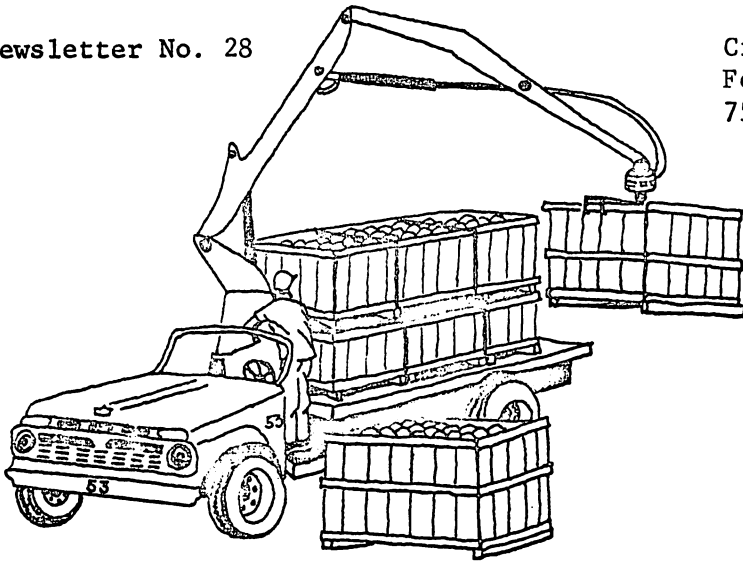


Newsletter No. 28

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Citrus Station Mimeo Report CES 70-19  
February 5, 1970  
750-WFW-Lake Alfred, Florida 33850



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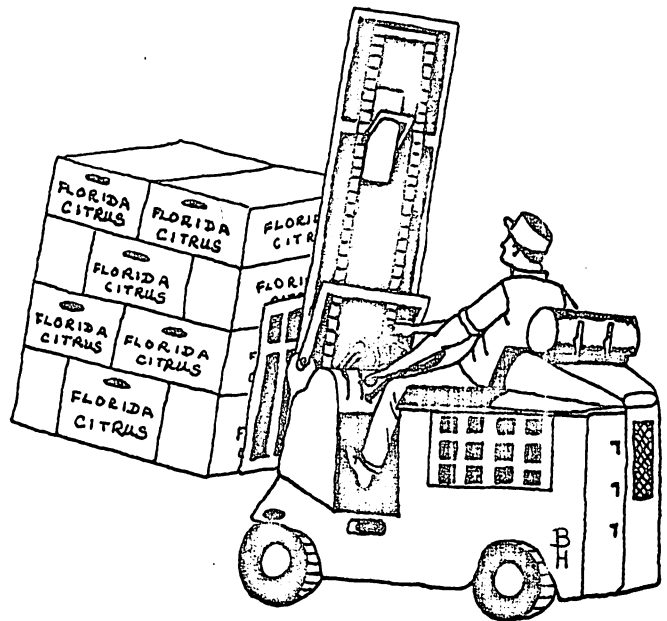
# Packinghouse Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

and

STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF CITRUS

\*Complimentary to members of the Florida Fresh Citrus Shippers Association. Others wishing to receive this newsletter may send a dozen stamped, preaddressed envelopes to the above address.



Harvesting and Handling Section

P A C K I N G H O U S E   N E W S L E T T E R

FIRST (EVER) ABSCISSION AGENT FOR CITRUS FRUITS RELEASED UNDER EXPERIMENTAL  
LABEL BY USDA

"3-[2-(3,5-DIMETHYL-2-OXOCYCLOHEXYL)-2-HYDROXYETHYL] GLUTARIMIDE

Notice of Establishment of Temporary Tolerance

At the request of the Upjohn Co., Kalamazoo, Mich. 49001, a temporary tolerance is established for residues of the plant abscission agent 3-[2-(3,5-dimethyl-2-oxocyclohexyl)-2-hydroxyethyl] glutarimide in or on the raw agricultural commodity oranges at 0.05 part per million. The Commissioner of Food and Drugs has determined that this temporary tolerance is safe and will protect the public health.

A condition under which this temporary tolerance is established is that the plant abscission agent will be used in accordance with the temporary permit issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Distribution will be under the Upjohn Co. name.

This temporary tolerance expires January 23, 1971.

This action is taken pursuant to provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (sec. 408(j), 68 Stat. 516; 21 U.S.C. 346a(j)) and under authority delegated to the Commissioner (21 CFR 2.120).

Dated: January 23, 1970.

Sam D. Fine,  
Acting Associate Commissioner  
for Compliance."

Federal Register, Vol. 35, No. 21--Friday, January 30, 1970

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With the release by the USDA of Temporary Permit No. 1023-EXP-27G, limited spraying of citrus fruits is allowed for the purpose of causing abscission (chemical loosening) of mature citrus fruits.

The product under test is cycloheximide, a plant antibiotic, which has on the whole, given rather exceptional loosening of oranges with practically no leaf drop. The chemical is a product of the Upjohn Company of Kalamazoo, Mich.,

and if final clearance is obtained, it will be marketed under the trade name of Acti-Aid. A similar formulation, Acti-Dione, has been on the market for a number of years for use as a fungicide on a non-food basis for grasses, ornamentals, etc.

The Upjohn Company, with the cooperation of the USDA at Orlando and the Citrus Experiment Station and Department of Citrus at Lake Alfred, is conducting a large number of tests throughout the citrus-growing areas of the State of Florida. Restrictions limit the tests to small acreages (usually one or two acres) and the compound is currently not for sale to the general public.

There are other chemicals which will also loosen fruit but which do not require labels as they are "generally recognized as safe." Ascorbic and erythorbic acids are the most effective weak acids. When mixed with other safe, but inexpensive, weak acids, they have also successfully loosened citrus fruits, but on the whole have not been as successful as cycloheximide when compared throughout the entire season. However, the use of these weak acid mixtures appear to be justified during certain parts of the season, particularly if a very inexpensive mixture can be obtained.

Because all of the chemicals mentioned cause some peel injury, they cannot be used on fruit destined for fresh channels, but the superficial injury to the peel does not prevent their use in processing.

W. C. Wilson  
Florida Department of Citrus  
Citrus Experiment Station

#### AN EXAMPLE OF SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION

In November 1969, George Newton, State of Florida, Department of Citrus fieldman for the Cleveland, Ohio area, reported a retail marketing problem in that the closure tapes often slipped off Vexar bags. Dr. W. B. Lester, Research Economist at Gainesville, and Mr. Frank Arn, Director of Merchandising, both of the Florida Department of Citrus, informed other individuals of the report from George Newton. Don Monigle, Vexar representative for DuPont, when informed of the situation by Dr. Grierson, Citrus Experiment Station, had the company change the resin in Vexar. The result was a less slippery Vexar which should not slip from the closure tape.

The point of this story is that accurate information in enough hands will often result in quite unlikely solutions. We are very pleased indeed when we can thus help serve as a "clearing house" for information that can help the citrus industry.

Editor

"Know of a Packinghouse for Sale?? - The Plaquemines Parish (Louisiana) Commission Council is looking for good used packing machinery. They plan to establish a co-op since most of the facilities in that area were destroyed by Hurricane Camille. If you know of anyone who has machinery which could handle around 2,000 to 2,500 bushels per day and wants to sell, let us hear from you or if you wish, you could contact Murphy W. McEachern, County Agent, Pointe A La Hache, Louisiana, 70082, directly."

Citrus News Notes  
Fruit Crops Department  
University of Florida

PACKINGHOUSE NEWSLETTER INDEX

An index for Packinghouse Newsletters No. 1, September 1965 through No. 28, February 1970 is inclosed with this issue. For those of you who have faithfully kept back issues of the Newsletter, this may help to locate an article that you remember reading. For others, individual copies of back issues are available on request if you spot an item of interest.

Editor

DO YOU KNOW A YOUNG MAN WHO IS WILLING TO WORK?

We have never carried "Help wanted" notices, but it seems a reasonable service to offer. If anyone knows an intelligent hard working young man interested in learning the packinghouse business, tell him to contact Brantley Schirard, DiGiorgio Fruit Corp., Fort Pierce, Florida, Phone No. 461-1921. They are looking for someone capable of starting as Head Grade Foreman and Assistant Packinghouse Foreman.

Bill Grierson  
Citrus Experiment Station

AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

Available from USDA, ARS, TFRD, 2607 North Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32804.

"Development of Stacking Patterns for Handling and Transporting Unitized Shipments of Florida Citrus" December 1969, Joseph P. Anthony, Jr., TFRD, ARS, USDA. ARS 52-42 16 pages.