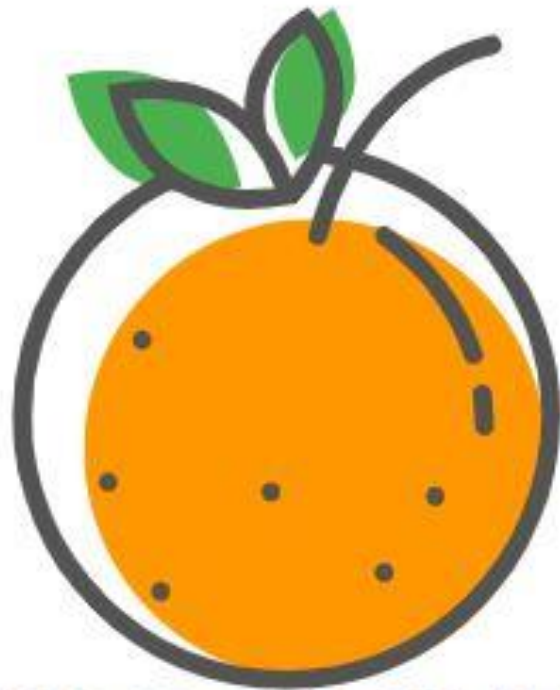


# 2024-2025 Highlands Youth Citrus Tree Project

## Rules, Dates & Deadlines



### HIGHLANDS COUNTY YOUTH CITRUS TREE 4-H PROJECT

4509 George Boulevard, Sebring FL 33870

[Highlands4H@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:Highlands4H@ifas.ufl.edu)

(863) 402-6540

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**An annual Florida 4-H State Membership Fee is due each year to participate in 4-H. The 4-H program begins each year on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Although the Highlands Youth Citrus 4-H Project begins early, you will be required to create/update a 4-H Online profile and pay a \$20 membership fee at the beginning of the 4-H year, September 1.**

## Eligibility

Open to all Highlands County Youth (ages 8-18 or completion of high school, whichever comes first). Age for the project for this year is determined as of **September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**. This is a 4-H project and all members **must** register on 4-H Online.

## 2024-2025 General Project Specifications

1. The Youth Citrus Project will include **four** project categories:
  - a. Participation in Informational Workshops
  - b. A Citrus Informational Display Board or Illustrated Talk
  - c. Exhibit of a Citrus Tree
  - d. Citrus Tree Record Book
2. Exhibitors **MUST** complete all four categories and turn in “Thank You” letters to sponsors and buyers of the project citrus tree to receive the participation premiums and final check.
3. For judging in each of the display board/illustrated talk, citrus tree, and record book categories entrants:
  - Will be divided into three divisions: Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors.
    - Juniors will be all entrants between ages 8-10
    - Intermediates will be all entrants between ages of 11-13
    - Seniors will be all entrants ages 14 and older
  - There will be a Top Junior, Top Intermediate and a Top Senior Display Board & Illustrated Talk
  - There will be a Top Junior, Top Intermediate and a Top Senior Record Book
  - **In addition there will be one Grand and Reserve Champion Citrus Tree for all of the citrus trees regardless of age division**
4. **Overall Grand and Reserve Grand Champion** placing will be based on the following accumulated points:
  - 20 points – Workshop Participation (5 points per workshop attended)
  - UP TO 100 points – Citrus Tree Exhibit Placing
  - UP TO 100 points – Citrus Informational Display Board and Illustrated Talk Presentations (display boards and illustrated talks are judged on a scale of 0-100)
  - UP TO 100 points – Citrus Record Book Placing (record books are judged on a scale of 0-100)
5. Participants may raise two citrus trees, but they may display and auction only one tree.
6. **ALL DEADLINES ARE FINAL**. Failure to meet any deadlines listed in the 2023-2024 Highlands Youth Citrus Project Schedule will result in disqualification. TO AVOID THE LAST MINUTE CALAMITY THAT WOULD RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION, YOU SHOULD

CONSIDER SUBMITTING THE REQUIRED MATERIALS EARLY, (Display Board/Illustrated Talk Topic Form, Record Book, and thank you letters) before the deadline.

**Late entries in any of the three categories: display board/illustrated talk presentation, citrus tree, or record book will not be accepted and will result in disqualification. All deadlines are announced at the beginning of the project and early submissions are allowed, except for citrus tree submissions.**

7. **All exhibitors must attend two of the four workshops** and enter a citrus Informational display board for judging to exhibit and sell their citrus tree in the fair.

### **2024-2025 Tree Specifications**

1. Citrus trees for the project **MUST** be picked up at the Highlands County Extension Office, located at 4509 George Boulevard, Sebring, at the first workshop. Entrants or entrant representative **MUST** attend this workshop to participate.

- *Reminder: Exhibitors may purchase two tree packages to grow for the project. A citrus tree package includes a citrus tree, a pot, tree defender supplies, and pre-mixed potting soil. The cost is \$30.00 per package.*

2. **The citrus tree must remain in the five gallon pot provided to be shown. Trees must be grown in the pots provided and cannot be placed in soil.** Only certified potting soil can be added to the pots, should they tip over and lose soil. **The presence of sand or other potting soil in a pot can result in disqualification.**

4. One citrus tree for judging, exhibition, and sale must be delivered to the Highlands County Fairgrounds on **TBD between the hours of 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.** Late trees will not be accepted.

5. Trees entered into the fair:

- must be in show condition and representative of a saleable tree in the nursery trade
- with sparse foliage, excessive pest damage, cold damage, or symptoms of Citrus Canker or Citrus Greening will be disqualified and rejected.
- that are disqualified due to a disease will be destroyed immediately.

6. Citrus trees will be inspected upon arrival at the Fairgrounds by state inspectors from the FDACS DPI. Citrus trees exhibiting symptoms of Citrus Canker as determined by state inspection will be rejected. Leaf samples for Citrus Greening will be taken, and lab tests run. Citrus Trees testing positive for Citrus Greening by law will be rejected.

**[Exhibitors whose trees are rejected based on disease or lack of show quality are still required to complete a record book and complete the project]**

7. Citrus trees will be sold in a silent auction during the fair. The Grand and Reserve Champion citrus trees will be sold in the live auction on **TBD.**

## Ribbon/Certificate Premiums

Exhibitors will receive premiums for their citrus tree and display board/illustrated talk.

### Citrus Tree

Grand Champion	\$25
Res. Grand Champion	\$20
Blue	\$15
Red	\$10
White	\$5

### Display Board/Illustrated Talk Presentations

Top Junior	\$30
Top Intermediate	\$30
Top Senior	\$30
Blue	\$15
Red	\$10
White	\$5

## Tree Defender Nets

The Tree Defender was originally created by growers for growers to provide an immediate solution to citrus greening by preventing psyllids from infecting the trees. Your citrus trees are able to grow for up to two years inside of these while they are in the vegetative and growing state. In the unlikely event a tree does become infected in a bag, then the disease will not spread outside that bag and possibly harm the surrounding trees. **It is MANDATORY to keep your tree(s) inside of the Tree Defender throughout the entire project.**

## Record Books

Record books must be turned in with your citrus tree to the Highlands County Fairgrounds by **TBD**. Late entries will not be accepted. Failure to adhere to this deadline will result in forfeiting your final check at the end of the project.

## Thank You Letters

Thank you letters to buyers and sponsors must be turned in by **Fri., February 28<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 PM** at the Extension Office at the Bert J. Harris Ag Center. Late entries will not be accepted. Failure to adhere to this deadline will result in forfeiting your final check at the end of the project. Sponsor letters are not required to be addressed, enveloped, or stamped. **Buyer's letters are required to be addressed to your buyer, returned addressed with your information, in a stamped unsealed envelope ready to mail.**

# Citrus Informational Display Boards/Illustrated Talk Presentations

## Specifications

1. This year, exhibitors have the option to present an illustrated talk or submit an informational display board.

2. Citrus Informational Display Boards and Illustrated Talks must be based on information researched by the entrant about citrus fruit, the industry, by-products, etc.

3. Illustrated Talks are scheduled for **November 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024** from 3:30 PM-5:00 PM.

Completed display boards are due by the end of workshop #4 on **January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

3. The following rules apply:

- No living vertebrates (i.e. fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, or mammals) are permitted.
- Participants are responsible for providing all supplies for their display boards.
- Competitors are responsible for securing 3-dimensional items and/or props to the display board.
- All display boards will be set up on display in the Highlands County 4-H Exhibit Booth at the Highlands County Fair. The Highlands County Extension Office and Highlands County 4-H Foundation will not be held responsible for any damaged display boards or missing items.

## Judging – All Categories

1. Each entry (Citrus Informational Display Boards, citrus trees, and record books) will be judged on its own merit, receiving a blue, red, or white ribbon.

2. Entries are compared only after all initial judging to determine, top, junior, intermediate, senior and overall winners.

3. *Scorecards for the display boards and record book will be returned to the participant for “learning purposes only” after the contest has ended upon request. All judges’ decisions are final.* Scorecards are available by request only for up to two weeks after the results have been announced.

An annual Florida 4-H State Membership Fee is due each year to participate in 4-H. The 4-H program begins each year on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Although the Highlands Youth Citrus 4-H Project begins early, you will be required to create/update a 4-H Online profile and pay a \$20 membership fee at the beginning of the 4-H year, September 1.

## Appendix Page 1

Samples of pages in your record book

### CARE, MAINTENANCE, AND ACTIVITIES RECORD

Date: MM/DD/YY	Activity (watered, pruned, inspected for pests, researched, etc.)
4/4/2024	Attending meeting #1 and planted citrus tree
8/18/2024	Watered citrus tree and inspected for bugs
10/1/2024	Watered and fertilized citrus tree (2 OZ)
12/22/2024	Purchased and installed automatic waterer to water my tree every Monday & Wednesday each week
1/14/2025	Dropped citrus tree off to fair & submitted record book
2/28/2025	Submitted buyer's letters

### LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Date	Activity	Location
4/4/2024	Meeting #1	4-H Office
8/18/2024	Researched information for my display board	UF IFAS EDIS documents
10/1/2024	Spoke to my 4-H club about my citrus project	HYCP 4-H Meeting
12/22/2024	Submitted my display board	4-H Office

**Appendix Page 2**

**RECORD OF COSTS**

Description of Equipment and supplies	Cost or Value of items
Tree Kit	\$30.00
Pruning Shears	\$ 8.00
Automatic Waterer	\$ 14.50
Illustrated Talk Materials	\$12.00

**PRE-PROJECT INVENTORY**

Description of Equipment and supplies	Cost or Value of items
Markers & Paper for Display Board	\$10.00
Pruning Shears	\$ 8.00
Automatic Waterer	\$ 14.50

**INCOME EARNED ON SALE OF EXTRA CITRUS TREE  
AND OTHER ITEMS**

Date	Item Sold	Buyer	Amount
1/20/25	Extra Citrus Tree	Patricia Clover	\$50.00
2/15/25	Extra Fertilizer (80Z)	Kyle Cloverbud	\$10.00

**INCOME FROM DONATIONS & ADD-ONS**

Date	Received From	Amount
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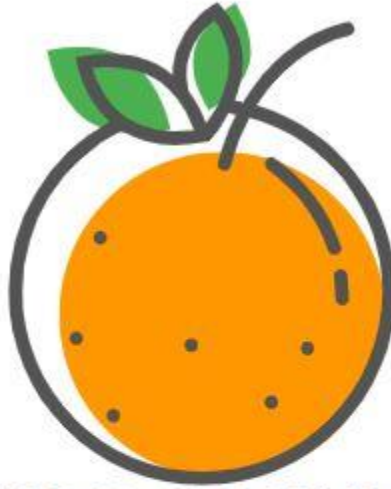


1/21/25	Kelly Green	\$50.00
2/1/25	William White	\$100.00

**Appendix Page 3**

**PREMIUM INCOMES FROM THE DISPLAY BOARD/  
ILLUSTRATED TALK**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Age Division</b>	<b>Ribbon Won</b>	<b>Amount</b>
11/4/24	Illustrated Talk	Junior	Blue	\$10.00



# HIGHLANDS COUNTY YOUTH CITRUS TREE 4-H PROJECT

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

APRIL 4

**\*MANDATORY\***  
MEETING #1

AUDITORIUM

6:00 PM

JULY 16

MEETING #2

AUDITORIUM

6:00 PM

OCTOBER 22

MEETING #3

AUDITORIUM

6:00PM- Illustrated  
Talk Topics DUE

NOV 4&5

ILLUSTRATED TALK  
PRESENTATIONS

3:30PM-5:00PM

4-H OFFICE

DECEMBER 20

DISPLAY BOARD

TOPICS DUE

(FAX) 863-402-6544

[APONTIUS@UFL.ED](mailto:APONTIUS@UFL.ED)

[U](#)

JANUARY 7

MEETING #4

DISPLAY BOARDS  
DUE

AUDITORIUM

6:00 PM

FEBRUARY ?

DATE TBD

CITRUS TREES &  
RECORD BOOKS  
DUE TO  
FAIRGROUNDS

9:00 AM-6:00 PM

FEBRUARY 28

BUYER & SPONSOR  
THANK YOU  
LETTERS DUE/  
RECORD BOOK  
PICKUP

BY 5:00 PM

\*\*\*PROJECT SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE SHOULD A NEED ARISE. MEMBERS WILL BE GIVEN NOTICE OF ANY CHANGES/CANCELATIONS/EDITS TO THIS SCHEDULE IMMEDIATELY. FAILURE TO ADHERE BY THE DATES AND DEADLINES WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION AND FORFEITTED PREMIUMS/DONATIONS.