

Citrus irrigation techniques to save water and improve grower returns

Lone Star Citrus Growers
9625 North Moorefield Road, Mission TX

May 9, 2017
8:00 am – 3:00 pm

This free producer program will focus on the practical aspects of implementing water conserving irrigation technologies in citrus production and provide an opportunity to observe and discuss these practices in a commercial grove. Producers currently using these techniques will provide their perspectives and researchers will convey water conservation, economic and other findings on each approach discussed. Pest management implications of irrigation practices will provide 1 hour of CEU credit for your pesticide applicator license. Grower comments and discussion will be encouraged among all participants. Technical and financial assistance opportunities and resources available to producers will be discussed. Catered lunch will be provided free of charge. Please register by May 5th at: twri.tamu.edu/irrigation

8:00 Registration and coffee - Lone Star Citrus packing house parking lot

8:30 Field tour - Lone Star Citrus grove

- Evolution of water conservation for citrus in RGV
 - From Morocco to ADI - Shad Nelson, TAMU Kingsville
 - From Bayview to MAC projects - Mamoudou Setamou, TAMUK Citrus Center
 - Grower perspectives on drip irrigation and plastic mesh - Jud Flowers
- Pros and cons of drip, narrow border, raised beds and plastic mesh

10:30 Irrigation and water conservation - Lone Star Citrus packing house

- Project Background - Lucas Gregory, Texas Water Resources Institute
- Water savings and secondary benefits:
 - Narrow border and drip - Shad Nelson
 - Raised beds and plastic mesh - Catherine Simpson, TAMUK Citrus Center
 - Irrigation technology economics in LRGV citrus - Mac Young, TAMU AgriLife Extension
- Grower panel: comments/discussion on grower experience with alternative irrigation strategies

12:00 Box lunch: Lone Star Citrus Grower packing house

- ADI video - Agricultural Water Efficiency project by Harlingen ID

12:45 Practice Implementation Considerations

- Citrus pest management related to water management
 - Soil borne disease update - Veronica Ancona, TAMUK Citrus Center
 - Citrus insect update - Mamoudou Setamou, TAMUK Citrus Center
- Cost share programs
 - EQIP program - Sonny Vela, NRCS
 - 319 program – Brian Koch, TSSWCB
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program – Victor Gutierrez, Texas Water Resources Institute
- Wrap-up: Barriers to water conservation in citrus. How can they be overcome?

3:00 Adjourn