POSTBLOOM FRUIT DROP (PFD)
IDENTIFICATION and MANAGEMENT

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**HEALTHY BLOOM**

**FACTS**
- Postbloom fruit drop (PFD) is caused by the fungus *Colletotrichum acutatum*.
- Affects all species and cultivars of citrus, but severity varies according to time of bloom and rainfall.
- Navel and Valencia oranges have experienced the most damage in Florida.
- Flowers can be infected within 24 hours and symptoms appear in 4 to 5 days.
- A fungicide application decision support system, called the PFD-FAD, can be found at http://pfd.ifas.ufl.edu.

**SCOUTING**
- Groves with persistent calyces (buttons) from the previous year should be closely examined once bloom begins.

**INCREASED RISK FACTORS**
- If infected flowers are present on scattered early bloom, PFD–FAD recommendations should be followed once sufficient bloom is present.
- Groves with a history of PFD should be checked twice weekly during the bloom period.
- Unhealthy citrus trees (HLB, blight, or Phytophthora) should be removed because off-season blooms may provide a site for fungal spore buildup.

**MANAGEMENT**

**FACTS**
- A fungicide application is recommended if these three criteria are met:
  1. sufficient bloom is present or developing to represent a significant portion of the total crop;
  2. no fungicide application has been made in the last 7 to 10 days; and
  3. the PFD-FAD recommends an application.

**SPRAY TIMING**
- A fungicide application is recommended if these three criteria are met:
  1. sufficient bloom is present or developing to represent a significant portion of the total crop;
  2. no fungicide application has been made in the last 7 to 10 days; and
  3. the PFD–FAD recommends an application.

**THE LABEL IS THE LAW!**
Refer to label for additional information. This guide does not supersede the label.

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