We are pleased to announce that a new citrus horticulturist has been hired at the SWFREC. Dr. Gurreet Brar, currently the tree nut farm advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension system, has committed to begin his stint in Immokalee in November.

Dr. Brar also has ties to the University of Florida (UF), having earned his Ph.D. in horticultural sciences from UF in 2012. He received his master's and bachelor's degrees in horticulture from Punjab agricultural University in Punjab, India, in 2002 and 1999, respectively.

We look forward to welcoming Dr. Brar.

Our center’s construction project, including the new wing to house additional faculty and staff (below) and an updated main entrance to the existing building (right), is on schedule for completion in early 2016. The accompanying photos detail progress to date, as well as renderings of the completed look (courtesy of project architect Ponikvar & Associates Inc. in Gainesville).
Seminars, Tours Attract Visitors

A number of seminars and tours drew growers, industry representatives, and other southwest Floridians to the SWFREC over the course of the spring and early summer. Among them:

Nearly fifty growers participated in the 31st Annual Florida Seed Association/UF-IFAS Seedsmen Seminar in June, and the SWFREC hosted the meeting for the first time.

Topics ranged from new pests and diseases to nematode management to regulations affecting the import and export of seed. In addition, SWFREC vegetable horticulturist Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton and plant pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts presented “Late Blight Resistant Tomato Varieties in Florida: Round, Roma, Campari, and Cherry Tomatoes.”

A small group of teachers from southwest Florida participated in the International Year of Soil Teach the Teacher Workshop in July. The SWFREC was one of seven host sites for the one-day training, designed to educate teachers about soil and provide them tips to aid in educating their students.

The workshop consisted of lectures, activity demonstrations, and field tours—all of which were led by the team of SWFREC soil and water scientist Dr. Kelly Morgan and Libbie Johnson, an agriculture and natural resources agent with the UF/IFAS Escambia County Extension Service in Cantonment.

Nearly fifty citrus growers from Argentina visited the SWFREC in June as part of a multiple-day tour to learn about growing practices in south Florida as well as how growers in the state are dealing with the citrus greening disease.

SWFREC director Dr. Calvin Arnold welcomed the group and provided an overview of citrus in the area and citrus-related projects being conducted at the center. In addition, SWFREC entomologist Dr. Phil Stansly and Dr. Morgan made presentations to the group.

The tour was sponsored by Yara International.

Eleven members of the Youth Leadership Lee County group visited the SWFREC in June as part of its agriculture education day.

The students toured the HLB Lab and heard from manager Shea Teems, learned about reflective mulch and its impact on reducing Asian citrus psyllid populations in citrus from Ph.D. student Scott Croxton, and discussed farmworker issues with agricultural economist Dr. Fritz Roka.
## Farm Labor Supervisor Training Program

### 2015 Fall Training Sites & Dates

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breeland</td>
<td>UF/IFAS Everglades Research &amp; Education Center 3200 E. Palm Beach Rd. Belle Glade, FL 33430 Ph: 561-993-1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immokalee</td>
<td>UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research &amp; Education Center 2685 SR 29 N. Immokalee, FL 34142 Ph: 239-658-3400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Alfred</td>
<td>UF/IFAS Citrus Research &amp; Education Center 700 Experiment Station Rd. Lake Alfred, FL 33850 Ph: 863-956-1151</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sebring</td>
<td>UF/IFAS Highlands County Extension Office 4509 George Blvd. Sebring, FL 33875 Ph: 863-402-6540</td>
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### Who should take these classes?
Labor Contractors, Crew Leaders, Bus & Van Drivers and Farm Office Staff

### Minimum Class Size:
10 participants

### Fee:
$50 per person per class

### To register visit:
[http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/programs/economics/fls.php](http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/programs/economics/fls.php)

### Questions about FLS Classes:
- Carlene Thissen  
  Ph: 239-658-3449  
  Email: carlene@ufl.edu
- Primo Garza  
  Ph: 239-658-3463  
  Email: pgarza08@ufl.edu
- Fritz Rok  
  Ph: 239-658-3428  
  Email: fmroka@ufl.edu

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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### Language:
English or Spanish
Interest Growing for Planting Citrus on UV Reflective Mulch

Dr. Phil Stansly, Entomologist, and Scott Croxton, Ph.D. graduate

Few commercial growers of fruiting vegetables in Florida would consider planting on beds not covered with a polyethylene film mulch to warm the soil; hold in fertilizer, fumigants, and chemicals, and control weeds. An added benefit is gained if the mulch has been metalized with a microscopically thin layer of aluminum, which turns it into a mirror that protects the crop by disrupting the flight of pests such as whiteflies, thrips, and aphids.

We have found that metalized plastic mulch has the same effect on the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), which spreads citrus greening disease, also known as Huanglongbing (HLB). However, planting citrus on plastic covered beds requires drip irrigation and the ability to inject fertilizer and chemicals. These turn out to be advantages as tree growth is greater and inputs less thanks to more efficient use of water, ferti-

Above: UV reflective mulch is laid at the A. Duda grove in LaBelle, FL. Below: Field day participants learn about the reflective mulch research, then get up-close views of the citrus trees.
lizer, systemic insecticides, and herbicides. A special mulch thicker than that used in vegetables and with a protective clear coat on top was developed by the Imaflex company for this purpose. This mulch can last up to 3 years.

At a field day at the A. Duda grove in Labelle this past June, growers were able to see the results of a three-year trial on ten acres of citrus grove, half of which was planted on beds covered with polyethylene reflective mulch (PRM). Half the field was also treated with systemic insecticides in a design that provided four treatments: mulch alone, insecticide alone, mulch plus insecticide, and untreated. Mulch and insecticides both controlled ACP and reduced incidence of HLB, improving tree health and growth, with best results from trees receiving both kinds of protection.

Enthusiasm for the practice is growing and a 70-acre trial in a commercial grove is already underway.

For more information, contact Dr. Stansly at pstansly@ufl.edu.
Staff News

♦ Three SWFREC faculty members received promotions recently: soil and water scientist Dr. Kelly Morgan and water resources engineer Dr. Sanjay Shukla both were promoted to full professor, while vegetable horticulturist Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton was promoted to associate professor.

♦ Dr. Shukla has been awarded one of two Art Hornsby Distinguished Extension Professional and Enhancement Awards from UF/IFAS. He will receive a one-time $3,000 salary supplement, $2,000 for extension program support, and a commemorative certificate.

♦ Ph.D. student Scott Croxton graduated in May with his doctorate in entomology. Scott’s graduate committee was led by SWFREC entomologist Dr. Phil Stansly (both are pictured).

♦ Dr. Morgan recently moderated a panel discussion titled “Grower Perspective on Treatment of Root Systems” at the Citrus Expo in North Fort Myers.

♦ Two SWFREC graduate students received honors at the 2015 meeting of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) in New Orleans, Louisiana: Nathan Holt, who received his master’s degree in May, placed first in the ASABE Boyd-Scott Graduate Research Awards competition. His written and oral research topic was titled “Transforming Planticulture Systems through Futuristic Bed Geometry Design: The Next Frontier of Environmental and Economic Sustainability.” Master’s student Max Wallace received the Roger R. and Laura M. Yoerger Preprofessional Engineer of the Year Award in recognition of his outstanding scholastic achievements, leadership skills, and involvement in engineering projects, the community, and the ASABE. Dr. Shukla serves as committee chair for both students.

♦ Four SWFREC staff members manned the center’s booth at the recent Citrus Expo in North Fort Myers: Barbara Hyman, Primo Garza, Carlene Thissen, and Janice Hill.
Spotlight On . . . FL Tomato Institute

The 2015 Florida Tomato Institute Program is set for Wednesday, September 9, at the Ritz Carlton Beach Resort in Naples.

The program is directed by SWFREC vegetable horticulturist Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton and Crystal Snodgrass, a vegetable agent with the Manatee County Extension Service in Palmetto.

The Tomato Institute agenda is as follows:

**Morning Moderator: Dr. Ozores-Hampton**

9am: Welcome, Dr. Calvin Arnold, SWFREC director

9:10am: State of the Industry, Reggie Brown, Florida Tomato Committee, Maitland

9:20am: Recent Progress in TYLCV Resistance Breeding and Implications for Tomato Varieties of the Future, Dr. Samuel Hutton, UF/IFAS, GCREC, Wimauma

9:40am: Controlled-release Fertilizer as a BMP for Tomato Production, Dr. Ozores-Hampton

10am: Production and Environmental Aspects of Compact Bed Geometry Design, Dr. Sanjay Shukla, SWFREC water resources engineer

10:20am: Supplemental Fumigation Strategies for the Management of Soilborne Diseases in Tomato Production, Dr. Gary Vallad, UF/IFAS, GCREC, Wimauma

10:40am: New Insights Regarding the Spatial Distribution of Nematodes and Soil Applied Fumigants and the Needs for New Strategies Considering Vertical Management Zones for Nematode Control, Dr. Joe Noling, UF/IFAS, CREC, Lake Alfred

11am: Risk Management and Fumigation Choice in Tomato Production, Dr. John Vansickle, UF/IFAS, Gainesville

11:20am: Evaluation of the Usefulness of a Late Blight Decision Support System in Florida Tomato, Dr. Pamela Roberts, SWFREC plant pathologist

11:30am: Lunch (on your own)

**Afternoon Moderator: Crystal Snodgrass**

1pm: H-2A Workers in Florida Vegetable Operations, Dr. Fritz Roka, SWFREC agricultural economist

1:20pm: Western Flower Thrips and Tospoviruses Emerging as Serious Threats to Tomato in Central and Southern Florida, Dr. Joseph Funderburk, UF/IFAS, NFREC, Quincy, and Dr. Scott Adkins, USDA-ARS, Fort Pierce

1:40pm: Evaluation of Tomato Varieties and Insecticides for Management of Tomato chlorotic spot virus (TCSV) and Thrips Species Recorded in Virus-infected Tomato Fields, Shouan Zhang and Dakshina Seal, UF/IFAS, TREC, Homestead

2pm: Managing Pests and Insecticide Resistance in Florida Tomato, Dr. Hugh Smith, UF/IFAS, GREC, Wimauma

2:20pm: Incidence of Grafting and Actigard for Bacterial Wilt Management, Dr. Mathews Paret, UF/IFAS, NFREC, Quincy

2:40pm: Eliminating Transplant Shock by Hormonal Control to Improve Growth and Yield of Tomato, Dr. Shinsuke Agehara, UF/IFAS, GREC, Wimauma

3pm: Industry Updates, Qingren Wang, Miami-Dade County Extension Service, Homestead.
Coming Events

**August 27:** Phytophthora, Nematodes, and Diaprepes.
10am-1pm, SWFREC, Immokalee. For more info and agenda, click here and scroll down to “Upcoming Events”: [http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/)

**September 7:** Labor Day Holiday. SWFREC will be closed and will reopen Tuesday, September 8.

**September 9:** Tomato Institute (see page 7 for details).

**September 22:** Organic Amendments in Citrus Groves.
10am-1pm, SWFREC, Immokalee. Agenda will be available soon at [http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/)

**October 14:** Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Training. For CCAs only (not for test preparation).

**November (various dates):** Farm Labor Supervisor Training Program (see page 3 for a complete list of trainings at SWFREC and other locations).

**November 6:** Homecoming Holiday. In observance of UF Homecoming, SWFREC will be closed and will reopen on November 9.

**November 11:** Veteran’s Day Holiday. SWFREC will be closed and will reopen on November 12.

**November 26-27:** Thanksgiving Holiday. SWFREC will be closed and will reopen on November 30.

**December 3:** UF/IFAS Fall Vegetable Field Day. 9am-1pm, SWFREC, Immokalee. Agenda and registration information coming soon at [http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/).

The Citrus Black Spot Technical Working Group met recently at the SWFREC. The team gathered to discuss monitoring plans, research needs, and project collaboration to target citrus black spot in south Florida. SWFREC plant pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts is among the group’s leadership.