

2026–2029 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. Part of 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. Starting in 2026, the *Florida Citrus Production Guide* will be available as two separate booklets. The first booklet will provide information that does not change frequently such as personal protective equipment (PPE) guidelines and the biology of many of the insects, diseases, and horticultural practices that are part of citrus production. This will be updated every 3 years. The second booklet will be updated annually and include any pertinent updates to legislation that impact Florida citrus production and all pesticide and PGR tables that were previously incorporated into each chapter. This allows for rapid updates to incorporate new knowledge.

In this edition, greasy green has been included as a new symptom of greasy spot and has been added to chapter 32, “Greasy Spot.” Refer to that chapter in booklet 1 and the associated chemical management table in booklet 2 for management recommendations. Readers may also see a new group of insecticides, IRAC Group 30, now available (“Pesticide Resistance and Resistance Management” chapter). One chemistry, Zivalgo, is available for use in Florida citrus in this insecticide group. It has been evaluated by UF/IFAS entomologists for efficacy against citrus leafminer and Asian citrus psyllid, with recommendations available in booklet 2 for effective rates.

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 the WPS and food safety.

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 the WPS are constantly changing, and not all the information needed to ensure compliance can be covered in this guide. 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 Ask IFAS/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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