprays based on soil testing and leaf tissue analysis. Some growers are reporting that they are avoiding canker by spraying copper and fish emulsion and other nutritional supplements such as fulvic acid and seaweed. At the very least, excellent nutrition will return dividends in increased fruit quality and yield.

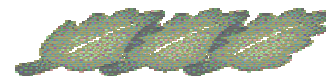
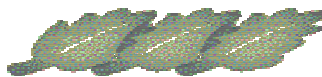
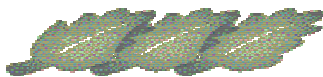
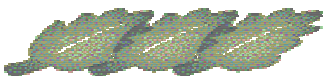


Ryan Atwood Replaces John Jackson

Ryan Atwood has been named the new multi-county citrus agent replacing longtime citrus agent John Jackson. Atwood grew up in central Florida and is a graduate of the University of Florida.

Ryan was a program manager for citrus improvement with UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred and manager of research at the Conserv II water-reclamation project in west Orange County.

John Jackson, an IFAS Extension Agent for 38 years, remains an active citrus consultant for the area. Thank you John and welcome Ryan Atwood. Ryan Atwood's phone number is 352-343-4101.



GREEN TURF

RAPID BLIGHT KILLS RYEGRASS

Thanks to Turf South October 2006

Since 1995 a new cool-season turf disease, *Labyrinthula terrestris*, has caused yellowing and death of perennial Ryegrass and other species of grass and other species of grasses used on golf courses.

Preliminary research by scientists at Clemson University indicates that high saline irrigation water plays a major role in disease development. Problems occur primarily in the fall, winter and spring, suggesting cooler temperatures are favorable for disease outbreaks. The blight is consistently associated with poor quality irrigation water, high salinity water and water with high sodium and high bicarbonate concentrations.

Experiments have shown that the fungicides providing suppression of the disease are: Compass (trifloxystrobin), Insignia (pyraclostobin), and Fore Rainshield (mancozeb). Heading off outbreaks with preventive sprays can effectively suppress rapid blight. Keeping soluble salt levels at a low level is also helpful. Of note is that warm-season and salt-tolerant varieties of turf grasses are less susceptible than those with no salt tolerance.

USDA NRCS Cost Share Program

The sign up period for the 2007 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) offered by the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service ends on Dec. 15, 2006.

This program pays farmers up to 50% of the cost of installing conservation practices on their land. Limited resource farmers can qualify for up to 75% cost share. Eligible lands include **citrus groves, cattle ranches, row crop farms, ferneries, nurseries, sod farms, certain equine breeding facilities and others.** Small and large farms are eligible.

For more information and to apply contact the NRCS District Conservationist, George Johnson in the DeLand Service Center at 1342 S. Woodland Blvd. (386) 736-6229 x 3..

TREE SIZE IMPACTS ESTABLISHMENT RATE IN THE LANDSCAPE

By Dr. Ed Gilman, University of Florida

Objectives: Determine if smaller nursery stock becomes established faster than larger nursery stock: determine if larger trees secure themselves in the ground at the same rate as smaller trees.

What we did: 30 Cathedral Oak™ were transplanted from #45 and 30 from #15 containers into the field at the end of March 2005. Trees were fertilized with 100g of 16-4-8 per tree, applied to a 36" area around the stem, in April and March 2005. In September 2005, an additional 400g of 16-4-8 was similarly applied to each tree. We stressed trees considerably in the first 4 months after planting by withholding water for a period required to bring trees to a near death experience (this means foliage began to drop). Then we irrigated daily beginning July 2005. Caliper, height and spread were measured in May and October 2005.

What we found out as of Dec 2005: #15 container trees displayed a much greater caliper, height, and spread growth rate the first eight months following transplanting into the field than #45 container trees. Since the #15 trees were considerably smaller at transplanting than the #45 trees they are becoming established much quicker. This means that roots are coming into balance with the trunk at a faster rate than the larger trees. The smaller trees in the #15s grew more in height than spread, just the opposite of the more stressed larger trees. This may be a response to the increased drought experienced by the larger trees. #15 trees were never really stressed beyond 19 bars which is only a moderate stress. On the other hand some trees from #45 containers became so stressed (some >25 bars) that they began losing foliage when we withheld water during hot dry weather.

Conclusions: Small nursery stock appears to establish quicker than larger nursery stock.

Dates To Remember



**November- 30
thru**

December 1 **Great Southern Tree Conference Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, UF
Gainesville** <http://www.fn gla.org/gstree/gen-info.asp>

December 12 **Foliage Forum** (see front page for details)

December 13 **Review and Exams for Restricted Use Ornamental/Turf or Private Agriculture
Applicator Pesticide Licenses** – Orange County Extension Service, 6021 S. Conway
Road, Orlando, FL (New location!) Celeste White 407-254-9200

December 14 **Pesticide Applicator ID Holder Training** Orange County Extension Service,
Celeste White 407-254-9200

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Venrick".

Dana Venrick

Extension Agent II – Commercial Horticulture

