

Central Florida



and Fruit Crops Update

June 2012

Upcoming Events

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Citrus Copper Scheduler Goes Mobile

***Alternaria* Resistance Survey**

Small Farms Conference

CHMA Progress

Citrus Expo

Upcoming Events

- July 27-29—Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference in Kissimmee, FL.
- August 14—Private Applicator Pesticide License Review and Exam at the Seminole County Extension Office in Sanford
- August 15-16—Citrus Expo in Ft. Myers
- August 23—Pomegranate Field Day at Water Conserv II near Winter Garden
- August 31—Volusia County CHMA Fall/Winter Sprays Meeting
- September 14—Inaugural Florida Pomegranate Association Conference at the CREC in Lake Alfred
- October 30—Florida Blueberry Growers Association Fall Seminar in Plant City
- November 8—Pesticide CEU Day at the Orange County Extension Office in Orlando
- December 13—Citrus Research Field Day in Lake Alfred

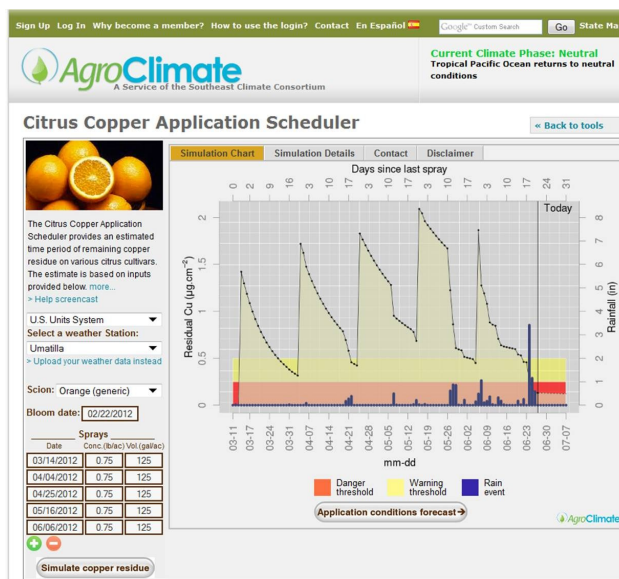
New Format

Beginning with the June 2012 Issue, the newsletter of the Central Florida Fruit Crop Extension Program will be called Central Florida Citruslines and Fruit Crops Update to reflect the inclusion of content related to citrus and other major fruit crops such as peach, grape, pomegranate and blueberries to name a few. The intent is to produce a concise review of pertinent information relative to the major fruit crops produced in the region on a more frequent schedule than in the past. Information on crop pest status and other major issues direct from producers will be included.

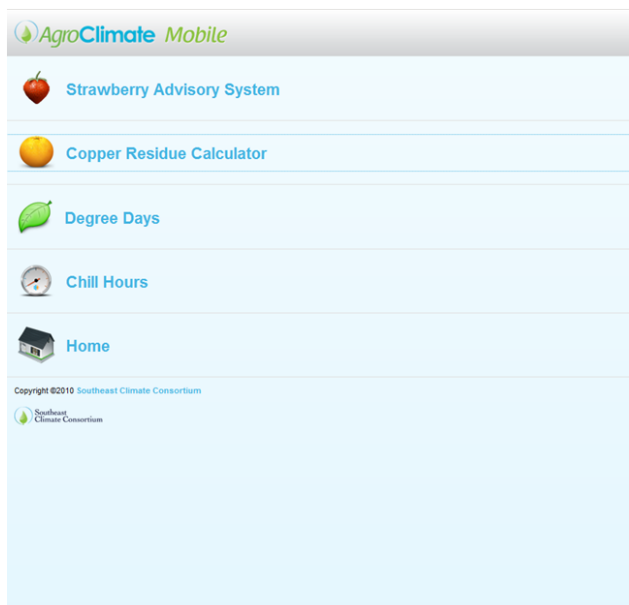
Citrus Copper Scheduler Goes Mobile

Last summer, Dr. Megan Dewdney, Extension Plant Pathology Specialist at the CREC in Lake Alfred, introduced a copper application scheduler for utilization by growers to estimate the time period in which there will be a sufficient copper residue on plant surfaces to prevent infection by various citrus diseases.

Citrus growers can input the nearest Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) Station, types of citrus produced, bloom date and copper application information that will be entered in the model and results depicted in a graph (above right) indicating if there should be sufficient copper residue or if you are in a Warning or Danger Threshold for insufficient copper residue to prevent infection.



The Citrus Copper Application Scheduler is available on the AgroClimate Website (<http://agroclimate.org/tools/cudecay/>) on the AgroClimate Tools Section.



An article on June 26, 2012 in the online version of The Grower revealed that a mobile version of the Citrus Copper Application Scheduler (depicted at the left) is now available for utilization on smart phones and tablets. Just go to AgroClimate Mobile (<http://www.agroclimate.org/mobile/index.php>) and click on the Tools Section on your smart phone or tablet and choose the Copper Residue Calculator. Growers are able to enter the same information as in the regular tool and obtain a chart indicating copper residue status.

***Alternaria* Resistance Survey**

Over the past several seasons Dr. Megan Dewdney, Extension Plant Pathology Specialist at the CREC in Lake Alfred, has been working with growers to determine why some have experienced increased difficulty controlling *Alternaria* brown spot caused by the fungus *Alternaria alternata* in tangerines and tangelos. After sampling many blocks, Dr. Dewdney and her staff ran tests to determine the sensitivity of *Alternaria alternata* to fungicides. In several instances, there appeared to be resistance to Strobilurin fungicides (Abound, Gem and Headline are examples) developing in *Alternaria alternata* cultures produced from blocks where *Alternaria* brown spot control had become problematic.

Dr. Dewdney contacted me this season to expand the sampling program to groves in east central Florida. Mr. Byron Vega is a graduate student working on this project who will be taking samples from tangerine and tangelo blocks in the region and evaluating *Alternaria alternata* cultures for sensitivity to Strobilurin fungicides. I have already contacted many of you to see if you had any blocks where you have experienced difficulty in controlling *Alternaria* brown spot and would like to have them sampled as part of the survey. If I have not contacted you and you would like your grove to be sampled, please contact me at gke@ufl.edu or (352) 343-4101 Ext. 2729.

Information derived from this survey will be very important in determining the level of resistance in *Alternaria alternata* in our industry and thus assisting Dr. Dewdney to continue to develop management recommendations to control this serious pest.



Small Farms Conference

The fourth annual Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference is being held at the Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee July 27-29 starting with farm tours and trade show on Friday, with educational sessions covering a large variety of topics on Saturday and concluding Sunday. Please go to the conference website for more information: <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/index.html>

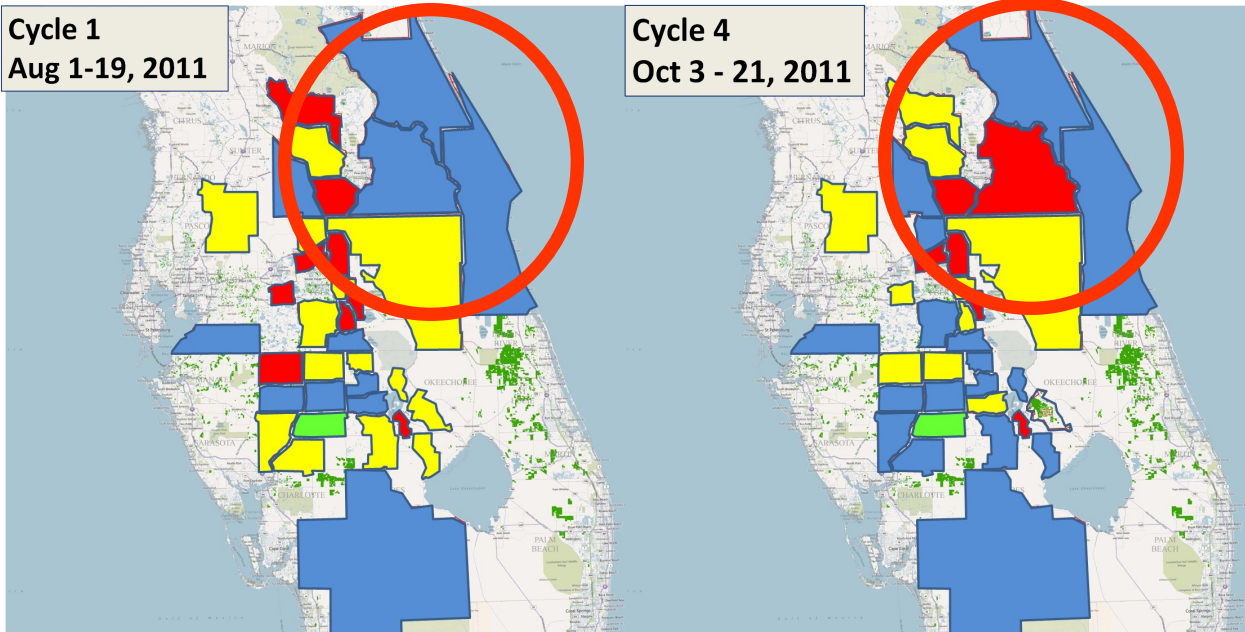
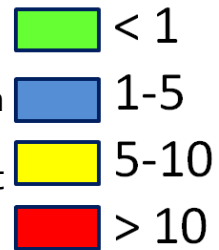
CHMA Progress

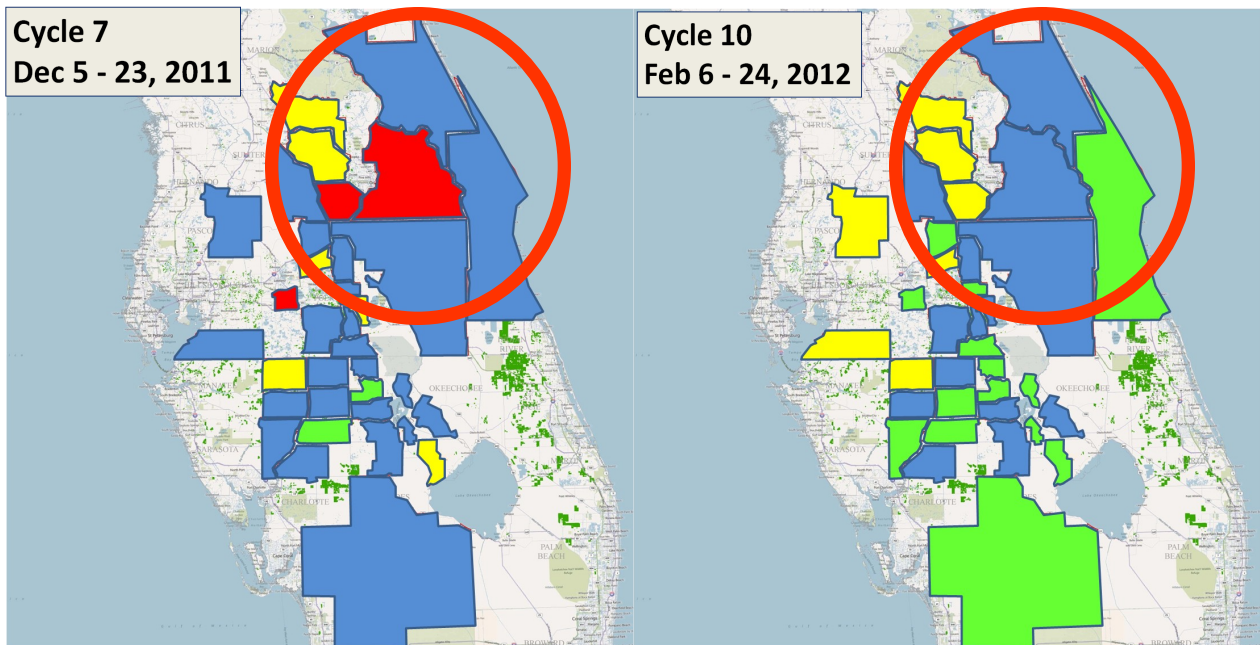
Citrus Health Management Areas (CHMA) have been utilized throughout Florida over the past few seasons as a tactic which involves coordinated area wide insecticide sprays to control the Asian citrus psyllid, the vector of *Candidatus Liberibacter americanus* which is associated with citrus greening (HLB) in citrus. Many growers in areas where there has been a high participation in coordinated area wide insecticide sprays within their respective CHMAs have reported decreases in Asian citrus psyllid populations.

In an excellent presentation given by Dr. Michael Rogers, Extension Entomology Specialist at the CREC in Lake Alfred, at the Florida Citrus Institute on April 10, 2012 in Avon Park, growers attending the meeting were able to see data on Asian citrus psyllid population trends in CHMAs from around the state. Dr. Rogers pointed out that the average Asian citrus psyllid populations in the 35 CHMAs across the state were approximately 50% less than the previous year.

The four figures from Dr, Rogers' presentation at the Institute depicted below and on the next page show the average number of Asian citrus psyllid adults across the blocks sampled during a particular cycle. The key to the right can be used to determine the average Asian citrus psyllid population in each CHMA according to its color code. Comparing Cycle 7 with Cycle 10 demonstrates the efficiency of coordinated dormant applications for reducing populations.

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I have placed a red circle encompassing the CHMAs in east central Florida on the four Asian citrus psyllid population maps from Dr. Rogers' presentation. Please note that during the four cycles, some of the CHMAs in our region tended to have higher average Asian citrus populations than others in the state. At times, the populations in these CHMAs were quite a bit higher.

Many growers and researchers agree that controlling the Asian citrus psyllid is an integral component for an HLB management program. The data from Dr. Rogers' presentation has shown that coordinated area wide sprays in CHMAs around the state are an effective tactic in achieving the goal of reducing Asian citrus psyllid populations. For this reason, it is a high priority to enhance the CHMA efforts in this region to ultimately reduce average Asian citrus psyllid populations to as low a level as possible.

There is no doubt that achieving a high level of participation in coordinated area wide insecticide applications for Asian citrus psyllid control is more challenging in our region than some other areas of the state for various reasons. Some of the key reasons are relatively small block sizes, many different owners/production managers, high level of abandoned blocks and a higher rural/urban interface. That being said, it is still possible to achieve a higher participation in CHMA activities in our region.

Grower involvement and communication with colleagues in the area is the key to increasing efficiency in a given CHMA. UF/IFAS Extension has made it a priority to interact with growers and help them communicate CHMA activities on the individual CHMA websites and newsletters like this one.

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Mr. Brandon Page has been hired as a Program Assistant with the statewide UF/IFAS Extension CHMA program. He is able to provide resources to assist CHMA participants in our region. Over the next few months we plan to partner with Mr. Page to facilitate communication within and between CHMAs in our region and other activities to improve overall efficiency in reducing Asian citrus psyllid populations. Our contact information is below:

Gary England (Multi-county Multi-county Fruit Crops Extension Agent)
gke@ufl.edu (352) 343-4101 Ext. 2729

Brandon Page (CHMA Program Assistant)
bpge@ufl.edu (863) 956-8653

To access CHMA Websites, follow the link below:

http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/chmas/chma_websites.shtml

Citrus Expo

The annual Citrus Expo, conference and trade show, will be held at the Lee Civic Center in North Ft. Myers on August 15 & 16. Educational topics for this year include HLB update, strategies for Asian citrus psyllid management, economics and labor and updates on other key pests of citrus.

For further information and to pre-register (recommended), follow the link below:

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

<p>"It won't be long!!!"</p>  <p>2012-13 Central Florida Weather Watch</p>  <p>For information contact Lake County Extension—Gary England gke@ufl.edu (352) 343-4101 Ext. 2729</p>	<p>Interested in Sponsoring Central Florida Citruslines and Fruit Crops Update?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Space available• Minimum 6 issues per year  <p>Information Gary England gke@ufl.edu (352) 343-4101 Ext. 2729</p> 
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