



July 13, 2020

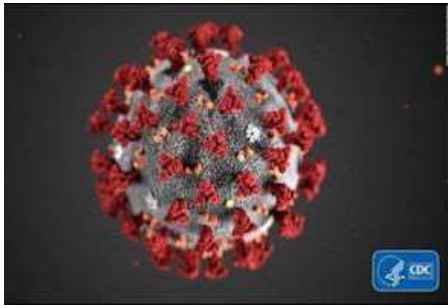
Welcome to SWFREC Update E-news! This newsletter is distributed biweekly and contains news about the center and its faculty and staff, program research updates, and upcoming events.

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

Social media:  

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SWFREC COVID-19 Update

As the UF Research Resumption Plan continues, SWFREC faculty and staff are resuming data collection at the center and on cooperative grower farms. As projects proposed by SWFREC faculty continue to be approved by UF/IFAS administration, research in our grove, fields, greenhouses, screenhouses, and laboratories is in full swing (see photos below). In addition, vegetable fields are being prepared for new plantings for the fall crop.

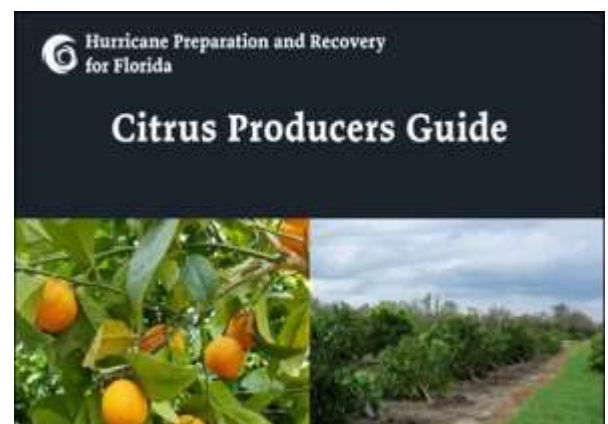
Some SWFREC faculty and staff continue to work remotely, but several have returned to work at the center on a staggered-schedule basis. A center-wide safety plan that includes hand sanitizing stations and the requirement to wear masks is in place. For safety reasons, grower meetings continue to be offered solely virtually. We will make an announcement when we begin to schedule and plan in-person meetings utilizing proper social distancing protocol. In the meantime, to be prudent and provide the best service possible while keeping our clientele and our staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, grower clientele should continue to contact faculty and staff via e-mail addresses provided on our web site: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>.



Citrus Horticulturist Co-authors Hurricane Guide

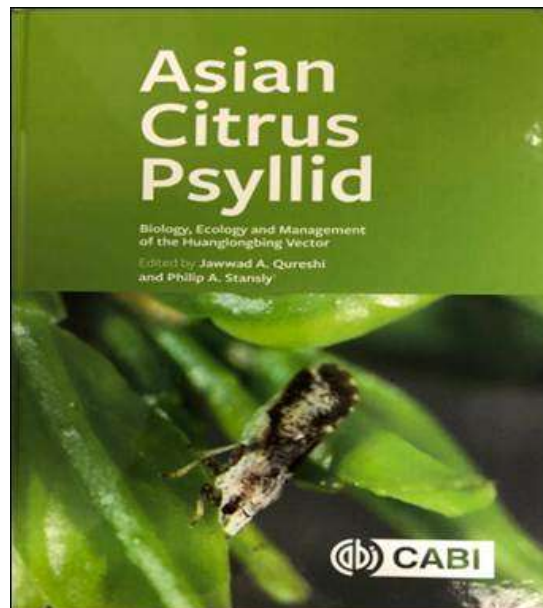
Citrus horticulturist Dr. Fernando Alferez is an author of a newly published document on the USDA's Hurricane Preparation and Recovery Commodity Guides web site. The "Florida Citrus Producers Guide" includes information on long- and short-term recommendations for building resilience to hurricanes in citrus groves, nurseries, and citrus under protective screens; damage evaluation to assist with recovery; and horticultural recovery efforts to put trees back into production. Alferez authored the guide with UF/IFAS multi-county citrus agent Dr. Mongi Zekri. To access the document, click here:

https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Citrus%20Producers%20Guide_SE_1.pdf



Entomologists Edit HLB Book

The first book on the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) and huanglongbing (HLB), edited by entomologist Dr. Jawwad Qureshi and former entomologist Dr. Phil Stansly, was recently published by the Center for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI International). This book, written by a team of experts on the Asian citrus psyllid, gathers together everything currently known about the biology and ecology of this important pest species, examines the transmission and acquisition processes of the pathogen, and looks at current management practices and their effectiveness. The potential for new, innovative management techniques are also described along with the economic implications of managing this rapidly establishing disease. This book presents a great source of knowledge for researchers of entomology and related disciplines, students, agricultural scientists and professionals, extension agents, and pest management consultants. To purchase the book, click here: <https://www.cabi.org/bookshop/book/9781786394088/>.



Local Paper Spotlights New Economist

“New UF/IFAS Economist Comes ‘Home,’ Looks to Help Harness Resources” appeared in a recent edition of the Immokalee Bulletin newspaper. The article, authored by UF/IFAS communications writer Brad Buck, welcomes Dr. Kimberly Morgan as a new SWFREC agricultural economist who will begin her post in August. Dr. Morgan previously served as associate professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Virginia. To read Buck’s article, click here: <https://immokaleebulletin.com/schools/new-uf-ifas-economist-comes-home-looks-to-help-harness-resources/>.

Faculty Interviewed for Web Story

SWFREC associate director for stakeholder relations Gene McAvoy is an expert quoted in the article “Florida Growers Look to Move Beyond Coronavirus” on the Growing Produce web site. Author Frank Giles detailed McAvoy’s efforts to document COVID-19’s impact on southwest Florida ag farms. To see the article, click here: <https://www.growingproduce.com/vegetables/florida-growers-look-to-move-beyond-coronavirus/>.

GSO Elects New Officers

The SWFREC Graduate Student Organization has elected new officers for the year: president, Jessica Torres, citrus pathology Ph.D. student (Dr. Ozgur Batuman, advisor); vice president, Carol Tardivo, plant physiology master’s student (Dr. Ute Albrecht, advisor); treasurer, Clayton Nevins, soil microbiology Ph.D. student (Dr. Sarah Strauss, advisor); secretary, Kira Sorochnikina, soil microbiology Ph.D. student (Dr. Strauss, advisor); and journal club organizer, Daniel Boakye, citrus horticulturist Ph.D. student (Dr. Fernando Alferez, advisor).

Trade Journal Articles

- “Rootstock Effects on Valencia and Hamlin in Large-scale Commercial Plantings” appears on the Citrus Industry News web site. Plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht and master’s student Sudip Kunwar are first and second authors, respectively. To read the article, click here: <http://citrusindustry.net/2020/07/08/rootstock-effects-on-valencia-and-hamlin-in-large-scale-commercial-plantings/>.
- Three SWFREC faculty members authored articles included in the July issue of Vegetable and Specialty Crop News: “Protecting Peppers from Anthracnose” (vegetable pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts), “Picking Varieties with Profit Potential” (associate director for stakeholder relations Gene McAvoy), and “Technology to Improve Vegetable Production” (precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis). To read the articles, click here: <https://www.mirabelsmagazinecentral.com/DigitalEdition/index.html?id=427168dd-94b0-401f-a280-a833b73ff88d>.



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.

Graduate Student Residence Progress Photos





Upcoming Events

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

SWFREC Foundation Board Meeting

This will be a virtual meeting: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/98558673389>.

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://www.eventbrite.com/e/remote-produce-safety-alliance-grower-training-registration-106953653256>

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

SWFREC Citrus Advisory Committee Meeting

This will be a virtual meeting: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/94588656399>.

DATE CHANGE

~~July 21, 2020~~, August 4, 10:00am-12:00pm—online only

SWFREC Vegetable Advisory Committee Meeting

This will be a virtual meeting: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97533030421>.

CANCELLED: August 12-13

Citrus/Vegetable Specialty Crop Expo

Lee Civic Center, North Fort Myers, FL

PLEASE NOTE: Virtual seminars for citrus, vegetable, and specialty crop growers, including many that would have been presented at Expo, will be available in August. More details to come.

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