

Southwest Florida
Research and
Education Center

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Center Director's Corner

We are pleased to announce that a new citrus horticulturist has been hired at the SWFREC.

Dr. Gurreet Brar, currently the tree nut farm advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension system, has committed to begin his stint in Immokalee in November.

Dr. Brar also has ties to the University of Florida (UF), having earned his Ph.D. in horticultural sciences from UF in 2012. He received his master's and bachelor's degrees in horticulture from Punjab agricultural University in Punjab, India, in 2002 and 1999, respectively.

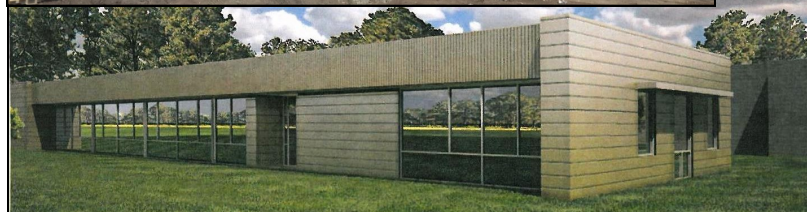
We look forward to welcoming Dr. Brar.

Our center's construction project, including the new wing to house additional faculty and staff (below) and an updated main entrance to the existing building (right), is on schedule for completion in early 2016. The accompanying photos detail progress to date, as well as renderings of the completed look (courtesy of project architect Ponikvar

& Associates Inc. in Gainesville).

Calvin Arnold

cearnold@ufl.edu



Seminars, Tours Attract Visitors

A number of seminars and tours drew growers, industry representatives, and other southwest Floridians to the SWFREC over the course of the spring and early summer. Among them:

Nearly fifty growers participated in the 31st Annual Florida Seed Association/UF-IFAS Seedsmen Seminar in June, and the SWFREC hosted the meeting for the first time.

Topics ranged from new pests and diseases to nematode management to regulations affecting the import and export of seed. In addition, SWFREC vegetable horticulturist Dr. Monica

the Teacher Workshop in July. The SWFREC was



one of seven host sites for the one-day training, designed to educate teachers about soil and provide them tips to aid in educating their students.

The workshop consisted of lectures, activity demonstrations, and field tours—all of which were

led by the team of SWFREC soil and water scientist Dr. Kelly Morgan and Libbie Johnson, an agriculture and natural resources agent with the UF/IFAS Escambia County Extension Service in Cantonment.

Nearly fifty citrus growers from Argentina visited the SWFREC in June as part of

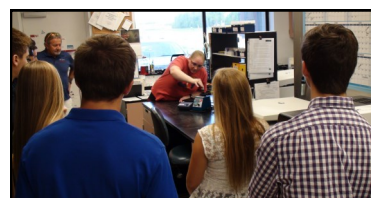
a multiple-day tour to learn about growing practices in south Florida as well as how growers in the state are dealing with the citrus greening disease.

SWFREC director Dr. Calvin Arnold welcomed the group and provided an overview of citrus in the area and citrus-related projects being conducted at the center. In addition, SWFREC entomologist Dr. Phil Stansly and Dr. Morgan made presentations to the group.

The tour was sponsored by Yara International.

Eleven members of the Youth Leadership Lee County group visited the SWFREC in June as part of its agriculture education day.

The students toured the HLB Lab and heard from manager Shea Teems, learned about reflective mulch and its impact on reducing Asian citrus psyllid populations in citrus from



Ph.D. student Scott Croxton, and discussed farm-worker issues with agricultural economist Dr. Fritz Roka.



Ozores-Hampton and plant pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts presented "Late Blight Resistant Tomato Varieties in Florida: Round, Roma, Campari, and Cherry Tomatoes."

A small group of teachers from southwest Florida participated in the International Year of Soil Teach

2015 Fall Training Sites & Dates

Belle Glade

UF/IFAS Everglades Research & Education Center
 3200 E. Palm Beach Rd. Belle Glade, FL 33430
 Ph: 561-993-1500

Date	Classes/Time	Classes/Time
Tues, 10/13	First Aid/ 8am-12pm	CPR/ 1pm-4pm
Tues, 10/20	HR Compliance/ 9am-11:30am	Management Communications/ 12:30pm-3pm
Tues, 10/27	Wage & Hour/ 9am-11:30am	Contractor Basics/ 12:30pm-3pm
Tues, 11/3	Rules for Bus & Van Drivers/ 9am-11:30am	Safe Driving/ 12:30pm-3pm
Thurs, 11/5	Agriculture Equipment Safety/ 9am-11:30am	Pesticide Safety/ 12:30pm-3pm

Immokalee

UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research & Education Center
 2685 SR 29 N. Immokalee, FL 34142
 Ph: 239-658-3400

Date	Classes/Time	Classes/Time
Tues, 11/3	First Aid/ 8am-12pm	CPR/ 1pm-4pm
Tues, 11/10	Rules for Bus & Van Drivers/ 9am-11:30am	Safe Driving/ 12:30pm-3pm
Tues, 11/17	HR Compliance/ 9am-11:30am	Management Communications/ 12:30pm-3pm
Thurs, 11/19	Agriculture Equipment Safety/ 9am-11:30am	Pesticide Safety/ 12:30pm-3pm
Tues, 11/24	Wage & Hour/ 9am-11:30am	Contractor Basics/ 12:30pm-3pm

Lake Alfred

UF/IFAS Citrus Research & Education Center
 700 Experiment Station Rd. Lake Alfred, FL 33850
 Ph: 863-956-1151

Date	Classes/Time	Classes/Time
Wed, 10/7	HR Compliance/ 9am-11:30am	Management Communications/ 12:30pm-3pm
Wed, 10/14	Rules for Bus & Van Drivers/ 9am-11:30am	Safe Driving/ 12:30pm-3pm
Wed, 10/21	First Aid/ 8am-12pm	CPR/ 1pm-4pm
Wed, 10/28	Wage & Hour/ 9am-11:30am	Contractor Basics/ 12:30pm-3pm
Tues, 11/24	Agriculture Equipment Safety/ 9am-11:30am	Pesticide Safety/ 12:30pm-3pm

Sebring

UF/IFAS Highlands County Extension Office
 4509 George Blvd. Sebring, FL 33875
 Ph: 863-402-6540

Date	Classes/Time	Classes/Time
Thurs, 10/8	HR Compliance/ 9am-11:30am	Management Communications/ 12:30pm-3pm
Thurs, 10/15	Wage & Hour/ 9am-11:30am	Contractor Basics/ 12:30pm-3pm
Thurs, 10/22	Rules for Bus & Van Drivers/ 9am-11:30am	Safe Driving/ 12:30pm-3pm
Thurs, 10/29	First Aid/ 8am-12pm	CPR/ 1pm-4pm
Thurs, 11/12	Agriculture Equipment Safety/ 9am-11:30am	Pesticide Safety/ 12:30pm-3pm

Who should take these classes?

Labor Contractors, Crew Leaders, Bus & Van Drivers and Farm Office Staff

Language: English or Spanish

Minimum Class Size: 10 participants

Fee: \$50 per person per class

To register visit: <http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/programs/economics/fls.php>

Questions about FLS Classes:

Carlene Thissen
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 Ph: 239-658-3463

Email: pgarza08@ufl.edu

Fritz Roka
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Latest SWFREC Research

Interest Growing for Planting Citrus on UV Reflective Mulch

Dr. Phil Stansly, Entomologist, and Scott Croxton, Ph.D. graduate

Few commercial growers of fruiting vegetables in Florida would consider planting on beds not covered with a polyethylene film mulch to warm the soil; hold in fertilizer, fumigants, and chemicals, and control weeds.

An added benefit is gained if the mulch has been met-

We have found that metalized plastic mulch has the same effect on the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), which spreads citrus greening

rus on plastic covered beds requires drip irrigation and the ability to inject fertilizer and chemicals. These turn out to be advantages as



Above: UV reflective mulch is laid at the A. Duda grove in LaBelle, FL. Below: Field day participants learn about the reflective mulch research, then get up-close views of the citrus trees.



disease, also known as Huanglongbing (HLB). However, planting cit-

rus on plastic covered beds requires drip irrigation and the ability to inject fertilizer and chemicals. These turn out to be advantages as

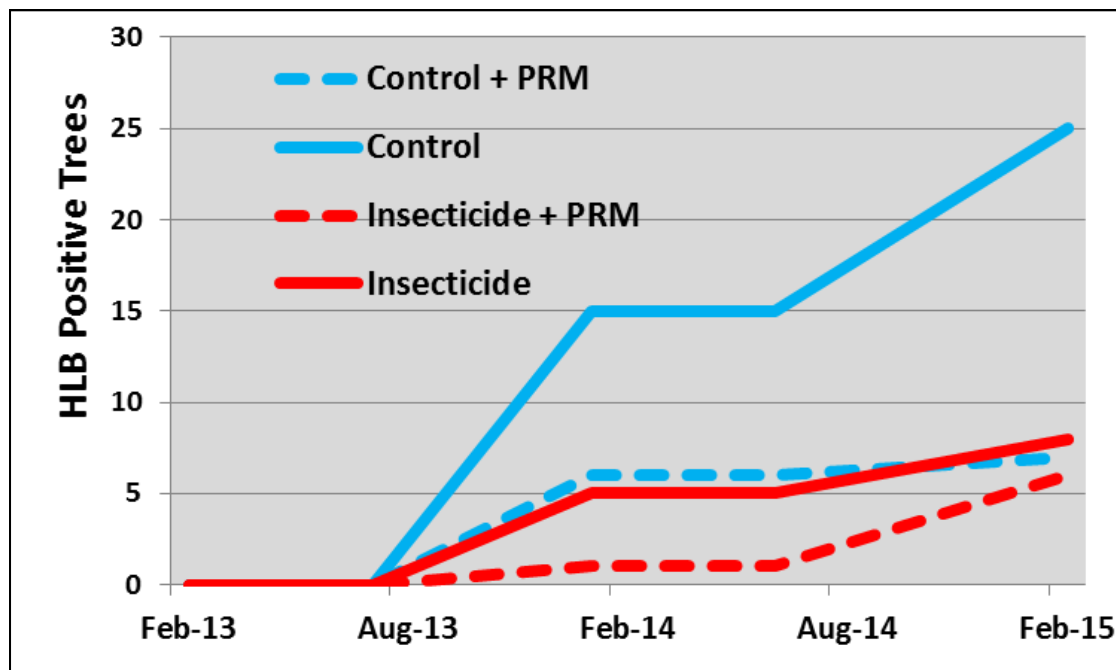
alized with a microscopically thin layer of aluminum, which turns it into a mirror that protects the crop by disrupting the flight of pests such as whiteflies, thrips, and aphids.



lizer, systemic insecticides, and herbicides. A special mulch thicker than that used in vege-

ten acres of citrus grove, half of which was planted on beds covered with polyethylene reflec-

tree health and growth, with best results from trees receiving both kinds of protection.



tables and with a protective clear coat on top was developed by the Imaflex company for this purpose. This mulch can last up to 3 years.

At a field day at the A. Duda grove in Labelle this past June, growers were able to see the results of a three-year trial on

tive mulch (PRM). Half the field was also treated with systemic insecticides in a design that provided four treatments: mulch alone, insecticide alone, mulch plus insecticide, and untreated. Mulch and insecticides both controlled ACP and reduced incidence of HLB, improving

Enthusiasm for the practice is growing and a 70-acre trial in a commercial grove is already underway.

For more information, contact Dr. Stansly at pstansly@ufl.edu.

Staff News

- ◆ Three SWFREC faculty members received promotions recently: soil and water scientist Dr. Kelly Morgan and water resources engineer Dr. Sanjay Shukla both were promoted to full professor, while vegetable horticulturist Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton was promoted to associate professor.



Morgan



Shukla



Ozores-Hampton

- ◆ Dr. Shukla has been awarded one of two Art Hornsby Distinguished Extension Professional and Enhancement Awards from UF/IFAS. He will receive a one-time \$3,000 salary supplement, \$2,000 for extension program support, and a commemorative certificate.
- ◆ Ph.D. student Scott Croxton graduated in May with his doctorate



in entomology. Scott's graduate committee was led by SWFREC entomologist Dr. Phil Stansly (both are pictured).

- ◆ Dr. Morgan recently moderated a panel discussion titled "Grower Perspective on Treatment of Root Systems" at the Citrus Expo in North Fort Myers.
- ◆ Two SWFREC graduate students received honors at the 2015 meeting of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) in New Orleans, Louisiana: Nathan Holt, who received his master's degree in May, placed first in the ASABE Boyd-Scott Graduate Research Awards competition. His written and oral research topic was titled "Transforming Plastics Systems through Futuristic Bed Geometry Design: The Next Frontier of Environmental and Economic Sustainability." Master's student Max Wallace received the Roger R. and Laura M.

Yoerger Preprofessional Engineer of the Year



Award in recognition of his outstanding scholastic achievements, leadership skills, and involvement in engineering projects, the community, and the ASABE. Dr. Shukla serves as committee chair for both students.

- ◆ Four SWFREC staff members manned the center's booth at the recent Citrus Expo in North Fort Myers: Barbara Hyman, Primo Garza, Carlene Thissen, and Janice Hill.



Spotlight On . . . FL Tomato Institute

The 2015 Florida Tomato Institute Program is set for Wednesday, September 9, at the Ritz Carlton Beach Resort in Naples.

The program is directed by SWFREC vegetable horticulturist Dr. Monica

Ozores-Hampton and Crystal Snodgrass, a vegetable agent with the Manatee County Extension Service in Palmetto.

The Tomato Institute agenda is as follows:

Morning Moderator:
Dr. Ozores-Hampton

9am: Welcome, Dr. Calvin Arnold, SWFREC director

9:10am: State of the Industry, Reggie Brown, Florida Tomato Committee, Maitland

9:20am: Recent Progress in TYLCV Resistance Breeding and Implications for Tomato Varieties of the Future, Dr. Samuel Hutton, UF/IFAS, GREC, Wimauma

9:40am: Controlled-release Fertilizer as a BMP for Tomato Production, Dr. Ozores-Hampton

10am: Production and Environmental Aspects of Compact Bed Geometry Design, Dr. Sanjay Shukla, SWFREC water resources engineer

10:20am: Supplemental Fumigation Strategies for the Management of Soilborne Diseases in Tomato Production, Dr. Gary Vallad, UF/IFAS, GREC, Wimauma

10:40am: New Insights Regarding

the Spatial Distribution of Nematodes and Soil Applied Fumigants and the Needs for New Strategies Considering Vertical Management Zones for Nematode Control, Dr. Joe Noling, UF/IFAS, CREC, Lake Alfred

11am: Risk Management and Fumigation Choice in Tomato Production, Dr. John Vansickle, UF/IFAS, Gainesville

11:20am: Evaluation of the Usefulness of a Late Blight Decision Support System in Florida Tomato, Dr. Pamela Roberts, SWFREC plant pathologist

11:30am: Lunch (on your own)
Afternoon Moderator: Crystal Snodgrass

1pm: H-2A Workers in Florida Vegetable Operations, Dr. Fritz Roka, SWFREC agricultural economist

1:20pm: Western Flower Thrips and Tospoviruses Emerging as Serious Threats to Tomato in Central and Southern Florida, Dr. Joseph Funderburk, UF/IFAS, NFREC, Quincy, and Dr. Scott Adkins, USDA-ARS, Fort Pierce

1:40pm: Evaluation of Tomato Varieties and Insecticides for Management of *Tomato chlorotic spot virus* (TCSV) and Thrips Species Recorded in Virus-infected Tomato Fields, Shouan Zhang and Dakshina Seal, UF/IFAS, TREC, Homestead

2pm: Managing Pests and Insecticide Resistance in Florida Tomato, Dr. Hugh Smith, UF/IFAS, GREC, Wimauma

2:20pm: Incidence of Grafting and Actigard for Bacterial Wilt Management, Dr. Mathews Paret, UF/IFAS, NFREC, Quincy

2:40pm: Eliminating Transplant Shock by Hormonal Control to Improve Growth and Yield of Tomato, Dr. Shinsuke Agehara, UF/IFAS, GREC, Wimauma

3pm: Industry Updates, Qingren Wang, Miami-Dade County Extension Service, Homestead.



Coming Events

August 27: *Phytophthora, Nematodes, and Diaprepes.* 10am-1pm, SWFREC, Immokalee. For more info and agenda, click here and scroll down to "Upcoming Events": <http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>

September 7: *Labor Day Holiday.* SWFREC will be closed and will reopen Tuesday, September 8.

September 9: *Tomato Institute* (see page 7 for details).

September 22: *Organic Amendments in Citrus Groves.* 10am-1pm, SWFREC, Immokalee. Agenda will be available soon at <http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/> under

"Upcoming events."

October 14: *Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Training.* For CCAs only (not for test preparation).

November (various dates): *Farm Labor Supervisor Training Program* (see page 3 for a complete list of trainings at SWFREC and other locations).

November 6: *Homecoming Holiday.* In observance of UF Homecoming, SWFREC will be closed and will reopen on November 9.

November 11: *Veteran's Day Holiday.* SWFREC will be closed and will reopen on November 12.

November 26-27: *Thanksgiving Holiday.* SWFREC will be closed and will reopen on November 30.

December 3: *UF/IFAS Fall Vegetable Field Day.* 9am-1pm, SWFREC, Immokalee. Agenda and registration information coming soon at <http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>.



The Citrus Black Spot Technical Working Group met recently at the SWFREC. The team gathered to discuss monitoring plans, research needs, and project collaboration to target citrus black spot in south Florida. SWFREC plant pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts is among the group's leadership.