



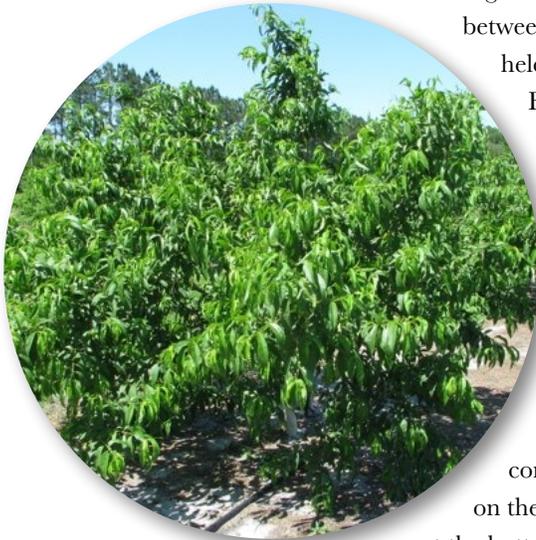
<p><b>Pests to be on the Lookout for this Summer</b> <i>Everyone should be finished.....</i> <b>Page 2</b></p>	<p><b>Summer Nutrition Tune-up</b> <i>At this time, summer pruning has been completed and.....</i> <b>Page 3</b></p>	<p><b>El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO)</b> <i>Might seem a little early to be having a discussion on.....</i> <b>Page 4</b></p>	<p><b>Florida Fall Peach Seminar</b> <i>The Fall Florida Peach Growers' Seminar will be.....</i> <b>Page 5</b></p>
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## FLORIDA FALL PEACH SEMINAR

Planned for Thursday, September 17, 2015

On Thursday, September 17, 2015, UF/IFAS Extension will conduct an all-day seminar focused on the important topics in which Florida peach growers have told us they would like more information. One of the highlights of the program is two presentations by University of Georgia Peach Pathologist, Dr. Phil Brannen. Dr. Brannen has been involved in finding solutions to peach disease issues in Georgia for several years.

The Florida Fall Peach Seminar will start at 8:45 AM with registration and a trade show with exhibitors of various companies available for growers to interact. There will be morning and afternoon sessions focusing on topics such as fruit flies, weed management, post-harvest handling and several other topics, with plenty of time in between to visit with vendors. The Seminar will be held at the UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center located in Balm.



Please watch for further information about the Florida Fall Peach Seminar. Pre-registration is available using the following eventbrite link: [Florida Fall Peach Seminar](#). Additional contact methods of registration are listed on page 5 of this newsletter.

As always if you have any questions, comments or suggestions for us, simply click on the agent of your choice from the email links at the bottom of each page or give us a call.



**UF & IFAS**  
*The SCIENCE of LIVING*

*This newsletter is a product of UF, IFAS and County Cooperative Extension Services, in partnership with the participating Boards of County Commissioners and University of Florida*

*"The Foundation for the Gator Nation"*

## PEACH

## Additional Information



Peachtree borer larve and gumming.



Peachtree borer on left and lesser peachtree borer on right (UF/IFAS ENY-691).



Damage and larvae of peach tree borer (ENY-691).

## Pests to be on the Lookout for this Summer

**Alicia Whidden**  
*Extension Agent Hillsborough County*

Everyone should be finished pruning their peach trees by now. Hopefully, while pruning or after the trees were pruned, you inspected the trees to assess their condition. This would have been a good time to look for white peach scale and San Jose scale on scaffold branches. It is also a good time to check out the condition of the trunk of the tree. If you saw gummosis on the trunk or base of scaffold branches, you need to determine the cause. There are several things that can cause this problem. Any wounding of the trunk will cause gum to exude and it can be in great amounts. This can come from any type of mechanical wound such as being hit with a mower deck, or damage from string trimmers, or even some herbicide damage to the trunk. Another big problem that we face is fungal gummosis caused by *Botryosphaeria*. This is the main cause of damage to the trunk of a tree and can cause tree dieback and eventual death. Another thing is peachtree borer infestations which also weaken the tree and can eventually kill it. There are two types- peachtree borers, *Synanthedon exitiosa*, and lesser peachtree borers, *S. pictipes*. These two are some of the most important pests to peaches in the southeast according to Dr. Mizell who spoke to us early this year.

Peachtree borers emerge in the spring and are around through the summer with numbers peaking in early fall. Eggs are laid in cracks and crevices in the lower trunk and gum from wounds can attract them. The larvae enter the tree and tunnel beneath the bark. The larvae are usually found near ground level and you should look for gum and sawdust. As they get ready to emerge, the pupal case may protrude from the wound.

The lesser peachtree borer begins flying early in the spring and is present till very late fall. The larvae tunnel into the tree higher up - usually in the scaffold limbs and favor wounds or areas of loose bark.

Weak or wounded trees are usually more attractive, so it is important to keep trees as healthy as possible. If you are not sure what you are seeing is borer damage or fungal gummosis, you can use the tip of a knife or other pointed tool and dig in the gum to see if you can feel the tunnel hole the larvae made. Many times you can dig the larvae out. Remember, another sign to look for is sawdust in the gum around the wound and those pupal cases sticking out.

Dr. Mizell has written an excellent EDIS publication on both types of borers that every grower should have a copy of. It can be found at <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in489>. If you attended the program with Dr. Mizell, be sure to review the printed copy of his talk. In both he talks about control measures.

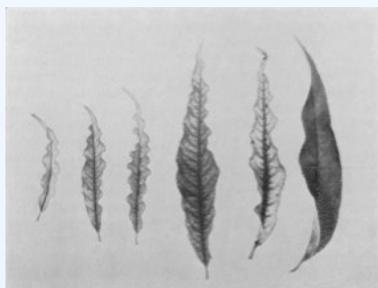
## PEACH

Symptoms of Zinc Deficiency  
in Peaches

Rosetted growth (USDA 1976).



Interveinal chlorosis (Johnson 2008).

Crinkling, waving chlorotic  
foliage (Gilbert 1948).Deficient left to healthy right  
(USDA 1976).

## Summer Nutrition Tune-up

Gary England  
Extension Agent Lake County

At this time, summer pruning has been completed and the main goal of growers is to produce quality fruiting wood that will bear future crops. The UF/IFAS Extension Document entitled Florida Subtropical Peaches: Production Practices (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/HS/HS34800.pdf>) mentions that this is a great time of year to take tissue samples from the mid-shoot area of several trees, randomly selected throughout the orchard, to have a representative sample for evaluation. Further instructions on collecting and submitting tissue samples to the UF/IFAS Extension Soil Testing Laboratory are available at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/SS/SS18200.pdf>.

Due to the recommended pH levels maintained for peach production in Florida soils, one of the most common deficiency symptoms observed is that of the micronutrient zinc (Zn). It is common for commercial producers to apply foliar micronutrient spray containing Zn during this time of year to adjust any deficiencies due to observations of deficiency symptoms in a significant number of trees or tissue test results indicating this micronutrient is in the deficient range. A good resource to gain information about diagnosing Zn and other nutritional deficiencies is available from Clemson University: [http://www.clemson.edu/extension/peach/faq/peach\\_nutrition.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/peach/faq/peach_nutrition.html).

Results of tissue sampling in your peach orchard can give you an assessment of the nutritional status. The University of Georgia has a document that provides guidance on interpreting the results of tissue analysis to attain the important macro, secondary and micro nutrient status of peach foliage, as well as additional information on peach nutrition:

<http://www.ent.uga.edu/peach/peachhbk/cultural/nutrition.pdf>.

With information obtained by scouting your peach orchard for nutritional deficiency symptoms and from the results of tissue analysis, you can make necessary adjustments to your fertility program. Following a proper nutrition program is vital for maintaining healthy trees that will produce optimum crop yields in future seasons.

Nutrient	Deficient Level	Sufficiency Level
N (%)	<1.7	2.75-3.50
P (%)	<0.11	0.12-0.50
K (%)	<0.75	1.50-2.50
S (%)	<0.01	0.12-0.40
Ca (%)	<1.0	1.25-2.50
Mg (%)	<0.20	0.25-0.50
Fe (ppm)	-----	60-400
Cu (ppm)	<3	5-20
Zn (ppm)	<12	15-50
Mn (ppm)	<20	20-150
B (ppm)	<20	20-45

Foliar nutrient sufficiency ranges for nutrients in peach leaves, Georgia. Owen, 1988.



Tree exhibiting Zn deficiency.

# PEACH

## Winter Climate Forecasts

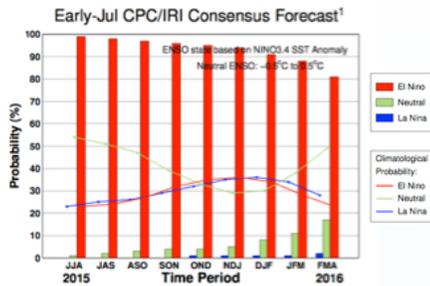


Figure 1. July probability forecast for El Niño through the three month period ending in Feb/Mar/Apr.

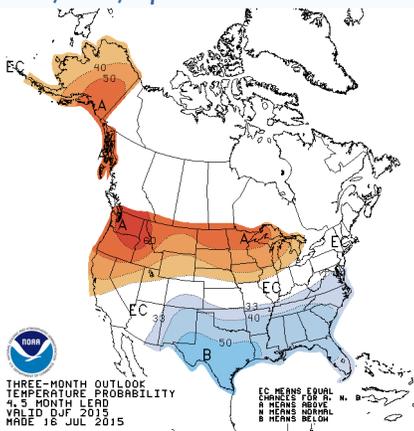


Figure 3. Average air temperature probability outlook for Dec/Jan/Feb.

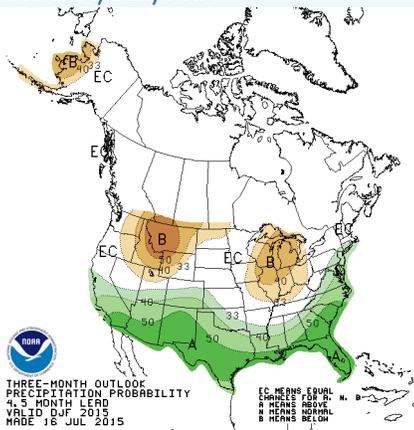


Figure 4. Average rainfall probability outlook for Dec/Jan/Feb.

## El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

Chris Oswalt  
Extension Agent Polk County

It might seem a little early to be having a discussion on El Niño and winter weather, but the latest El Niño forecast discussion from the National Weather Service's, Climate Prediction Center provides some interesting seasonal climate forecasts and information.

Currently, El Niño conditions continue to develop in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The July forecast discussion

winter at a greater than 90% probability. The forecast also indicates El Niño conditions to have an 80% probability of continuing into early spring 2016 (figure 1). Nearly all of the El Niño forecast models predict a strong event with peak strength topping out at +1.5°C or higher. The last big, strong El Niño was back in the 1997/98 winter topping out a +2.3°C (figure 2).

Now that we have covered the near term climate, let's look at this winter's climate forecast. With a strong El Niño predicted for this winter, we are likely going to start hearing about how cold this

## Historical NINO3.4 SST Anomaly

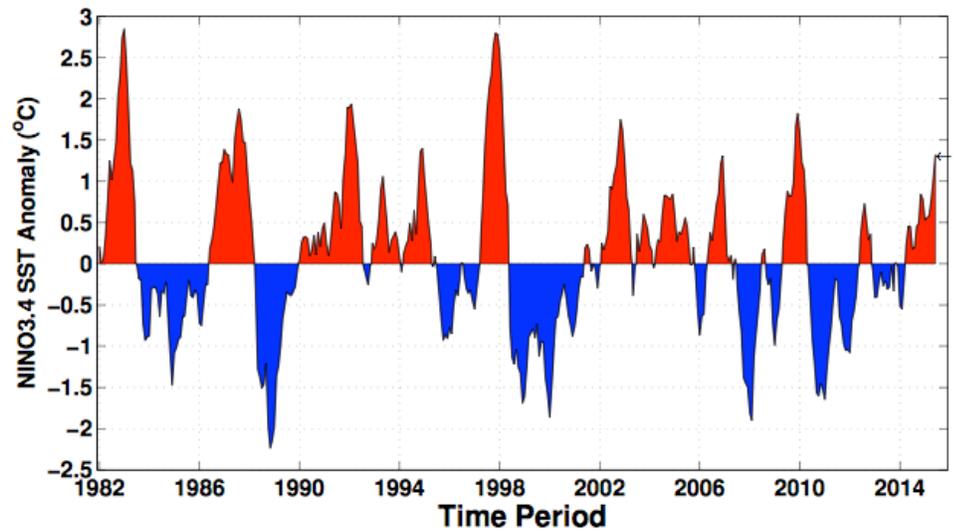


Figure 2. Sea surface temperature anomaly since 1982 for region ENSO 3.4. Neutral conditions would fall between +/- 0.5°C.

indicated that the sea surface temperatures anomalies exceeded +1.0°C for the month of June 2015. The development of this significant El Niño is one of the main reasons that the Atlantic hurricane is forecasted to be a below normal season. El Niño produces more of a zonal flow pattern in the upper air stream. This zonal upper air flow has the tendency to be unfavorable for hurricane development.

This July forecast predicts a continued chance of El Niño conditions through this

winter will be. On average this statement is true, although it is not to be interpreted as a winter with more or less freezes. Historically most all of our significant freezes occurred during neutral winters. El Niño with a zonal upper air flow results in more clouds and with the clouds, less solar radiation and lower than average daily temperatures (figure 3). Typically this cloudy weather results in above average rainfall during El Niño winters (figure 4). This zonal flow also helps to block colder air from dipping down to Florida.



## Florida Fall Peach Seminar

The Fall Florida Peach Growers' Seminar will be held at the UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center located at 14625 CR 672, Wimauma, FL. You can register online using



eventbrite at the following link: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/florida-fall-peach-seminar-tickets-17935145503>. When you register through eventbrite, be sure you print your lunch ticket and bring it with you the day of the seminar. If you would prefer, you can register by calling Gail Crawford at 863-519-1042 or by email at [dorothy@c@ufl.edu](mailto:dorothy@c@ufl.edu). Since lunch is included, we need you to preregister no later than September 11, 2015. If we don't hear from you, we cannot guarantee that lunch will be available at the seminar.

This program offers morning and afternoon educational sessions and a Trade Show featuring products and services

available to producers of peaches in Florida. A highlight of the educational sessions will be presentations from University of Georgia Peach Pathologist, Dr. Phil Brannen, covering important disease problems of peach and also nematode related disorders. Other topics being covered are:

- Variety Update
- Florida Peach Marketing Order
- Weed Management
- Fruit Fly Management
- Post-harvest Peach Handling
- Results of Nitrogen and Hydrogen Cyanamide Trials

Thanks and hope all of you will be attending the Fall Peach Seminar,

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