

# RIVER RAMBLINGS



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- > CRDF Rootstock Trials
- > FDACS Shares Certification Costs
- > Operation Cleansweep
- > State Legislative Update
- > Plant Sap Workshop

APR  
2021

## FLORIDA CITRUS SHOW

*We Believe in Florida Citrus*

This year's Florida Citrus Show will be themed "We Believe in Florida Citrus" in keeping with Florida Grower's larger initiative by the same name. The show has been a longtime and successful partnership among the magazine and UF/IFAS, the Indian River Citrus League, and USDA to provide growers an opportunity to learn about the latest research and market intelligence.

The show will place a priority on safety and following COVID-19 protocols. The education space and trade show floor will be designed to allow for social distancing, and registration will be limited and focused on serving grower attendees first.

As always, the trade show will feature commercial suppliers of the products and services you need to grow a sustainable crop and to run a successful business.

The agenda, and other show details are available on CitrusShow.com <https://www.citrusshow.com>.

May 12-13, 2021  
Havert L. Fenn Center  
2000 Virginia Avenue, Ft. Pierce



*Photos courtesy of Florida Growers Magazine*



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# CRDF ROOTSTOCK TRIALS CALL FOR GROWER COOPERATORS

February, 2021



Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc.

The Citrus Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) is establishing a new project with the objective of evaluating the most promising citrus rootstocks in grower field trials, which are projected to be planted in the spring or summer of 2022. The goal of the new trials will be to identify plant material with the traits needed by growers to realize

the highest possible pounds solids per acre and increased tree viability in the HLB era.

The CRDF rootstock trials will be large-scale field trials assessing new rootstock varieties in the final phase of evaluation. Trials will be scientifically designed and set up for powerful data analysis to identify the best performing varieties. Sixteen rootstocks have been chosen for evaluation based on superior performance in small-plot field trials.

Of these 16 rootstocks, some will be plant material not previously available for commercial use and others will be known rootstocks which will be used as a standard for comparison. There will be 3 scions used: Valencia 1-14-19, Vernia UF 35-15, and Hamlin 1-4-1. These scions will be combined with the 16 rootstocks resulting in 48 rootstock/scion combinations. Each rootstock scion combination will be replicated 5 times for a total of 240 plots in the trial. Each plot will have 20 trees per rootstock/scion combination. The total complement of trees for each trial site is 4,800. At a planting density of 200 trees per acre, each site will require about 24 acres.

Below is a list of all the candidate rootstocks for this project:

USDA Candidate Rootstocks	IFAS Candidate Rootstocks	Testable Rootstocks	Standard Rootstocks
US 1282	UFR 5	US 812	X 639
US 1283	Orange 14	C 54	US 942
US 1281	Blue 1		Kuharski
US 1279			Swingle (sour on the east coast)
US 1284			
US 1516			
Super Sour 2			

A critical aspect of any research trial is the identification of growers willing to host a trial site. CRDF will require three trial sites for this project. The goal is to identify grower cooperators willing to host a trial in each of the three eco-regions of the Florida citrus industry (Ridge, East Coast, and Flatwoods).

Growers selected to host a trial would be provided trees at no cost and a supplement for tree planting and installation of tree wraps. CRDF personnel and subcontractors would require regular access to the field trial planting to conduct evaluations, plant tissue and soil sampling, tree canopy rating, and per plot yield evaluation once the trees reach bearing age. In addition, CRDF will plan and conduct an annual Field Day at a selected site to disseminate data. As well, the data will be shared on the citrusrdf.org web site.

Grower cooperators would be expected to uniformly apply production inputs to support the trees from establishment through to mature tree production. Production practices are expected to conform with UF-IFAS recommendations for irrigation, drainage, fertilization and pest control. No special treatments would be allowed in the trial which could possibly invalidate the rootstock trial data.

Growers interested in participating and hosting a trial site should submit a letter with their contact information, site location, soil type and acreage available by email to [catp@citrusrdf.org](mailto:catp@citrusrdf.org).

# FDACS OFFERS COST SHARE FOR PRODUCE SAFETY CERTIFICATION

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is offering a cost-share program for producers of specialty crops who obtain food safety certification.

If you obtained food safety certification for specialty crop products (fruits, vegetables, or tree nuts) through the USDA GAP/GHP, GlobalG.A.P., GFSI, or SQF programs, you could be eligible for reimbursement of 75% of certification costs, up to \$1,500 per producer.

To apply, [\*download the application form\*](#) and return it by email to [specialtycrop@fdacs.gov](mailto:specialtycrop@fdacs.gov). Our staff will contact you to obtain any necessary documentation and help you complete your application package. More information on requirements and eligibility can be found through our [\*industry assistance portal\*](#).

Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis until available funds are expended. The final deadline for applications is **September 1, 2021**.

Please contact us by email to [specialtycrop@fdacs.gov](mailto:specialtycrop@fdacs.gov), or by telephone at 850-617-7340 with any questions.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Florida Citrus Show

**May 12-13, 2021**

Havert L. Fenn Center

2000 Virginia Avenue, Ft. Pierce

The agenda, and other show details are available on CitrusShow.com <https://www.citrusshow.com/>

### Florida Citrus Hall of Fame Luncheon

**November 5, 2021**

Florida Southern College in Lakeland

Tickets to the luncheon are \$100 for Patron Seating or \$1,500 for a Sponsor Table, which includes preferred seating for 8, table signage and a listing in the program. The event will be followed by the Florida Citrus Processors' Association's OJ "Meet & Greet" with the inductees as they unveil their names on the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame Tree, located in the Sara D. and L. Kirk McKay Archives Center. To purchase tickets, please call Florida Citrus Mutual at (863) 682-1111 or visit the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame website at [www.FloridaCitrusHallofFame.com](http://www.FloridaCitrusHallofFame.com). For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Brenda Eubanks Burnette at (561) 351-4314 or via email at [Brenda@BurnetteandAssociates.com](mailto:Brenda@BurnetteandAssociates.com).



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- FL Dept of Ag and Consumer Service
- FL Golf Course Superintendents Assoc.
- FL Turf Grass Assoc.
- FL Fertilizer & Agrichemical Assoc.
- FL Pest Management Assoc.
- FL Tomato Committee
- FL Citrus Mutual
- FL Dept of Environmental Protection
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- UF Institute of Food & Ag Sciences
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# STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Matt Joyner, Director of Government Affairs  
Florida Citrus Mutual



In March, the House and Senate Full Appropriations Committees advanced their proposed budgets for 2021-22 paving the way for each chamber to pass their respective spending bills and move towards conference where they will be reconciled. Both budgets continue to include many of the industries priorities that were reported on in last week's Capitol Update. Notably though, the Senate budget was amended this week to substantially restore funding for New Varieties Development. Below is the breakdown of both budgets as advanced this week.

**Funding for critical basic research into citrus greening and applied research through large-scale grower field trials** House recommended funding is \$3 million dollars and Senate recommended funding is \$10.5 million dollars (FY20-21 \$8m)

**Funding for Florida Department of Citrus marketing programs** House recommended funding is \$3 million dollars and Senate recommended funding is \$12.5 million dollars (FDOC's \$5m recurring dollars remained intact in the Senate budget) (FY20-21 \$5m)

**Funding for New Varieties Development** Not funded in the House and Senate recommended funding is \$500k (FY20-21 \$650k)

**Funding for the Citrus Health Response Program** \$7.175m in both the House and Senate subcommittee budgets (FY20-21 \$7.4)

As differences in the House and Senate proposed budgets are worked out in conference, FCM will work closely with House and Senate negotiators to narrow the gap between the two chambers and ensure the final budget supports the important programs the industry continues to rely on to remain a vibrant and vital part of Florida's economy.

While the industry is currently positioned to achieve many of its goals this session it is critical to remember that the State budget is being written in a time of unprecedented uncertainty and challenges given the pandemic and the final outcome will no doubt reflect that.

There are several more stops before budget and policy bills are finalized and sent to the Governor and Mutual will remain diligent in representing the industry and conveying the value of the state's continued investment in the future of Florida's signature industry.



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# Plant Sap Analysis Workshop in Citrus Production

## April 28, 2021 | 1-4 p.m., EST

Plant sap analysis is an additional tool to assess nutrient uptake along with leaf and soil analysis. This event has the objective to introduce Florida's citrus growers to sap analysis for monitoring plant nutrition. Information from researchers and commercial laboratories will be discussed with attendees in a series of online talks. We hope this workshop will provide new ideas to assist growers sampling and interpreting plant sap analysis in citrus groves.

### Registration

Please register at:

**<https://bit.ly/3qz8zC7>**

The meeting link will be sent via email once you register.

### For more information, contact

Dr. Rhuanito "Johnny" Ferrarezi  
706-201-4909 or [rferrarezi@ufl.edu](mailto:rferrarezi@ufl.edu)

### Agenda

30 minute presentations

#### **Dr. George Hochmuth**

Development of fresh petiole sap testing for Florida vegetables

#### **Dr. Michael Rutzke**

Plant Sap Analysis/Leaf extract analysis: A less expensive way to monitor the nutrient status of your crop

#### **Scott Wall**

Plant Sap – Using Nutrient Steering to Manage your Nutritional Uptake Balancing Act

#### **Nathan Harman**

Advancing Eco Agriculture's Approach to Sap Analysis

#### **Jeff Glass**

Using Sap Analysis to balance nutrition in Florida Citrus; it's all about nutritional inventory

#### **Certified Crop Advisor (CCA)**

**CEUs** will be available.

# GETTING INVOLVED.

## MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Our Associate Membership provides opportunities to network with existing customers and potential customers by providing opportunities to sponsor events scheduled throughout the year.

Their partnership with our organization is important to us.

If interested in joining our organization, please contact the League office for further details. 772-595-5026 or [info@ircitrusleague.org](mailto:info@ircitrusleague.org)



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