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December 18, 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.

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Spotlight on . . . Novel SWFREC Precision Ag Program Reaps Recognition

In the face of citrus greening disease, manual grove sampling and assessment are key costs for citrus growers.

A new program called Agroview, developed by precision agricultural engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis and his team at SWFREC, strives to reduce those costs and provide even more valuable information to boot.



The program utilizes unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs or more commonly known as drones) and ground sensors to collect data important to growers, such as tree height and canopy size, number of trees and gaps in a specific area, plant nutrients, and health-related aspects of those trees. The cloud-based program uses artificial intelligence to provide imagery useful to growers.

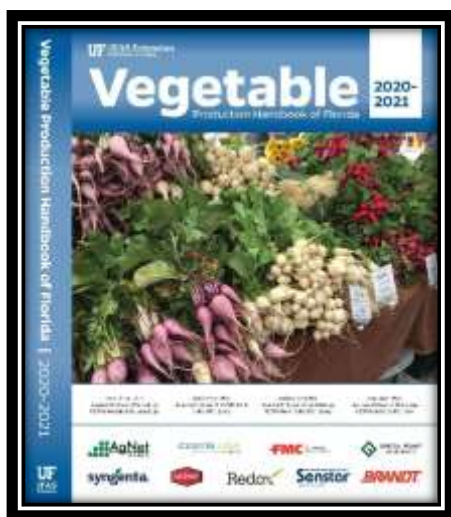
[READ MORE ...](#)

COVID-19 Ag Safety Education Highlighted in NPR Story

Information about the UF/IFAS Farm Labor Supervisor Training Program's recent efforts to educate managers about how to keep their farmworkers safe during the Coronavirus pandemic was featured on Florida Matters, a weekly public affairs show that airs on WUSF, the NPR radio station with the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Center director Dr. Kelly Morgan provided an overview of the training program, led by SWFREC's ag economist Dr. Kimberly Morgan, and its benefits to SW FL growers in the midst of COVID-19. To hear the interview, click here: <https://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/show/florida-matters>.

New Vegetable Handbook Now Available



The 2020–2021 Vegetable Production Handbook of Florida is now available! This 19-chapter handbook, updated annually, provides guidance on vegetable production in Florida and includes extensive pesticide tables for each type of crop covered. The use of trade names in this publication is solely for the purpose of providing specific information. UF/IFAS does not guarantee or warranty the products named, and references to them in this publication do not signify UF/IFAS approval to the exclusion of other products of suitable composition. Use pesticides safely. Read and follow directions on the manufacturer's label.

To pick up a copy of the handbook, **visit SWFREC** (please knock on the front doors) and the **UF/IFAS Hendry County Extension office**, 1085 Pratt Blvd., LaBelle, FL 33935, Office: (863) 674-4092. The books will also be available at any future in-person meetings and workshops. The book is also available online (with printable sections) here: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/cv292>.

Graduate Students Excel

- Plant physiology master's student Susmita Gaire won third place among all students competing in all six sections of the Student Best Oral Presentation competition during the virtual 133rd Annual Meeting of the Florida State Horticultural Society in late October. Gaire, whose advisors are plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht and citrus horticulturist Dr. Fernando Alferez, presented this talk during the event.
- Ph.D. student Muriel Brewer is a recipient of the V.W. Carlisle Fellowship award in the UF/IFAS Soil and Water Sciences Department. The \$1,000 award is presented annually to a graduate student studying pedology (soil genesis, classification, and soil survey) or soil mineralogy in the department. Weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery is a co-advisor for Brewer.



Refereed Journal Article

- **“Flumioxazin Soil Persistence under Plastic Mulch and Effects of Pretransplant Applications on Strawberry”** was published in the October 2020 issue of Weed Technology journal. Weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery is third author. To read the article, click here and save the PDF: [Flumioxazin soil persistence under plastic mulch and effects of pretransplant applications on strawberry | Weed Technology | Cambridge Core](#).

Trade Journal Articles

- **“Research Update on Individual Protective Covers”** appeared in the November issue of Citrus Industry magazine. Citrus horticulturist Dr. Fernando Alferez, plant physiology master’s student Susmita Gaire, plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht, citrus pathologist Dr. Ozgur Batuman, entomologist Dr. Jawwad Qureshi, and multi-county citrus extension agent Dr. Mongi Zekri are authors. To see the full article, click here: [Research Update on Individual Protective Covers - Citrus Industry Magazine](#)
- SWFREC faculty contributed to two articles that appear in the December issue of Citrus Industry magazine. **“High-tech Scouting in Citrus Production”** (precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis and natural resource ag economist Dr. Tara Wade) can be viewed here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/precision-ag-eng/2020-12-Ampatzidis-Wade-Citrus_Industry.pdf. **“Managing COVID-19 Risks in the Citrus Industry** (food safety specialist Matt Krug is second author) can be viewed here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/krug/2020-12-Krug-Citrus_Industry.pdf.
- Associate director for stakeholder relations Gene McAvoy authored the “Pest of the Month” column for the December issue of Florida Grower magazine. **“Common Bacterial Blight of Beans”** provides information about the identification, survival and spread, and management of this bacterium. To see the article, click here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/mcavoy/2020-12-McAvoy-Pest-of-the-month-FL-Growers.pdf>



Extension Articles

- **“Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV): A Potential Threat for Tomato Production in Florida”** has been published to the UF/IFAS Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS) web site. Citrus pathologist Dr. Ozgur Batuman, citrus pathology Ph.D. student Salih Yilmaz, vegetable pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts, and associate director for stakeholder relations Gene McAvoy are first through fourth authors, respectively. To read the article, click here: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/PP/PP36000.pdf>.
- **“Herbicide Resistance Management in Florida Tomato Production”** has also been published on EDIS. Weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery is third author. To read the article. Click here: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/HS/HS139800.pdf>.

Season's Greetings from SWFREC

Dr. Kelly Morgan and SWFREC faculty and staff wish you a happy holiday season!



Graduate Student Residence Progress

The residence is complete and graduate students have taken occupancy! The facility houses eight graduate students, which enables them to live in very close proximity to the center while they continue their educational programs and research.

SWFREC plans to host growers and media for tours of the Dr. Philip A. Stansly Graduate Student Residence (named for the former longtime SWFREC entomologist) when it is safe to do so considering the pandemic. In addition, a virtual guided tour of the residence will be available soon on the SWFREC web site.

SWFL Fresh: Choose Local, Choose Fresh

SWFL Direct to Market Producers can now list their business profile on the SWFL Fresh web site. "SWFL Fresh: Choose Local, Choose Fresh" is a brand created by UF/IFAS Extension and the SWFL Regional Planning Council to connect consumers with local producers. If you are a producer selling any direct to market or local sold 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.

Upcoming Events

December 24, 2020—January 1, 2021

SWFREC will be closed in observance of the UF holiday closure. The center will reopen (under a continued staggered staff schedule and social distancing protocol) on Monday, January 4.

January 20, 10-11am

Citrus Squeezer Seminar—Zoom only

SWFREC citrus pathologist Dr. Ozgur Batuman will be a speaker. **“Citrus Disease Trends We Should Heed: Phytophthora, HLB, and Leprosis”** will remind growers to continue paying attention to other pathogens that can attack already HLB-weakened trees. Phytophthora and leprosis each can substantially reduce productivity of a citrus tree, but when they are co-infecting, it can be fatal. Also, some control measures may not be effective anymore due to HLB-induced complications.

1 CEU for pesticide license renewal

1 CEU for certified crop advisors

Registration and connection information will be announced soon.

February 9, 10-11am

Citrus Squeezer Seminar—Zoom only

Program and registration info to come.

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