



April 15, 2020

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.

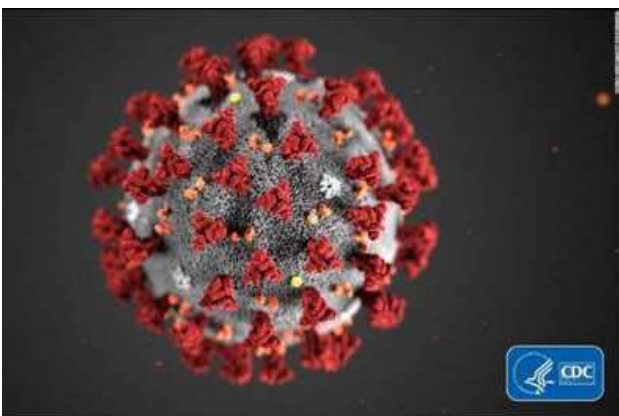
Web site: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: We strive to be prudent and provide the best service possible while keeping our clientele and our staff safe during this uncertain time. In view of the precautions required to contain Coronavirus (COVID-19), while the center is not officially closed, its operations have been reduced to essential services. Rather than visiting the center, our grower clientele is encouraged to contact faculty and staff via e-mail addresses provided on our web site: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>. In addition, we are

developing a series of virtual educational seminars. The first, a vegetable grower meeting in late March, was a successful workshop that was “attended” by thirty-six participants.

The next seminar is a Vegetable Grower Meeting slated for Thursday, April 23, 10am-12pm. The seminar will focus on soil fertility and will include a presentation by weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery titled “Weed Management in Vegetable Production: Efficacy and Longevity.” For more information and connection details, click here:

<https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2020-04-23-Vegetable-Growers-meeting-online.pdf>. CEU and CCA credit will be applied.

The following meetings/trainings have been postponed due to COVID-19:

- SWFREC Citrus Advisory Committee Meeting—April 17, SWFREC
- SWFREC Vegetable Advisory Committee Meeting—April 21, SWFREC
- Beyond Basic Produce Safety: A Hands-on Analysis--April 23, Naples
- Build Your Own Farm Food Safety Plan--April 24, Naples
- Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training--April 28, Naples
- SWFREC Foundation Board Meeting—April 28, SWFREC
- 30th Annual Farm Safety Day--May 1 & 2, SWFREC

Graduate Student Residence Progress Photo



News Report Spotlights Farmer Plight During Pandemic

A news report on WINK-TV includes comments from SWFREC associate director of stakeholder relations Gene McAvoy. “Farmers Hurting as Produce Sales Lag” by reporter Stephanie Byrne and writer Jackie Winchester can be viewed and read here:

<https://www.winknews.com/2020/04/03/farmers-hurting-as-produce-sales-lag-during-pandemic/>.

Op-ed Highlights Precision Ag Research

An article written by SWFREC center director Dr. Kelly Morgan and UF/IFAS Communications writer Brad Buck appeared recently in both the Fort Myers News-Press and Naples Daily News papers. **“UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center on Cutting Edge of Precision Ag”** features information about the research program of precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis. The article can be viewed here:

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/swfrec/2020/04/01/uf-ifas-southwest-florida-research-and-education-center-on-cutting-edge-of-precision-agriculture/>.

Podcast Features SWFREC Faculty

The March UF/IFAS All in for Citrus Podcast features information from weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery. To hear his interview, click here: <http://citrusindustry.net/allinforcitrus/>.

Peer-reviewed Publications

SWFREC faculty and staff members have had refereed journal articles published recently (SWFREC authors in bold):

- **Barcelos Bisi R, Albrecht U**, Bowman KD (2020). **Seed and seedling nursery characteristics for ten USDA citrus rootstocks**. HortScience, published ahead of issue: <https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI14598-19>. Bisi is a postdoc and Albrecht is plant physiologist.
- **Albrecht U, Tripathi I**, Bowman KD (2020). **Rootstock influences the metabolic response to *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* in grafted sweet orange trees**. Trees 34:405-431. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00468-019-01925-3>. Albrecht is plant physiologist and Tripathi is a postdoc.
- **Nuzo A, Satpute A, Albrecht U, Strauss SL** (2020). **Impact of soil microbial amendments on tomato rhizosphere microbiome and plant growth in field soil**. Microbial Ecology, published ahead of issue: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00248-020-01497-7>. Nuzzo is a former postdoc, Satpute is a postdoc, Albrecht is plant physiologist, and Strauss is soil microbiologist.

Trade Journal Publications

The April issue of Citrus Industry magazine includes two articles written in part by SWFREC faculty members:

- **“Nursery Diseases at Planting: What to Watch for”** (citrus pathologist Dr. Ozgur Batuman is first author).
- **“Protecting New Citrus Plantings and Resets from Weeds”** (weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery is first author).

To read these articles, click here and scroll to pages 10 and 18 respectively:

<http://www.mirabelsmagazinecentral.com/DigitalEdition/index.html?id=876d2a07-96ed-41b5-913c-c0cc15dc5da7>.



Graduate Student Makes UF Cricket Club Team

Plant physiology master's student Sudip Kunwar was selected to participate on the UF cricket club team. The team participated in the American College Cricket National Championships in Broward County in late March, winning one of its three games. The remainder of the tournament, however, was cancelled due to Coronavirus.

Notice: Possible Graft Incompatibility

Recently, some apparent graft compatibility issues affecting the new citrus rootstock US-1283 and particular scions were noticed. To read a brief statement about this, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/plant-physiology/2020-02-14-Albrecht_Notice-possible-graft-incompatibility.pdf. For further information, contact SWFREC plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht (ualbrecht@ufl.edu) or Dr. Kim Bowman (Kim.bowman@usda.gov), research geneticist with USDA ARS in Fort Pierce.

Operation Clean Sweep

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services announces the 2019-2020 Operation Clean Sweep program, a mobile pesticide collection effort that provides a safe way to dispose of cancelled, suspended, and unusable pesticides. The free service is available to farms/groves, greenhouses, nurseries, golf courses, and pest control entities. For more information, including how to sign up, click here: <https://floridadep.gov/waste/permitting-compliance-assistance/content/operation-cleansweep-pesticides>.

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