

Laurel Wilt / Redbay Ambrosia Beetle Working Group Update

March 2010



Working group formed to assemble, research, regulatory and industry expertise to review the current status and chart an effective management strategy to mitigate the potential impact of the beetle and disease on the Florida avocado industry.

Need-to-Know Info

- **April 15, 2010 Face-to-face meeting** at the USDA facility in Fort Pierce
- **Expanded survey efforts** - A total of 95 traps have been placed in and around the Miami-Dade County find and the avocado production area (see map on back)
- **No new finds** as a result of intensified survey efforts
- **Save the Guac** blitz scheduled for Cinco de Mayo

Ongoing Efforts

- Compile status and needs for pesticide labels
- Construct matrix of ongoing research projects with expectation of results - short, medium, long
- Develop a review of aerial capabilities for survey and detection
- Evaluate survey results
- Refine diagnostic protocols
- Cooperate with research activities
- Determine appropriate regulatory response
- Maintain website/post maps
- **savetheguac.com** outreach campaign (bumper stickers promoting special website – YouTube)
- LW/RBAB video being widely distributed
- Presentations to local governments, civic organizations, industry groups, schools and state parks
- Laurel Wilt in Florida video (www.fl-dpi.com/videos.html)
- Key message “The Florida avocado industry remains healthy - Look for Florida avocados they’re as delicious as ever”

Laurel Wilt Working Group Activities

- 2009 – In response to the serious implications of laurel wilt to the avocado industry, the Commissioner initiated the Laurel Wilt Working Group
- Face-to-face meetings held in 2009 (July, September, November)
- Conference calls held on regular basis (monthly and more frequently as needed)
- Sub-groups hold separate conference calls and face-to-face meetings
- Working Group sponsors LW/RBAB Research Symposium November 2009

Redbay Ambrosia Beetle (RAB), *Xyleborus glabratus* Survey: March 2010

