

RIVER RAMBLINGS



The newsletter of the
Indian River Citrus League
JUNE 2017

2016-2017 Season Wrap Up

Even though the industry faced challenges in the 2016-2017 season, there were some major accomplishments impacting our Indian River growing region that were achieved, and several of the successes impacted the citrus industry as a whole.

On December 14, 2016, the League Board of Directors elected Pat Schirard of Indian River Select, as President and David Howard of Graves Brothers, as Secretary/Treasurer. Pat has jumped right into the job moving to accelerate grapefruit research projects.

To continue to reduce the League's overhead and expenses, the League office was sold to Farm Credit on January 5, 2017. It was a tough decision, but in light of the state of the industry, it was a necessary move.

In an effort to accelerate the release of grapefruit varieties, the League reached out to Dr. Trevor Smith, Director of the Division of Plant Industry, for relief from the extensive time frame involved with this important issue. Trevor and his team responded quickly with a vastly improved system and time frame to reduce the time by half. With our industry needing trees in the ground showing some tolerance, this will help speed up the process.

To help with Florida Citrus Mutual's legislative effort to get state and federal help, the League met with key east coast legislators to help secure over 24 million dollars from this year's state budget.

The League's Production Committee has been actively pursuing the best possible plant material to plant at IFAS/IRREC research site. "Off type" or escape trees and bud sports are showing improved tolerance in the USDA green houses and need to be planted as soon as possible to see how they adapt to the natural environment of a grove. This is currently a work in progress and is a top priority.

See *WRAP UP* page 2

this
issue

P 1
Season
Wrap Up

P 4
Better
Grapefruit
Varieties

P 6
Citrus Health
Response

P 9
Upcoming
Events

P 11
Advertising
Opportunities

WRAP UP Continued from page 1

The League also helped to move USDA to pursue a Material Transfer Research Agreement (MTRA), which is a partnership between USDA and the grower. This will be a template to be utilized as a model that gives Dr. Duan freedom to operate and make arrangements with other growers and organizations for grapefruit research as quickly as possible. In this agreement, USDA will have no claim of ownership of the intellectual property and function only as the Agricultural Research Service. If USDA performs research, it requests that the materials be made available to colleagues, fellow growers or whatever sort of arrangements that are made.

The 2017 Florida Citrus Show marked another hugely successful gathering in Ft. Pierce in January. Over 900 were in attendance for the two-day education program and trade show at the Havert L. Fenn Center with standing-room-only during many of the sessions. Also, the trade show was packed and sold out with more than 100 exhibitors. It is becoming known as a “can’t miss” event for growers seeking the latest information on critical production issues.” The big attraction for the show was the educational programs focusing on solutions for HLB, including the latest in psyllid control, antimicrobials, and new disease resistant varieties. Other topics included new grapefruit varieties, economics of grapefruit production and an interactive grower and researcher real-time clicker survey. The Florida Citrus Show is hosted in partnership between the Florida Grower, UF/IFAS, USDA and the Indian River Citrus League. The 2018 Florida Citrus Show is slated for **January 24-25, 2018** in Ft. Pierce at the Havert L. Fenn Center. As always, kicking off the show was the Indian River Citrus League Banquet at The Club at Pointe West in Vero Beach. Next year’s banquet will be held on **January 23, 2018** at Pointe West.

On March 31, 2017 the second annual Indian River Citrus League River Fun Shoot was held at Quail Creek Plantation in Okeechobee. Each participant shot 100 clays from 14 different station locations. Besides a green bird 50/50 cash pot raffle there were also fantastic raffle prizes that were given out. Next year’s shoot date is set for **Friday, March 23, 2018** at Quail Creek Plantation. Please mark your calendars and if interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact the League office.

The League continues to work on other issues as well, such as coordinating the USDA TASC grants that provide key research funding on Citrus Black Spot. This research and other TASC grants keep our export markets open and free of non-tariff trade business. Also, Doug Bournique continues to serve on the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, the SJRWMD Governing Board, Indian River Lagoon Council, SFWMD Water Resources Advisory Council and the Advisory Committees for USDA Horticultural Lab and UF/IFAS/IRREC.



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The Road to Better Grapefruit Varieties

*By Brian Scully, Ph.D.
Laboratory Director
USDA/Agricultural Research Service*

Grapefruit Producers in the Indian River have endured the ravages of HLB, with devastating consequences. Recently, Dr. Ping Duan, in cooperation with a number of growers, has developed an interesting project based on the selection of genetic variation in seedling trees and bud sports. This project was initiated several years ago when Dr. Duan's lab began working on Duncan grapefruit and sour orange seedlings along with a number of seedling variants and bud sports that exhibited improved HLB tolerance. These lines were identified after multiple inoculation and evaluation. With this finding was further confirmed in a collaborative project with Daniel Scott at his grapefruit groves off Highway 68 in St. Lucie County. Together they discovered and identified mature seedling trees that had "volunteered" in the rows and exhibited a much healthier appearance than those in the rest of the grove, which are under severe HLB pressure. They collected cuttings from a number of these seedling trees, propagated them, and then challenged them with HLB using a technique known as graft inoculation. Subsequently, fruit from a number of these promising lines were evaluated for fruit and juice quality by Drs. Liz Baldwin and Anne Plotto at the USHRL. From these evaluations only a handful of lines were deemed acceptable, and are now being propagated for field evaluations.

As this cooperative project evolved other growers in the Indian River approached Dr. Duan with similar observations and requests for collaboration, but mostly with bud sport selections that appeared to have improved HLB tolerance. Presently, there are a dozen bud sport selections under greenhouse evaluation, and this research has received additional financial support from both CRDF and NIFA. This project has further benefited from the assistance of the ARS Office of Technology Transfer staff, who have helped us develop a generic legal document called an MTRA (Materials Transfer Research Agreement) for grapefruit growers. We now have four growers signed up to participate in this project and this document allows growers to submit their proprietary grapefruit lines to ARS for research with appropriate safeguards.

Because this project along with other plant breeding efforts by ARS and IFAS have shown promise, Indian River grapefruit growers have encouraged researchers to take the next step. Under the leadership of the Indian River Citrus League, ARS, IFAS, and CRDF hope to initiate a coordinated and collaborative grapefruit experiment hosted by the Indian River REC and managed by the REC's research faculty. Scientists and growers hope to meet shortly to determine the combinations of rootstocks and grapefruit scions that have a higher likelihood of exhibiting tolerance to HLB. As many members of the IRCL have communicated to researchers and each other: "We only need one good combination".



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Citrus Health Response Program Update

By Callie Walker, FCCM, Bureau Chief
Pest Eradication and Control
Citrus Health Response Program
Division of Plant Industry

Citrus Health Response Program (“CHRP”) offices are preparing for the next citrus harvesting season and our offices have already begun to perform preharvest surveys upon request for those who anticipate needing harvest permits for potential fruit shipments to the European Union in 2017/2018. We continue to work with the USDA to determine how the changes recommended by the WTO ruling concerning citrus canker will be carried out. We will be reaching out to industry when we know the requirements and how those affected will show compliance with the new ruling.

The Florida Abandoned Grove Removal (“FLAGR”) project begun at the end of February 2017 is nearing completion although the extended drought through the end of May slowed the completion of site removals due to the statewide burn ban. When it is completed, over 18,000 acres of abandoned grove will have been removed statewide. Combined with the 6,600 acres removed under two previous projects in 2015 and 2016 will total almost 25,000 acres of abandoned grove property removed. In the Indian River area, we will have removed 11,455 acres under the current abandoned grove removal project in St. Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties.

One of the programs under the Citrus Health Response Program is the Abandoned Grove Initiative whose goals is to remove abandoned groves or groves that are no longer economically viable and that have the ability to harbor ACP and other diseases. In order to help growers with this the legislature passed in 2016 language that would extend the Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement for a full five years for those who remove citrus groves. Importantly, it also allows growers to replant citrus at any time during the five years and still maintain the diminutive value for the full period of time. During the last season, 2016/2017, we surveyed 111,129 acres for Citrus Black Spot including buffer and corridor surveys throughout the state. During the season, sixteen new sections were added to the existing quarantine. Twelve sections were added in Hendry County, and the remaining four were added in Collier County.

Lastly we would like to express our appreciation the cooperation of the growers, harvesters, processors and packinghouses throughout the shipping season.



Indian River Citrus League

2017



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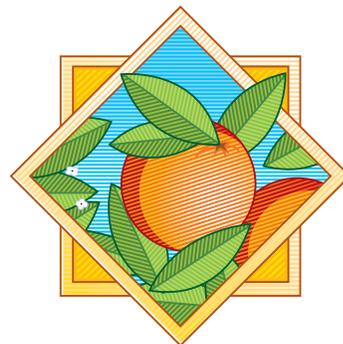
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Upcoming Events



January 23, 2018 - Indian River Citrus League Banquet

Sponsorship opportunities available.

January 24-25, 2018 – Florida Citrus Show

For exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Chad Gillyard at Florida Grower Magazine.

Cgillyward@meistermedia.com or 407/539-6552, ext. 17.

March 23, 2018 – Third annual River Fun Shoot

Sponsorship opportunities available

Newsletter Advertising

Publication schedule is September through June.

For more information on these opportunities, please contact the League office

772/595-5026 or info@ircitrusleague.org



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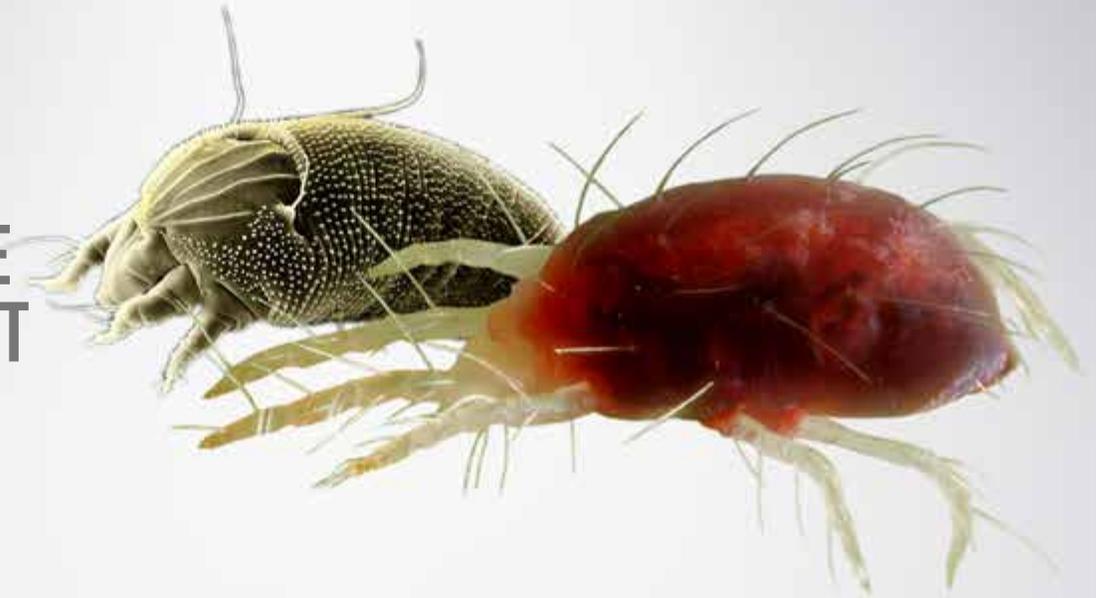
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Logos

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- Preferred format: vector eps

Color

- We print in 4-color CMYK process.
- All pantone colors must be converted to CMYK.
- Black type should be made with 100% black.

Resolution

- Resolution should be a minimum of 300 dpi at actual size.
- 72 dpi images pulled from websites are not acceptable.
- Line art should be scanned at a minimum of 600 dpi.

File Format

- PDF files and InDesign files are preferred (collected output to include layout, linked pictures, embedded pictures, color profiles, screen fonts and printer fonts).
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 - tif (Adobe Photoshop)
 - jpg (Adobe Photoshop)

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