



February 28, 2019

Welcome to SWFREC Update E-news! This newsletter is distributed biweekly and contains news about the center and its faculty and staff, program research updates, and upcoming events.

Web site: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Social media:  

Invited and Conference Talks:

- Citrus horticulturist Dr. Fernando Alferez (below left) gave an invited talk at the University of Central Florida in Orlando recently as part of its Materials Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Center's seminar series. He presented "Integrating Molecular, Physiological and Horticultural Approaches to Improve Citrus Tree Health and Productivity Under HLB Conditions."
- Weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery (below right) presented "Hydrogels as Herbicide Carriers in Vegetable Plasticulture" recently at the Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Citrus Squeezer: Forty-plus growers and other industry representatives participated in a recent citrus seminar at the center titled “All You Need to Know about Scouting and Management of Citrus Insect Pests.” SWFREC entomologist Dr. Jawwad Qureshi presented “Scouting and Managing Citrus Pests and Beneficials” and senior biological scientist Barry Kostyk presented “Scouting and Managing Citrus Rust Mites.”



Peer-reviewed Publication: Precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis and engineer Victor Partel recently published “UAV-Based High Throughput Phenotyping in Citrus Utilizing Multispectral Imaging and Artificial Intelligence” by Remote Sensing, a peer-reviewed, open-access journal online. To read the article, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/precision-ag-eng/publications/Ampatzidis_Patel_2019_RemoteSensing.pdf.

Scholarship Awarded: Kellee Britt, a Ph.D. student in the citrus pathology program has been awarded financial assistance to attend the Joint Conference of the 21st International Organization of Citrus Virologists and the 6th International Research Conference on Huanglongbing, which will take place in March in Riverside, California. The award includes complimentary event registration and up to \$2,000 in travel expense reimbursement.



Pathology Research Featured: Citrus pathologist Dr. Ozgur Batuman’s research has been featured in two locations: “Automated System Would Deliver Chemicals to Help Ward off Citrus Greening” is an article posted to the UF/IFAS Blogs site, and “Can New Bactericide Delivery Machine Save Florida Citrus?” is posted to the Growing Produce web site. Both articles, published earlier this month, focus on research being conducted by Dr. Batuman and others to utilize an automated delivery system to ensure that bactericides make their way to the vascular parts of citrus trees. The UF/IFAS blog article was written by Brad Buck and can be found here: <https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/news/tag/southwest-florida-research-and-education-center/>. The Growing Produce article was written by editor Frank Giles and can be found here: <https://www.growingproduce.com/citrus/can-new-bactericide-delivery-machine-save-florida-citrus-from-greening/>.

Protective Covers Aid Citrus: Citrus horticulturist Dr. Fernando Alferez was interviewed by Citrus Industry senior correspondent at large Ernie Neff for an article published online about utilizing individual protective covers on young citrus trees, research that has prevented greening disease in one year of study. To read the article and listen to the full interview with Dr. Alferez, click here: <http://citrusindustry.net/2019/02/13/covers-protect-young-trees-from-hlb/>.

New Extension Paper/Club Presentation: “The Electronic Logging Device Mandate, Hours of Service Rules, and Implications for Southwest Florida Produce Haulers” is a new document that can be found on the UF/IFAS Electronic Data Information Source site. Ag resource economist Dr. Tara Wade is a co-author on the paper. To read the document, click

here: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fe1052>. In addition, Dr. Wade was the featured speaker at a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of LaBelle.

Upcoming Events:

March 10-15, 2019

Joint Conference of the 21st International Organization of Citrus Virologists and the 6th International Research Conference on Huanglongbing

Riverside, CA

Three SWFREC faculty members will speak at the conference: Citrus horticulturist Dr. Fernando Alferez will present “Exogenous nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide induces resistance to citrus canker in citrus” and “Individual Protective Covers (IPCs) prevent young citrus trees from psyllids and infection with CLAs, and promote vegetative growth.” Citrus pathologist Dr. Ozgur Batuman will present “Needle-Assisted Trunk Infusion (NATI): An alternative method for delivering therapeutic materials into the citrus vasculature.” Plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht will present “Rootstock influences leaf and root metabolic response to *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* in grafted sweet orange trees.”

In addition, three faculty/staff will present posters: soil microbiologist Dr. Sarah Strauss, “Benefits of biochar on HLB-affected citrus in sandy soils,” entomologist Dr. Jawwad Qureshi, “Biological control of Asian citrus psyllid: Conservation and augmentation for enhanced vector suppression” and “Integrated management of Asian citrus psyllid, vector of the associated pathogens of HLB,” and Ph.D. student Kellee Britt, “Surveys for Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*)-infecting viruses and their influence on *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs) dispersal in Florida citrus groves.”

For more information, click here: <http://www.citrusresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/New-File.pdf>.

March 28, 2019, 8:30am-2:30pm

Inservice Training: Smart Agriculture and Smart Technologies

SWFREC

Presentations/demos to include precision ag, weed science, ag resource economics, and citrus pathology. To see the full agenda, click here: [https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-28-03-Ampatzidis In Service Training Agenda.pdf](https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-28-03-Ampatzidis%20In%20Service%20Training%20Agenda.pdf).

To RSVP, please contact Jennifer at 239-658-3415 or jderleth@ufl.edu.

April 2, 2019, 8:00am-3:30pm

2019 Annual Florida Citrus Growers' Institute

Avon Park Campus of South Florida Community College

To see the agenda and register, click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-florida-citrus-growers-institute-registration-56334344541>.

April 3, 2019, 9:00am-4:00pm

Remote Pilot Certificate Training

UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center, Quincy (same training session will be offered at SWFREC in the near future; details to come)

In order to obtain a Remote Pilot Certificate from the FAA under the Small UAS (Part 107) rule, you must pass the initial aeronautical knowledge exam. This training will prepare you to pass this exam and obtain your certificate.

Registration information:

- UF Faculty and Staff Registration link
(password: Gator2019): <https://bit.ly/2Moio3w>. No cost.
- Farmer or Commercial Operator Registration link: <https://bit.ly/2AVzy44>. Cost is \$75.

April 10, 2019, 7:45am-6:45pm

Certified Crop Advisor Workshop

SWFREC

For those who hold a Certified Crop Advisor license ONLY. Ten CEUs will be offered in nutrient and pest management. The first registration announcement has been emailed to CCAs.

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