



TROPICAL FRUIT NEWS

Summer 2015, Jeff Wasielewski, Commercial Tropical Fruit Agent, University of Florida/IFAS, Miami-Dade County

Dear Tropical Fruit Growers,

In this edition of the *Tropical Fruit Newsletter*, you will find information on what is happening now with tropical fruit, a free pesticide pickup, new workshops on IPM, pesticide safety, and pitaya, and much more.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the *Tropical Fruit Newsletter*.

Good Growing,



What's Happening Now

South Florida has only two seasons. Unlike the rest of the country, we do not experience a true summer, fall, winter and spring. Our seasons consist

solely of wet (late May to late October) and dry. (early November to early May). What makes 2015 different from average years, is that this year the dry season pushed well into the beginning of July.



No rain in June = clean mangos

Wasielewski

According to the National Weather Service, we are almost a full eight inches below normal precipitation for the rainy season. We were so dry that

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the USDA designated Miami-Dade and Broward counties as disaster areas citing drought as the cause. There are some low interest [loans available](#) from the USDA's Farms Service Agency due to this designation.

Mangos benefited from the ultra-dry June producing a large crop with very little anthracnose or need to spray fungicides (see picture on page 1).

Although avocados also benefited from a dry June and early July as far as anthracnose is concerned, the overall production numbers are slightly behind estimates. There is speculation that the cold fronts that pushed through while avocado trees were in bloom may have hampered fruit set.

[Laurel wilt](#) continues to do damage to avocado groves, already killing more

than 9,000 trees. Please visit the [Miami-Dade Extension website](#) for up to date recommendations on laurel wilt control.



One of several ambrosia beetle species spreading laurel wilt
Wasielewski

For more information on avocado pests, identification, and IPM, please visit a great new [UF/IFAS Avocado IPM website](#). The new Tropical Fruit Entomologist at TREC, [Daniel Carrillo](#),

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PhD, was instrumental in getting this website online.

Longans are already being harvested with more groves still to be picked. The overall longan crop size and individual fruit size is less than last year due to less rain, as well as a very heavy crop in 2014. Many trees put out such a tremendous crop last year that they are unable to produce heavily again this year.

Upcoming Workshops

Pitaya Growers' Forum

Where: 18710 SW 288 Street
Homestead, FL 33030

When: Thursday, August 13, 2015 4:30 PM – 5:45 PM

Price: Free

This is the second in a series of monthly open growers' forums hosted by The Tropical Fruit Growers of South Florida and the Miami-Dade County Extension Office.

RSVPs are requested but not required, please RSVP with Jeff Wasielewski at: jwasielewski@ufl.edu or 305-248-3311, ext. 227.



Bipolaris fruit rot, a fungus, on pitaya Wasielewski



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Soil Fumigation Update for Vegetables and other Plants

Where: 18710 SW 288 Street
Homestead, FL 33030

When: Wednesday, August 26, 2015
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Price: Free

There is an opportunity to earn up to 2.0 CEUs and dinner will be served.

Please register by contacting Lize Luna at lluna@ufl.edu or by calling 305-248-3311, Ext. 242.

Free Pesticide Pickup Operation Cleansweep

This is a free statewide pickup of pesticides you would like to properly dispose of for farms, groves and nurseries.

You can [find more information here](#). Contact Shannon Turner to set up a pickup at 877-851-5285, cleansweep@freshfromflorida.com

Special Thanks

Tropical fruit grower, and all-around nice guy, Dewey Steele donated several bags of granular fertilizer, as well as a much needed wheelbarrow for use in the Tropical Fruit Learning Grove. Dewey is a member of the Extension Advisory Committee, as well as the Tropical Fruit Advisory Committee. Thank you for everything you do Dewey!!

For additional information, contact:
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Commercial Tropical Fruit Agent
305-248-3311, ext. 227 or jwasielewski@ufl.edu.

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