

POSTBLOOM FRUIT DROP (PFD) IDENTIFICATION and MANAGEMENT

Megan M. Dewdney,
Natalia A. Peres, and Jamie D. Burrow



Early symptoms of PFD



Peach to reddish brown necrotic spots on petals



Petals affected by PFD



Diseased petals are dark brown to orange and dry first in the affected areas



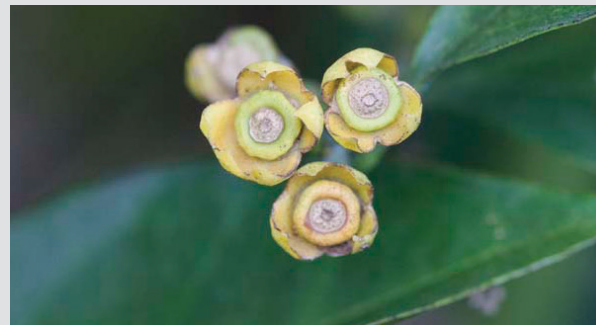
Older petals affected by PFD



Petals shriveled from PFD



PFD buttons



PFD buttons



Leaf twisting caused by PFD

1. This document is PP318, one of a series of the Plant Pathology Department, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date July 2015. Revised August 2017 and July 2019. Visit the EDIS website at <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> for the currently supported version of this document.
2. Megan M. Dewdney, associate professor, Plant Pathology Department, UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center; Natalia A. Peres, professor, Plant Pathology Department, UF/IFAS Gulf Coast REC; and Jamie D. Burrow, Extension program manager, UF/IFAS Citrus REC; UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.

HEALTHY BLOOM



Pinhead bloom



Popcorn bloom



10% bloom



90% bloom



Full bloom



Postbloom

MANAGEMENT

FACTS

- Postbloom fruit drop (PFD) is caused by the fungus *Colletotrichum acutatum*
- Affects **all** species and cultivars of citrus, but severity varies according to time of bloom and rainfall
- Navel and Valencia oranges have experienced the most damage in Florida
- Flowers can be infected within 24 hours and symptoms appear in 4 to 5 days
- A fungicide application decision support system, called the Citrus Advisory System (CAS), can be found at <http://agroclimate.org/tools/cas/>

SCOUTING

- Groves with persistent calyxes (buttons) from the previous year should be closely examined as early bloom begins

- If infected flowers are present on scattered early bloom, CAS recommendations should be followed once sufficient bloom is present
- Groves with a history of PFD should be checked twice weekly during the bloom period
- Unhealthy citrus trees (HLB, blight, or Phytophthora) should be removed because off-season blooms may provide a site for fungal spore buildup

INCREASED RISK FACTORS

- Cultivars with multiple bloom periods like Navel
- Declining trees (HLB, blight, Phytophthora, etc.) with extended or off-season bloom
 - Remove the worst, if possible
- PFD in a block in the last 5 years
- PFD on early bloom throughout the grove
- Rainfall in the last 5 days

SPRAY TIMING

- A fungicide application is recommended if these three criteria are met:
 1. sufficient bloom is present or developing to represent a significant portion of the total crop;
 2. no fungicide application has been made in the last 7 to 10 days; and
 3. the CAS recommends an application.

For more information, visit the Florida Citrus Production Guide: Postbloom Fruit Drop at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/cg007>

THE LABEL IS THE LAW!

Refer to label for additional information. This guide does not supersede the label.