



June 15, 2020

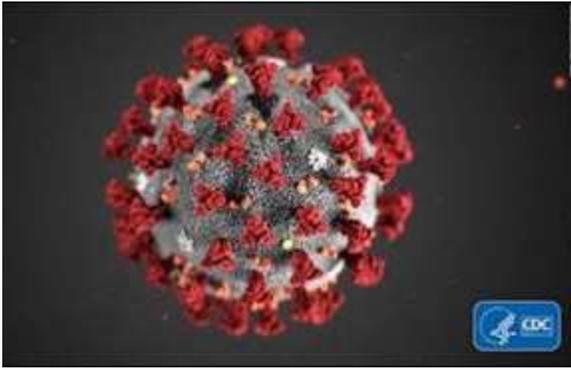
Welcome to SWFREC Update E-news! This newsletter is distributed biweekly and contains news about the center and its faculty and staff, program research updates, and upcoming events.

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

Social media:  

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SWFREC COVID-19 Update

Research data collection, which was put on hold in March at the onset of the virus, resumed in early May on SWFREC and cooperative grower properties. Research projects proposed by SWFREC faculty have now been approved by UF/IFAS administration to increase research in greenhouses, screenhouses, and laboratories. We continue to strive to be prudent and provide the best service

possible while keeping our clientele and our staff safe during this uncertain time. While the center is not officially closed, its operations continue to be reduced to essential services for now. We ask that our grower clientele continue to contact faculty and staff via e-mail addresses provided on our web site: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

While many faculty and staff continue to work remotely, several are slowly returning to work at the center, likely on a staggered-schedule basis, as they complete a UF/IFAS return-to-work health screening survey. We have in place a center-wide safety plan that includes hand sanitizing stations and the requirement to wear masks. Posting signage that stresses the importance of increased safety measures as staff return to work also is in progress.

While grower meetings have been offered solely virtually for three months, we look forward to in-person meetings resuming as conditions warrant.

SWFREC Volunteers Aid Food Distribution

Ten SWFREC faculty, staff, and graduate students volunteered at a food distribution event last week at Lipman Family Farms' packinghouse. Assistance included bagging fresh

produce and directing traffic at the event, which supplied food to hundreds of Immokalee families. Organized by the Benison Outreach Center and aided by several local agencies, companies, and growers, the distribution effort is ongoing. SWFREC, invited to participate by Barbara Hawkes with The Immokalee Foundation, is planning two more volunteer sessions to support the community effort.



Citrus Institute Presentations Posted, CEUs Offered

The UF/IFAS Florida Citrus Growers' Institute that was scheduled for April was cancelled due to the Coronavirus; however, the event's organizing group of UF/IFAS extension agents has decided to post presentations that would have been given in Avon Park online to enable growers to access the important information and obtain CEUs. To view the material/CEU information, click here: <https://citrusagents.ifas.ufl.edu/events/GrowersInstitute2020/>. As you scroll down the agenda, three presentations (highlighted in blue) are accessible now. One of those, **"Trunk Injection: Considerations and Results from Whole Tree Studies,"** is by SWFREC plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht. Other presentations will go "live" soon and will include SWFREC weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery ("Beyond Glyphosate: Alternatives to Consider Adding to a Citrus Weed Management Program"), and entomologist Dr. Jawwad Qureshi ("Strengthening and Diversifying Citrus Pest Management").

Press Releases Lead to Articles

Recent press releases related to SWFREC research that have been developed by UF/IFAS Communications writer Brad Buck have resulted in articles on numerous news outlet web pages:

"Cloud-based Technology Helps Farmers Count Citrus Trees" spotlights research by precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis to combine unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) and a cloud-based technology called Agrovieo to count trees and measure tree canopy. The article has been posted on these sites:

<http://vscnews.com/cloud-based-technology-farmers-count-citrus-trees/>

<https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9224538/cloud-based-technology-helps-farmers-count-citrus-trees/>

<https://www.farms.com/news/cloud-based-technology-helps-farmers-count-citrus-trees-157011.aspx>

<https://maghribpost.com/cloud-technology-helps-citrus-farmers-count/>

"UF/IFAS Researchers Try to Reduce Fruit Drop, Increase Yield in Valencia, Hamlin Oranges," focuses on research being conducted in part by citrus horticulturist Dr. Fernando Alferez. This article has been posted on these sites:

<https://www.morningagclips.com/uf-ifas-researchers-try-to-reduce-fruit-drop/>

<http://citrusindustry.net/2020/05/27/reduce-fruit-drop-increase-yield/>

<http://vscnews.com/uf-ifas-researchers-fruit-drop-oranges-yield/>

<https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9220838/citrus-scientists-research-how-to-reduce-amount-of-fruit-drop-losses/>

Trade Journal Articles

- Associate director of stakeholder relations Gene McAvoy's **Pest of the Month** column in the May issue of Florida Grower magazine focuses on cob flies and the damage they can create on field and sweet corn. To read the article, click here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/mcavoy/2020-05-McAvoy-Pest-of-the-month-FL-Growers.pdf>.
- **Summer Tree Care Practices to Improve Fruit Quality and Yield** appears in the June issue of Citrus Industry magazine. Citrus horticulturist Dr. Fernando Alferez is lead author. To read the article, click here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/citrus-hort/2020-06-Alferez-Summer-tree-care-Citrus-Industry.pdf>.



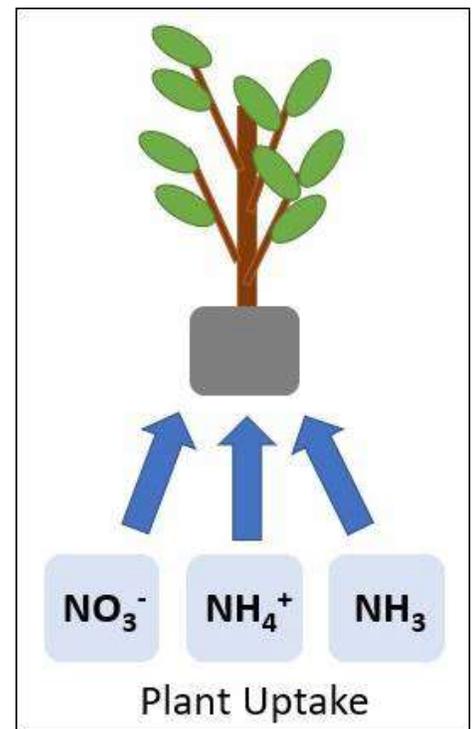
Extension Publication

An Overview of Key Soil Nitrogen Cycling Transformations is now available on the UF/IFAS Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS) web site. Ph.D. student Clayton Nevins and soil microbiologist Dr. Sarah Strauss are first and second authors, respectively. To read the full article, click here: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ss684>.



SWFL Fresh: Taste the Local Difference

SWFL Direct to Market Producers can now list their business profile on the SWFL Fresh web site. "SWFL Fresh: Taste the Local Difference" is a brand created by UF/IFAS Extension, the SWFL Regional Planning Council, and Eat Local Lee to connect consumers with local producers. If you are a producer selling any direct to market products, create your profile by clicking the website and scrolling down to "Producers Register Now!": www.swflfresh.com. For more information or to be involved in future development of this brand, contact Jessica Ryals, food systems agent, UF/IFAS Collier County Extension, Naples, at jessicaryals@ufl.edu.



Extension Publications Provide Virus Info

To read articles written by UF/IFAS faculty and staff about the Coronavirus, you can visit the Electronic Data Information Source here: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_covid19.

Pesticide License Renewal Grace Period Extended—Classes to Be Offered Soon

Florida agriculture commissioner Nikki Fried has extended the timeframe for reporting and renewing restricted-use pesticide licenses by an additional sixty days, effective April 20, 2020. SWFREC associate director of stakeholder relations Gene McAvoy plans to begin offering virtual training classes for those who need to renew their licenses; watch for announcements soon. Please note that UF/IFAS does offer a number of online resources for obtaining credits as well. Click here for more information: <https://ifas-pest.catalog.instructure.com/>

Graduate Student Residence Progress Photos



Upcoming Events

June 16, 2020, 1pm—online

2020 UF/IFAS Virtual Ag Best Management Practices (BMPs) Summit: Precision and Variable Rate Spraying and Fertilizer Application

Open to extension agents and growers. SWFREC precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis is the speaker.

IFAS faculty should register for IST #31849, Virtual Ag BMP Summit, through PDEC. **Growers and others outside of IFAS do not need to register and can join the webinar directly.** CEU credit for CCAs is being provided.

Due to new Zoom security features, a new webinar room has been established. Please connect to this session via this

link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96753949035?pwd=bmhpMVRtb3Q3SmITMmtQcjhKbmw0dz09>

June 18, 10:00am-12:00pm—online

SWFREC Vegetable Growers Meeting: Focus on Fumigation

For detailed agenda and connection information, click here:

<https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2020-06-18-Vegetable-Growers-meeting-online.pdf>.

June 23, 2020, 1pm—online

2020 UF/IFAS Virtual Ag Best Management Practices (BMPs) Summit: Panel—Successful BMP Implementation and Why It Worked

Open to extension agents and growers. SWFREC associate director of stakeholder relations Gene McAvoy is a panelist.

IFAS faculty should register for IST #31849, Virtual Ag BMP Summit, through PDEC. **Growers and others outside of IFAS do not need to register and can join the webinar directly.** CEU credit for CCAs is being provided.

Due to new Zoom security features, a new webinar room has been established. Please connect to this session via this

link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/96753949035?pwd=bmhpMVRtb3Q3SmlTMmtQcjhKbmw0dz09>

July 14, 2020, 10:00am-12:00pm

SWFREC Foundation Board Meeting

This will be an in-person meeting with proper social distancing in the auditorium.

This will also be available online via Zoom. Committee members have been notified of connection info.

July 21, 2020, 10:00am-12:00pm—online only

SWFREC Vegetable Advisory Committee Meeting

Committee members have been notified of connection info.

July 21-23, 2020, 2:30-5:30pm each day—online

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training

SWFREC food science state specialized extension agent Matt Krug will be among the speakers.

Cost to Attend: \$25. Please register at: https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_psa072120.eventbrite.com&d=DwIFaQ&c=sJ6xIWYx-zLMB3EPkvcnVg&r=3Vsbpss3RtV58RXhAGohxw&m=w_Cy6Rf_cOESWjqPaDwmjf_nx7DsnmCrPEDcgLrnFa4&s=4mfHsEiPxvIW40fbYD4PgghwaMggjTUiqNbtQ6qGrzQ&e=

July 28, 2020, 10:00am-1:00pm

SWFREC Citrus Advisory Committee Meeting

This will be an in-person meeting with proper social distancing in the auditorium.

This will also be available online via Zoom. Committee members have been notified of connection info.