

2023–2024 Florida Citrus Production Guide: Introduction¹

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Over the past decade, Florida citrus production practices have changed dramatically due to the challenges presented by huanglongbing (HLB). As we have learned more about this disease, how it is spread by the Asian citrus psyllid, and the overall effects on citrus tree health, it is increasingly evident that management of this disease requires changes to *all* aspects of citrus production. Several factors must all be considered together when developing a site-specific management plan for citrus production in the presence of HLB. The *Florida Citrus Production Guide* will continue to be updated annually with the latest information to help growers refine their production practices using the latest research-based findings proven to be effective for Florida citrus production.

For example, in this edition, latest information regarding the changes to the fertilizer recommendation for Calcium, Magnesium, Manganese, and Zinc has been added; please refer to the nutrition management chapter. Also, refer to the PGR chapter for the latest recommendation regarding the use of gibberellic acid for improving the health and productivity of HLB-affected trees. The blight chapter makes note of trees that do not uptake injected liquids and of the utility of treatments requiring injection on these trees.

In addition to changes in production practices needed to manage emerging pest problems in Florida, the regulatory environment is also constantly changing. New rules for

Worker Protection Standards (WPS) were fully implemented in January 2018, including important changes to worker training, reporting, and posting of pesticide applications. Likewise, compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR) was required by January of 2020 for all farm sizes. This rule established minimum food safety standards to be implemented by growers, packers, and harvesters of fresh produce. Compliance with these rules directly impacts day-to-day production practices and costs to Florida citrus growers. The requirements of these rules are explained in the chapters on WPS and food safety. Because changes in these rules are likely to occur, the guide will be updated to reflect the latest information growers need to know to ensure compliance, so please continue to review these chapters in the coming years.

Overall, the goal of the *Florida Citrus Production Guide* is to serve as a reference for information needed to guide decision-making in Florida citrus-growing operations. **It is not intended to replace agricultural product labels that contain important usage information and should be immediately accessible for reference. Violations of directions for use printed on the label are against state and federal laws. Always read and follow label instructions!** Likewise, state and federal regulations on topics such as WPS are constantly changing, and not all the information needed to ensure compliance can be covered in this guide.

1. This document is CPMG01, one of a series of the Plant Pathology Department, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date December 1999. Revised annually. Most recent revision June 2023. Visit the EDIS website at <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> for the currently supported version of this publication.

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The WPS chapter in this guide covers some of the important highlights of these rules. **It is imperative that growers obtain copies of and follow the detailed rules outlined in the regulatory documents referenced in this guide.** The *Florida Citrus Production Guide* provides general guidance and is NOT the final regulatory document that should be followed!

For specific information on pest identification, biology, damage, or nonchemical management techniques, refer to Extension Digital Information System (EDIS) and other UF/IFAS, USDA, and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) publications. In addition to the authors listed throughout the *Florida Citrus Production Guide*, the citrus Extension specialists, faculty, and Extension agents listed below can provide assistance with citrus production practices.

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