

Web-based IPM Resources for Arizona's Citrus Growers

Final Report (Amended 12/2/05)

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Current site management by Dr. Al Fournier and Charles Reid, University of Arizona

Report by Jenny Jones and Dr. Al Fournier

The Project: We proposed creating a user-friendly web site that would provide independent, research-based, integrated pest management information to Arizona's citrus growers and PCAs. This citrus IPM website, located at <http://cals.arizona.edu/crops/citrus/> was created and integrated within an existing web site, the Arizona Crop Information Site (ACIS) <http://cals.arizona.edu/crops>. The Citrus IPM web site was launched on April 15, 2004.

Achievement of Project Objectives

1. **Goal:** To locate, organize and reformat existing web information to provide an organized "one-stop" information resource for citrus IPM subjects. This includes organizing information from the Citrus and Deciduous Fruit and Nut Research Reports, Yuma County Farm Notes and University Specialist and Agent presentations.

Outcome:

- All relevant existing articles from the Citrus and Deciduous Fruit and Nut Research Report from 1998 to the present were located, organized and made available by pest.
- Yuma County Farm Note articles were organized in a similar manner.
- Presentations that have been given at extension meetings on citrus IPM subjects were logically organized and posted on the site.

2. **Goal:** To locate, organize, edit and format Arizona citrus IPM information that is not presently available via the internet and post it on the citrus web site. This type of information includes papers, bulletins, data, and photos.

Outcome:

- Ms. Jones met with Drs. Kerns, Matheron and McCloskey. They worked together to locate pictures, papers and other documents which might be of use to the citrus industry. These items were scanned, formatted and edited as needed and posted on the site.

3. **Goal:** To provide web-based training to citrus clientele with the U of A mobile computer lab, as requested.

Outcome:

- After launching the site Ms. Jones contacted the council and indicated that she was ready to provide the web-based training. Although a designated web-based training was not scheduled prior to Ms. Jones' departure from the university in November, 2004, she did communicate with, and solicit input from, agricultural clientele about the Citrus web site at several Extension meetings and trainings in 2004.

The long-range objective of this project was to provide an integrated pest information resource for Arizona's citrus industry. We feel that through the support of the Council and efficient accomplishment of this project's objectives, we have built an excellent resource for Arizona's citrus industry.

Benefits to the Citrus Industry

- The ACIS Citrus web site now provides a broad range of useful science-based pest management information for growers, PCAs and industry professionals in a user-friendly format. It provides a “one-stop-shopping” source for information on citrus pest management in Arizona.
 - Information on key insects, diseases and weeds of citrus in Arizona; information in the form of Extension bulletins, peer-reviewed research reports, diagnostic information, photos and presentations from UA specialists.
 - Links to other relevant web sites, such as:
 - The UA Extension Plant Pathology website, where users can find diagnostic tools and information for important citrus diseases.
 - The University of California Integrated Pest Management site, which features additional information on citrus insects, diseases, and weeds.
 - The ACIS photo library (a search for “citrus” yields 877 hits).
 - Other sections of ACIS provide information on weather, irrigation, and other information of interest to growers.
- ACIS also provides a means to communicate issues of importance to the industry. This is done, not only by posting timely information of interest to citrus clientele, but also through the ACIS email list.
 - For example, concerns this fall about the potential spread of Citrus Greening from its initial detection site in Florida led to a series of pest alerts, updates, and information bulletins about this disease from the Florida Department of Agriculture. These resources were promptly posted on the Citrus diseases page (<http://ag.arizona.edu/crops/citrus/diseases.php>).
 - Clientele who join the ACIS list receive free notices about upcoming meetings, new pest alerts, and advisements when information is updated on ACIS. For example, the information posted about Citrus Greening was brought to subscriber’s attention in an ACIS email update sent October 7. (Example ACIS email update attached.)
- The ACIS site and email list also provide an important avenue for two-way communication between citrus clientele and the university. Growers, PCAs and industry professionals can join the list or communicate their interests and needs to Dr. Al Fournier, UA IPM Program Manager and current ACIS webmaster, through an email link on the web site.

The Future of ACIS

ACIS has continued to be a viable and important resource to Arizona’s agricultural community following the regrettable departure of former coordinator Jenny Jones. We hope to continue to serve the citrus industry (and other agricultural sectors) by providing up-to-date science-based production and pest management information into the future. Our ability to meet this goal will be largely dependent on our ability to continue to secure resources for this purpose by leveraging university resources with government and industry grants to support specific projects of interest to stakeholders. For example, we recently secured modest funding through the UA College of Agriculture to hire a part-time student to help maintain ACIS. In turn, we will seek funds from other commodity groups to address their specific needs. We greatly appreciate the support that the Arizona Citrus Research Council has provided, which enables us to develop this resource on behalf

of Arizona's citrus industry. We hope that you will find it useful, and continue to communicate your changing informational needs to us and through us.

Example ACIS Email Update (abbreviated)

ACIS Update October 7, 2005

*** Citrus Greening Found in Florida

Citrus greening is a serious disease of citrus, and a major limiting factor for citrus production in parts of Asia and Africa. The disease was discovered in the U.S. for the first time in August 2005, in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Learn more about citrus greening, and the U.S. regulatory response, on the Citrus Diseases section of ACIS (<http://ag.arizona.edu/crops/citrus/diseases.php>).

***Upcoming Events: (Details at <http://cals.arizona.edu/crops/counties/all/events.html>)

October 11, 2005. *Arizona Department of Agriculture WPS Train-the-Trainer Workshop (program in Spanish).* Town of Marana Operations Center, Marana, AZ, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. 4 AZ CEUs available. For more information, contact Shelly Letcher at 602-542-0904 or sletcher@azda.gov.

October 12, 2005. *Arizona Department of Agriculture WPS Train-the-Trainer Workshop (program in English).* Town of Marana Operations Center, Marana, AZ 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. 4 AZ CEUs available. For more information, contact Shelly Letcher at 602-542-0904 or sletcher@azda.gov.

October 28, 2005: *National Cotton Council's Pink Bollworm Action Committee meeting.* Maricopa Agricultural Center, 8:30 am to 12:00 noon. For more information, contact Frank Carter at 901-274-9030.

November 21, 2005: *Cotton Insect Losses and Impact Assessment Working Group meeting.* Maricopa Agricultural Center, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. 3 AZ and 3 CA CEUs applied for. **RSVP required.** For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Al Fournier at fournier@ag.arizona.edu (or 520-381-2240), Pat Clay (pclay@ag.arizona.edu) or Peter Ellsworth (peterell@cals.arizona.edu).

Upcoming Regional Conferences (posted previously):

October 27-28, 2005: *Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle.* El Dorado Casino Hotel, Reno Nevada. For more information contact Ron Torell, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, 775-738-1721 or torellr@unce.unr.edu.

***Comments Sought on New Farm Bill

USDA is seeking input from growers and other stakeholders to help shape the 2006 Farm Bill. You can provide input by responding to 6 questions in an online survey, available at http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.1UH?navid=FARM_BILL_COMM

To be added or removed from the ACIS email list, contact Al Fournier at Fournier@ag.arizona.edu