

## 2009 Florida Citrus Pest Management Guide: Preharvest Control of Postharvest Decays<sup>1</sup>

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M.A. Ritenour, L.W. Timmer and M.M. Dewdney<sup>2</sup>

Anthracnose, caused by *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*, and stem-end rot, caused by *Lasiodiplodia theobromae* (Diplodia) or *Diaporthe citri* (Phomopsis) are postharvest decays that result from latent infections which occur while fruit is still in the grove. Green mold, caused by *Penicillium digitatum*, frequently occurs following minor injuries to fruit during harvesting and transport. Control of these diseases with postharvest fungicides applied on the packinghouse line becomes less effective as the time between harvest and fungicide treatment exceeds 24 hours. An application of fungicide up to 2 weeks prior to harvest will protect fruit from these diseases during the degreening process or during delays following harvest. The alternative to preharvest treatment is to drench boxes of fruit with imazalil or thiabendazole immediately after harvest.

### Recommended Chemical Controls

READ THE LABEL.

See Table 1.

Rates for pesticides are given as the maximum amount required to treat mature citrus trees unless otherwise noted. To treat smaller trees with commercial application equipment including handguns, mix the per acre rate for mature trees in 250 gallons of water. Calibrate and arrange nozzles to deliver thorough distribution and treat as many acres as this volume of spray allows.

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2. M.A. Ritenour, associate professor, Horticultural Sciences Department, Indian River REC, Ft. Pierce, Florida; L.W. Timmer, professor emeritus, and M.M. Dewdney, assistant professor, Plant Pathology Department, Citrus REC, Lake Alfred, Florida; Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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**Table 1.** Recommended Chemical Controls for Preharvest Fungicide

<b>Pesticide</b>	<b>Mature Trees Rate/Acre<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Timing</b>
Topsin M WSB <sup>2</sup>	2 lb <sup>3</sup>	Apply 2 to 14 days prior to harvest.
<p><sup>1</sup>Lower rates can be used on smaller trees. Do not use less than minimum label rate.</p> <p><sup>2</sup>Sec. 18 emergency registration effective until March 19, 2009.</p> <p><sup>3</sup>May result in fruit residues that exceed European maximum residue limits (MRLs). EU MRLs for Topsin are 0.1 ppm compared to 0.5 ppm in the U.S.</p>		