CITRUS INDUSTRY • January 2012

CITRUS WEED SPOTLIGHT

Virginia Pepperwood – Lepidium virginicum

By Stephen H. Futch

LEAVES: alternate, long, narrow, smooth, biennial plants with rosette or deeply cut blades; stem leaves deeply cut on lower stem grading to smooth margins on upper stem; lower leaves wither as plant matures

STEMS: green, smooth, branching; erect to ascending; non-branched to having numerous branches

FLOWERS: in spike-like arrangement at end of stem and branches

FRUITS: round, flat, winged, capsule-like seed pod on long stalk, notch at tip; peppery-tasting fruit used to flavor salads

SEEDS: two per pod; small, slightly wider toward tip

LIFE CYCLE: winter annual or biennial

HEIGHT: 1 to 2 feet tall

PROPAGATED BY: seeds

WHAT’S SHAKIN’

It’s time to register for the International Symposium on Mechanical Harvesting & Handling Systems of Fruits and Nuts slated for April 2-4 at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred.

Speakers are committed from all over the world. There will be keynote presentations on “Mechanical Harvesting Transformations in Worldwide Olives” with speakers from Australia and Spain, along with “Consumer Acceptance of Mechanically vs. Hand-Harvested Table Olives in California.” This is a great opportunity for Florida citrus growers to learn the latest about worldwide mechanical harvesting.

Topics to be covered are “Worldwide Orchard Designs for the Future of Mechanical Harvesting,” “Abscission Aids,” “Robotic Harvesting and Grading from Japan,” and “Collaborative Efforts for Harvester Development and Commercialization in the United States.”

The current program and registration are at http://citrusmh.ifas.ufl.edu. There’s a $50 discount for early registration and space is limited.

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