

# RIVER RAMBLINGS



The newsletter of the  
**Indian River Citrus League**  
MAY 2019

Throughout this issue, you will find several articles reflecting information from the Indian River Citrus League's May board meeting. Look for these recap articles are headlined in yellow boxes.

## BLACK SPOT UPDATE

Ms. Callie Walker, DPI/CHRP, briefed the Board on continued surveying for citrus black spot and the quarantined areas. To date, 95,800 acres have been surveyed in the quarantined areas, which are contained in southwest Florida. Maps of the quarantined areas will be made available to the League office for distribution. There is a CBS Technical Working Group meeting scheduled for May 14, 9 a.m., at the UF/IFAS-SWFREC in Immokalee that will touch on exiting out and shrinking a quarantine area with the goal of taking a grove out of quarantine.

## PSYLLID TRAP UPDATE

Dr. Brian Scully, USDA/ARS, addressed the issue of the psyllid trap and the production cost for the device, which was developed jointly by Dr. Stephen LaPointe (USDA/ARS) and Dr. Lukasz Stelinski (UF/IFAS/CREC). Dr. Scully commented that the trap was reviewed by engineers in Riverside who recommended eliminating the trap and applying the chemical toxicant (Splat) via spray, treated in the color attractant, directly to the tree leaves. USDA will continue to work on the Splat treatment such as how much should be applied, how large the droplets, are the compounds in the Splat phytotoxic? Dr. Scully is hopeful to have more preliminary information during the summer. There may be a patent issue or if the engineers can determine the components, ratios and other compounds of the chemical then it could come under the jurisdiction of a trade secret and if that's the case, then wouldn't have to go through the patent process.

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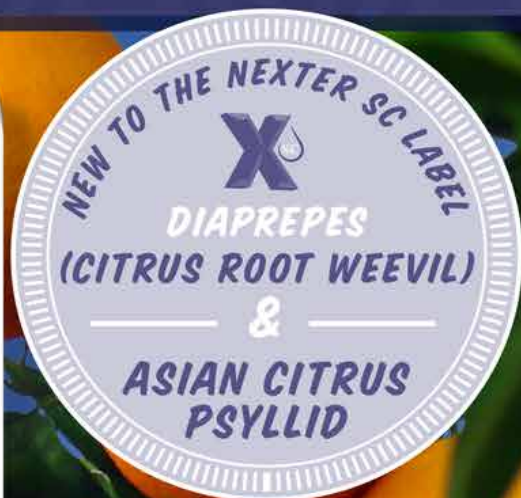
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## MICRONUTRIENT THERAPY FOR RECOVERY FROM HLB IN ORANGES AND GRAPEFRUIT

Dr. Jude Grosser, UF/IFAS, briefed the Board on two grapefruit trials in Lake Alfred and Dundee using high-levels of manganese and magnesium. Dr. Grosser feels that the important thing that can be done is to focus on root health. Secondary and micronutrient deficiencies in the roots must be corrected to get the tree's vascular system back on line. These nutrients must be available.

Evidence is accumulating that high levels of Mn may be therapeutic against Clas, but different scion/rootstock combinations may have different thresholds, with grapefruit probably having a higher threshold than sweet orange. Research is needed to determine optimum levels of each nutrient in the HLB world. Too much foliar Mn encourages excessive vegetative growth.

Leaf nutrition sampling is valuable, but he cautioned of not having a bias from foliar nutrient applicants. Foliar-applied nutrients do not correct deficiencies in the roots.

Finally, he wrapped up by commenting that all new flush needs to be protected from insect damage, but monthly psyllid control is not necessary. Spend your dollars on the roots.

## SFWMD PARTNERS FOR FISH & WILDLIFE UPDATE

Ms. Ansley Marr of the South Florida Water Management District provided an update on the status of the Cooperative Agreement (Safe Harbor Agreement) relative to Dispersed Storage/Water Farming. This agreement, in draft form, allows landowners, once they've completed their 10-year lease, to exit and return to their original footprint. She provided some history of the agreement. Fish and Wildlife Service had issues in grasping the understanding of the agreement, but are now on board. Currently the biological evaluation and opinions are complete as well as the supplemental agreement to the cooperative agreement. These elements have to be incorporated early in the design by the landowner, so if the landowner is in a water farming contract process now, most likely will not be able to participate. But once the Cooperative Agreement is signed and a landowner is thinking about entering into a contract in the future, then this will be for the landowner. The landowner will have to look into what kind of conservation measures need to go into place and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission would be the administrator of the conservation measures and would need to be incorporated into the agreement. Overall it is moving in a positive direction.

Mr. Bournique commented that meetings have been held with Congressman Brian Mast to ensure his understanding and know the importance of dispersed storage to the Indian River Lagoon.



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# CITRUS EXP

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Citrus Expo 2019 is set for August 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> at the Lee County Civic Center in north Ft. Myers, so please reserve these dates on your calendar. Begun in 1992, Citrus Expo has grown to become the world's premier seminar and trade show program for citrus growers and industry professionals. The two-day Citrus Expo is organized and operated by Southeast AgNet/Citrus Industry Magazine, with solicited input from numerous growers, researchers and industry organizations. Its primary goal is to provide unequalled education and industry fellowship opportunities annually for growers, industry leaders, decision-makers and vendors.

**Complimentary attendance and hot lunch is provided both days to bona-fide grove owners & managers, citrus production managers, professional crop advisors, association executives & board members, government & legislative officials & the citrus research community.**

**Grower input is strongly encouraged throughout the Expo planning process, which is going on right now.** So please email your Citrus Expo topic and/or speaker suggestions to [CitrusExpo@southeastagnet.com](mailto:CitrusExpo@southeastagnet.com).

JUNE 12-14  
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## FLORIDA BLOCK GRANT UPDATE

Mr. Wesley Sapp, of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, provided an update on the status of the Block Grant funding distribution. Total applications submitted are 866 and of those 251 do not have the WHIP forms. There are 263 applications in the queue to be processed and 352 applications have been completed with \$55.1 million in payments distributed. The total program was funded for \$340 million and there is \$285 million remaining to be disbursed. Phase two of the program will be distributing \$745 per acre.



## MAC PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Ben Rosson, DPI, briefed the board on the MAC Project. Trees have been ordered. Site visitation/identification, participants who have their site work (bedded up) completed, need to get their forms into Mr. Rosson's office to begin the process of scheduling site visits then process reimbursement payments of \$325 per acre (Phase I). Southern Citrus Nurseries (SCN) has dropped the seeds for the liners and Agromillora will be planting tissue culture liners in two weeks. Chiefland has been sending out every available budwood for the selections to SCN for increase propagations. Hopeful to get trees by middle to end of 2020.

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#### membership opportunities

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Mike Sparks, EVP of Florida Citrus Mutual provided a briefing on state and federal legislative issues. On the state level, he indicated that this recent legislative session was a difficult one. The 2019-20 Florida state budget was released May 1. After a mandatory 72-hour cooling-off period, the Legislature will vote on it and send onto the Governor. The budgets are complete and have gone to conference. Funding for citrus line items saw a reduction. He did highlight that CRDF did receive full funding of \$8 million as well as New Varieties Development Program at \$650,000 and CHRP at \$6.4 million.

On the federal side, the Farm Bill programs were approved, but appropriations for the funding still need to be determined. Currently, there is no Florida agriculture representation on the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, but did name the Florida congressional representatives on the House Appropriations Committee that would be the go to contacts for assistance.

Mr. Sparks provided an update on the state-wide program called the CRAFT Program (Citrus Research and Field Trials) that will allow growers to have a “menu” of activities to choose from to apply to their field trial of a minimum of 25-50 acres and possibly up to 100 acres. This would be a 50% cost-share program for new plantings. The total project would encompass 5,000 acres and will be research driven, but directed by the grower with a focus on capturing the data. A formal announcement of the project will be made at the Florida Citrus Industry Conference.

## FDACS- EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

Ms. Helen Miller, the new External Affairs Director for Central Florida of the FDACS office, introduced herself. She explained that her position was newly created to have a local person with Commissioner Fried’s office. She shared that the Commissioner will continue supporting citrus and has already showed her support by shutting down the importation of produce directly through Florida ports. The Commissioner has also created federal-affairs positions for the department along with opening up a new regional office in West Palm Beach to create easier access to her office. There was discussion of who was selected to oversee the Office of Agricultural Water Policy Office, which it was revealed that Mr. Chris Pettit will head up that department. He had previously worked with Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department and prior to that the Southwest Florida Water Management District and is highly respected within the ag industry.



## PESTICIDE RESIDUE LIMITS FOR FRESH CITRUS

As an update to the article in our March newsletter, Pesticide Residue Limits for Fresh Citrus, authored by Dr. Mark A. Ritenour, UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center, Fort Pierce, FL, we wanted to provide an easy access to the index of pesticides at <https://irrec.ifas.ufl.edu/post-harvest/index/pesticides.shtml>. This table was also recently updated on the website with a couple proposed changes.

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