

# SWFREC News



June 12, 2025

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

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## *Spotlight on...*

### **Tour Enriches Science Education**

Students enrolled in the Science Colloquium course at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) in Fort Myers toured SWFREC last month as part of their field trip experience program.



The group included sophomores and juniors pursuing undergraduate degrees in a range of fields, such as economics, psychology, environmental studies, and early education. The colloquium is a required service-learning course at FGCU that reinforces the importance of environmental and economic sustainability. Students then complete writing exercises about their experiences and include photos of the trips.

The [SWFREC](#) visit included a trolley tour of the farm narrated by citrus pathologist [Dr. Ozgur Batuman](#)

[\(See more\)](#)

### **Seminar Addresses Weed control in Citrus**

The May UF/IFAS Zoom Citrus Seminar featured [SWFREC](#) weed scientist [Dr. Ramdas Kanissery](#). Thirty-plus participants linked in to learn about “Managing Aggressive Weeds in Citrus: Long-term Solutions and Practical Approaches.”

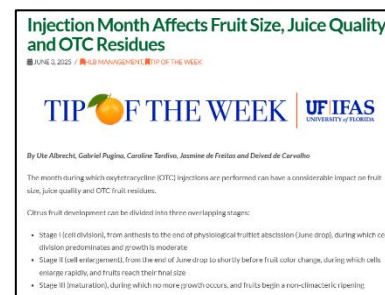
The talk focused on research-based strategies for managing aggressive weeds to help growers maintain long-term control and protect the health and productivity of their citrus trees.



The monthly Zoom seminars are coordinated by multi-county citrus agent Dr. Mongi Zekri, who works at the Hendry County Extension Service in LaBelle. To view Dr. Kanissery’s presentation, click [here](#).

## Extension Publication

“Injection Month Affects Fruit Size, Juice Quality and OTC Residues,” Citrus Industry website “Tip of the Week” for June 3, 2025. [SWFREC](#) authors: plant physiologist [Dr. Ute Albrecht](#), Ph.D. student Gabriel Pugina, postdoc associate Dr. Caroline Tardivo, biological scientist Jasmine de Freitas, and postdoc associate Dr. Deived de Carvalho. Read the article [here](#).



## Economist Featured in Seminar Series

[SWFREC](#) agricultural and natural resources economist [Dr. Tara Wade](#) spoke at the UF/IFAS Everglades Research and Education Center in Belle Glade recently as part of its seminar series. She presented “Willingness to Pay for Pest Management Information: Evidence from US Specialty Crop Growers.”

Dr. Wade’s talk focused on a research paper she co-authored with UF/IFAS Resource Economics Department Ph.D. student Kelvin Amon and Dr. Zhifeng Gao of the same department. This study uses specialty crop grower survey data to investigate growers’ willingness to pay for specific attributes of smartphone risk-prediction apps.



To read the paper, click [here](#).

## Students Take Speaker Stage

Two SWFREC weed science students gave talks at the 47th Annual Meeting of the Florida Weed Science Society earlier this month at the UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Wimauma.

Master’s student Nithin Batthula presented “Managing Nutsedge Pressure in Tomato Plasticulture: Evaluating Pre-emergence Herbicide Synergies Under Plastic Mulch” and postdoctoral associate Dr. Isabela Figueiredo de Oliveira presented “Residual Behavior of Pre-emergence Herbicides in Plastic-mulched Vegetable Beds.”



Pictured at the conference are SWFREC director Dr. Mike Burton, Batthula, Dr. de Oliveira, and weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery.

*Contact us...*



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