

RIVER RAMBLINGS



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JUNE
2023

IT'S A WRAP! 2022-2023 SEASON UPDATE

In this issue are some highlights and updates from this past season. Our next issue will be in September, kicking off our 2023/2024 publication schedule.

TREASURE COAST GROWN FUN SHOOT

The Treasure Coast Grown Fun Shoot, presented by the Indian River Citrus League was held on January 28 at Vero Beach Clay Shooting Sports in Vero Beach. The event went off seamless with nearly 90 shooters enjoying a beautiful morning on the course.

The League, in partnership with **Hale Groves** hosted the one-day event promoting agriculture grown here in the Treasure Coast Region and is grateful to Hale Groves for their commitment to the citrus industry here in the growing district and their continued belief in the importance of the League's role in the ag sector of this region.

Next year's event is set for **January 27, 2024** at Vero Beach Clay Shooting Sports, and will enjoy the newly constructed clubhouse. The clubhouse, which will incorporate a citrus theme as a nod to our iconic industry, will feature their pro-shop and gunroom that will house a wide variety of name-brand shotguns, shooting accessories, and apparel for sale. We'll be able to enjoy the beautiful wrap-around outdoor porch and the large indoor space for gathering and hosting events and the exiting news is that Marsh Landing will have a restaurant onsite as well. Those are just a few of the new amenities you can look forward to!

We are already receiving sponsorship commitments for next year's shoot, so it's not too early to begin thinking about the 2024 event. Contact the League office for further details.

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MAC PROJECT - UPDATE ON GRAPEFRUIT/SCION FIELD TRIALS

By Mark A. Ritenour and Flavia Tabay Zambon, UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center.

Information about the large field trial, “*Evaluation of Potential HLB Tolerant Grapefruit Rootstock/ Scion Combinations in the Indian River District of Florida*” was reported in the September 2022 IRCL River Ramblings Newsletter. Since then, more data has been collected and exciting news about continued funding and personnel have been received.

To review, this project started as a collaborative effort between the University of Florida Indian River Research and Education Center, the Indian River Citrus League and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and was initially funded by the HLB – Multiagency coordination group (USDA-APHIS-HLB-MAC). Between August 2020 and April 2022, 42 experimental blocks were planted, each with seven grapefruit scion and six rootstock combinations (Table 1). Most of these blocks are managed by 16 participant growers. Funding ended last September, but fall measurements were completed.

Table 1. List of chosen scion and rootstock varieties for the grapefruit trial project

Scions:	Rootstocks:
'UF N40-11-7' Red Grapefruit (DPI-435-0102)	X-639 (Cleo x Rubidoux TF)
'UF N40-11-11' Grapefruit (DPI-435-0003)	US-802 (Pummelo x TF)
'UF KW-1-50' Red Pummelo	US-942
'Star Ruby'	UFR-4 (4x Nova+HBP x Cleo + TF)
'Flame'	UFR-5 (4x Nova+HBP x Cleo + TF)
'Jackson'	SuperSour #1 (US-1691 – USDA-ARS Ft. Pierce variety)
'Rio'	

Most of the blocks were affected by Hurricane Ian – either by dropping their first season’s fruit or by damaged canopies. Most trees have not begun bearing fruit and so data collected focused on canopy volume and trunk diameter. As expected, there were statistical interactions between scion and rootstock. Thus, we will illustrate results to-date by focusing separately on differences among scions and then among rootstocks.

Results from 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23 growth shows US-802 and US-942 as the best rootstocks for developing fuller canopy volume (Fig. 1), as the scion hybrids ‘N40-16-11-11’ and ‘N40-16-11-7’ from the UF breeding program had more vigor and canopy volume (Fig. 2). Star Ruby did not perform as hoped, mainly due to a genetic mutation, documented for this clone over 30 years ago, which displays “winter-bleach”-like symptoms during the Summer of 2022. Several growers reported the same symptom and there is not much that can be done to prevent the problem.

Figure 1. Canopy volume of all scion/rootstock combinations, showing statistical differences between scions within each rootstock. Bars represent the overall mean of all blocks measured during spring 2022. Error bars represent standard error.



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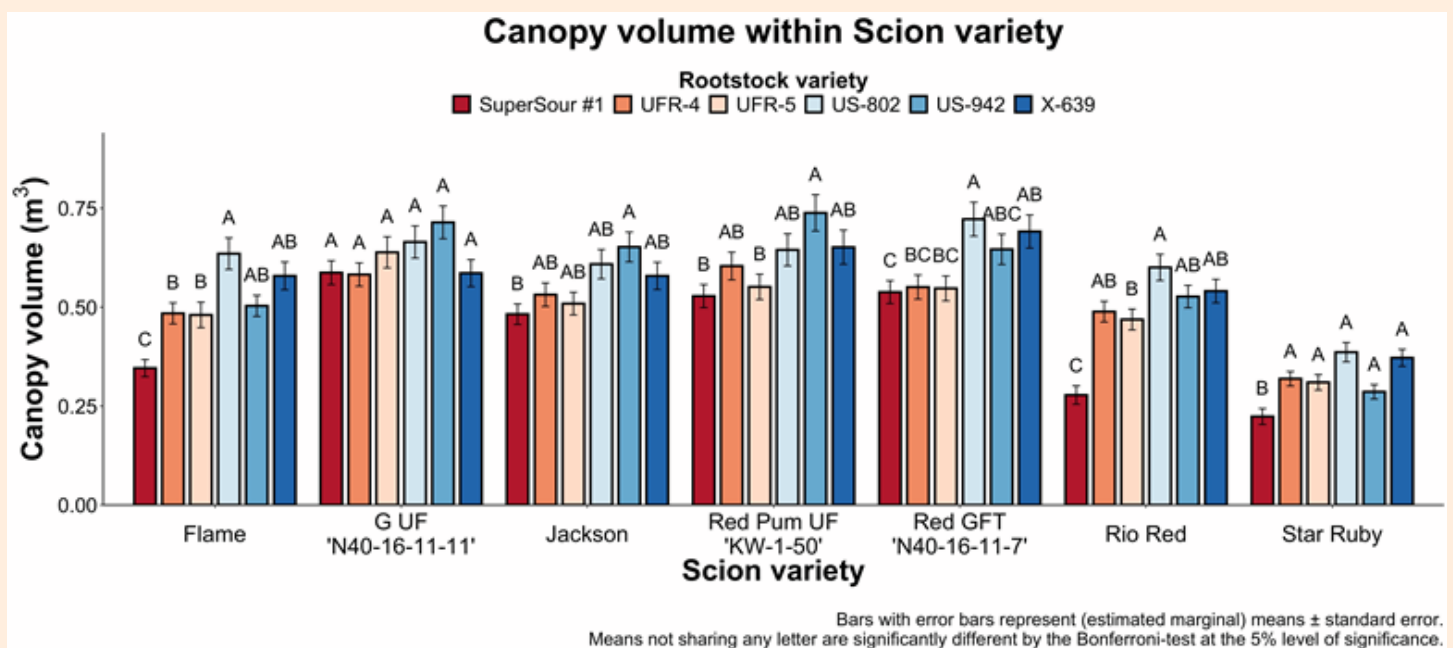
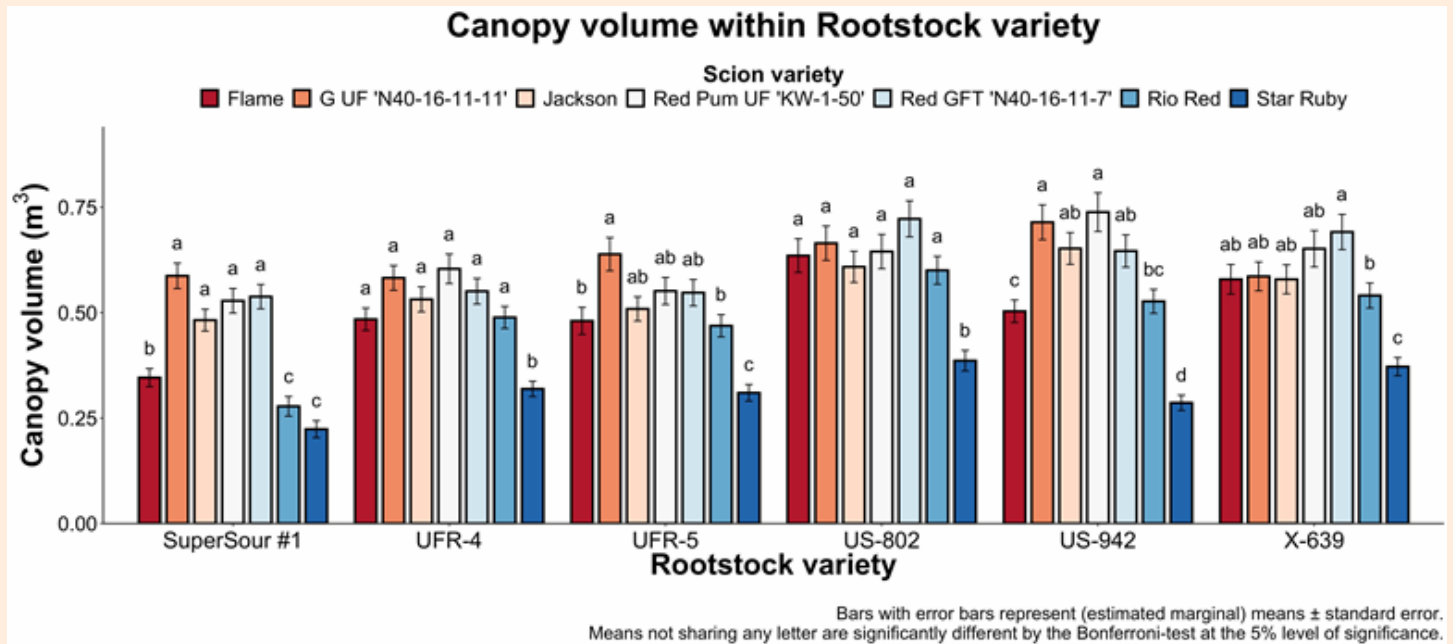
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Figure 2. Canopy volume of all scion/rootstock combinations, showing statistical differences between rootstocks within each scion. Bars represent the overall mean of all blocks measured during spring 2022. Error bars represent standard error.



Scion stem diameter three-year averages are more consistent in terms of scion/rootstock combination. Due to the genetic mutation in 'Star Ruby', its development was stunted regardless of the rootstock it was grafted onto (Figs. 3 and 4). 'Jackson' is known by its intense vigor and was one of the thickest scions, followed closely by the UF hybrids 'N40-16-11-11' and 'N40-16-11-7' (Fig.4). 'Super Sour #1' rootstock was very slow growing during the tissue culture phase and at the nursery greenhouse and was not available for plantings with 'Flame', 'Star Ruby', and 'Rio Red' scions in 10 of the 42 blocks.

MAC, con't from page 5

Figure 3. Stem (trunk) diameter of all scion/rootstock combinations, showing statistical differences between scions within each rootstock. Bars represent the overall mean of all blocks measured during fall 2022. Error bars represent standard error.

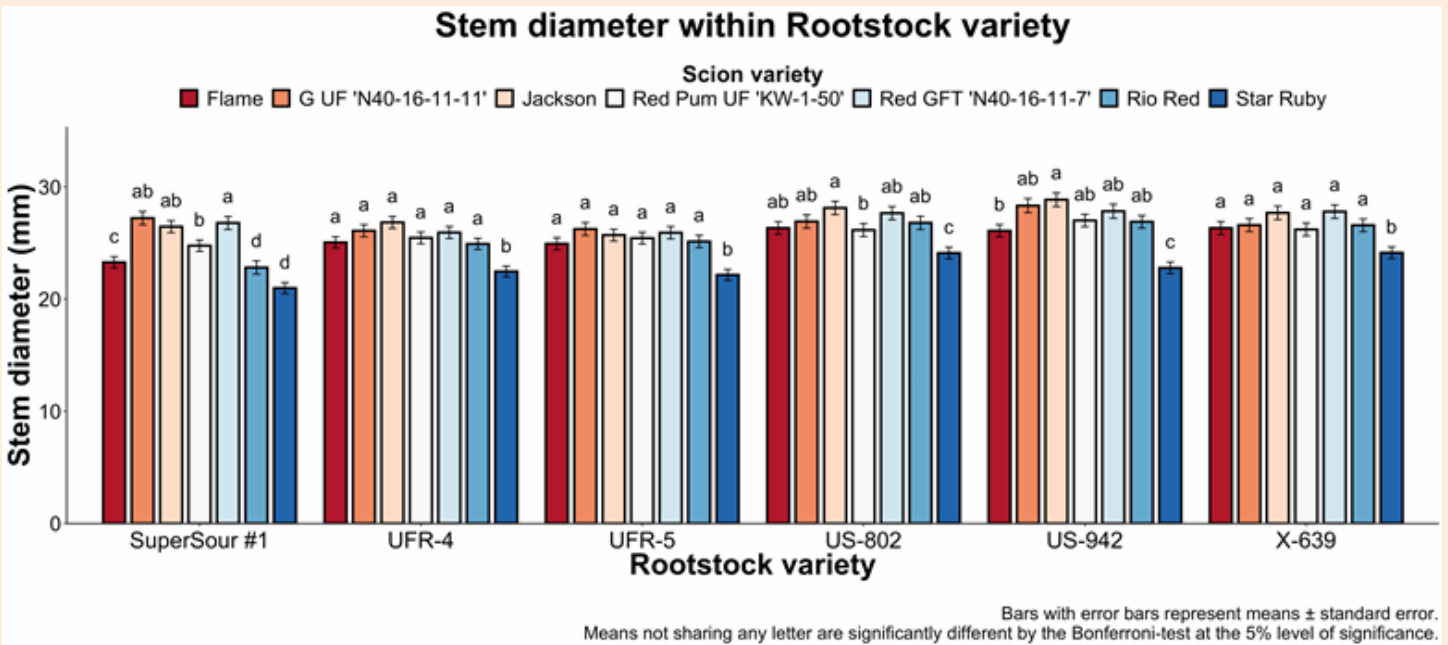
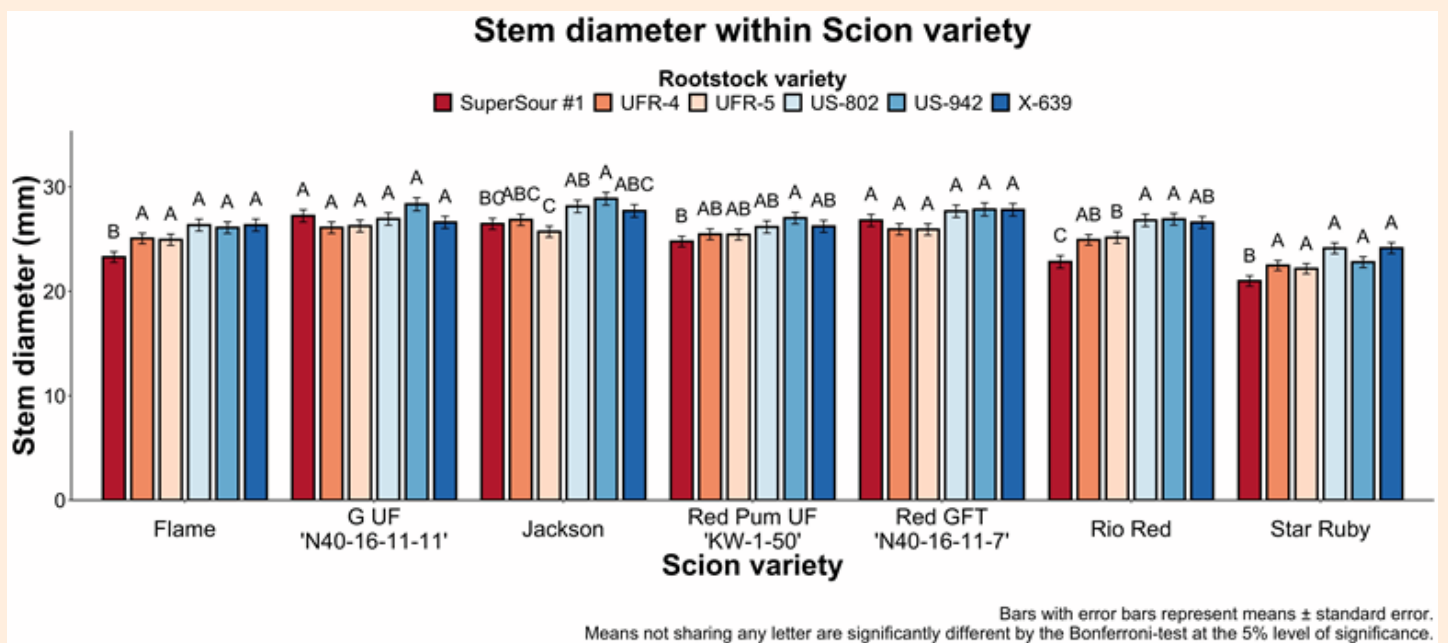


Figure 4. Stem (trunk) diameter of all scion/rootstock combinations, showing statistical differences between rootstocks within each scion. Bars represent the overall mean of all blocks measured during fall 2022. Error bars represent standard error.



MAC, con't from page 6

Regarding continued funding for the project, we are extremely pleased that the Citrus Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) began funding this month for two years of continued data collection on these trees. This research is especially critical as the trees enter their fruit-bearing years. To reduce workload and resources lost for poor performing selections, we will eliminate “losers” when they become apparent. Based on the results to date, we will discontinue measurement on ‘Star Ruby’ as that variety has performed poorly. In addition, we have had one grower leave the program, but still have 41 blocks remaining which still represents a very robust design. Moving forward, this summer we will rate the remaining trees in the study for foliar HLB symptoms, canopy thickness, and canopy color. On trees that are bearing fruit this fall, we will estimate yield, fruit drop, and collect samples to measure fruit quality.

We also welcome Dr. Flavia Tabay Zambon back, not as simply overseeing the continuation of this project, but as the new Production Horticulturist of citrus and other tree crops (Assistant professor) at the Indian River Research and Education Center. Dr. Zambon will build an entire research and extension program, relying heavily on partnership with commercial growers, to benefit Florida’s fresh citrus growers.



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“GREASY GREEN” PROJECT UPDATE

Megan M. Dewdney, Mark A. Ritenour, Liliana M. Cano, Eva L. Mulandesa, and Monty M. Myers

“Greasy-green” is a term applied to fruit that develop what appears to be greasy spot rind blotch symptoms [*Zasmidium citri-griseum* (previously named *Mycosphaerella citri*)] but the symptoms often start appearing in November and where there are few to no greasy spot symptoms on the leaves on the same trees. With the support of the Indian River Citrus League and industry cooperators, a project funded by the Citrus Research and Development Foundation began April 2022 to understand what might be causing this disorder and develop ways to mitigate the disorder.

Since our last update in September, we have conducted field trials to determine whether the flush cycle and infection period for *Zasmidium citri-griseum* have changed due to the influence of HLB on citrus physiology and other factors such as the changing environment. For this work, a site located in Fort Pierce was selected based on feedback from growers and two blocks with different grapefruit varieties were selected for monitoring. Within each block, two groups of twenty mature grapefruit trees with similar canopy health status were selected and 10 flushes per tree were tagged. The same blocks will be used for our second year of the field trial. Preliminary results of flush stage and fruit diameter per site (east and west) were assessed every two weeks using a shoot maturity index and caliper, respectively. In the summer flush cycle, there was a significant difference in the flush stage over time. Fruit size significantly increased over time starting in May (fruit size started above 3cm) as was expected. In the white grapefruit variety, fruit were slightly larger on the west side compared to the east side.

A total of 1200 leaf discs obtained from leaves collected in both blocks from June to July were evaluated and suggested that the epiphytic growth on **leaves** started in June on both varieties, as reported in previous studies. When the trees were sampled, there were very few symptomatic leaves present in the grove, however greasy green symptoms were present on the fruit. For the epiphytic growth on **fruit**, 210 slides were assessed, and the results suggest that epiphytic growth started in September on both white and red grapefruit, which was unexpected. When the information is fully collected and analyzed, it will be matched with the plant growth data to see if there are specific fruit growth stages being affected. The data suggests the organism responsible for greasy spot is involved with greasy-green symptoms on fruit even though greasy spot is not observed on the leaves. It appears that the organism can reproduce in the leaf litter despite the suppression of lesions by chemical control. This has not been observed before and work will need to be done to confirm this conclusion.

In addition to the work funded by CRDF, a pesticide trial, partially supported by the chemical industry was conducted in 2022 and the data were collected in 2023. Multiple commercial pesticides were tested for efficacy against greasy-green/rind blotch. All the products rates were based on a 125 gal/acre volume and were applied with a handgun to the canopies. For disease suppression and greatest percent marketable fruit, Double Nickel LC, Cohere, and Kocide 3000-O (1qt/acre + 0.125% v/v + 1.5 lb/acre) and Enable alternated with Kocide 3000-O (8 fl oz/acre or 1 lb/acre) had significantly greater performance ($P < 0.05$). Other promising products included Miravis Top (15.0 fl oz), other Double Nickel LC and Kocide 3000-O treatments, Oxidate with Cohere (1% v/v + 0.125% v/v), and three applications of G304 and K22 (30.4 fl oz/acre + 0.238% v/v). This is only one year of data and it is important to repeat trials to confirm the results for the promising products. All products should be used in a rotation to slow the development of fungicide resistance.

Table 1. Rind blotch rating in white grapefruit from the Indian River region near Fort Pierce.^a

^aDisease was rated on a severity scale 0 = no lesions; 1 = 1 to 4% surface area with lesions; 2 = 5 to 10% surface area with lesions; 3 = 11 to 20% surface area with lesions; 4 = 21 to 50% surface area with lesions; and 5 = > 50 surface area with lesions.

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Fully EPA registered for control of HLB Citrus Greening and backed by field research, it is proven to help reduce fruit drop, increase yield and improve disease control.

Apply KPHITE Rx "On the Ground" for Root Growth, Root Health and Phytophthora Disease Control

1-2 GPA for March, June and September applications.

Applications can be made with any standard irrigation system or with a boom application.

Phytophthora Citrus Soil Assay

Three year grove report shows excellent disease control and strong root mass.

Grove sample	Propagules/cm3 soil		Root Mass (g)
	Total <i>P. nicotianae</i>	Total <i>P. palmivora</i>	
Replication 1	0	0	0.32
Replication 2	0	0	0.57
Replication 3	0	0	0.36
Replication 4	1	0	0.97

The treatment schedule was 3 applications per year at 2 gal/acre for 3 years.

GREASY GREEN, con't from page 8

^bMeans followed by the same letter are not significantly different at an $\alpha=0.05$. The least significant difference is 0.184.

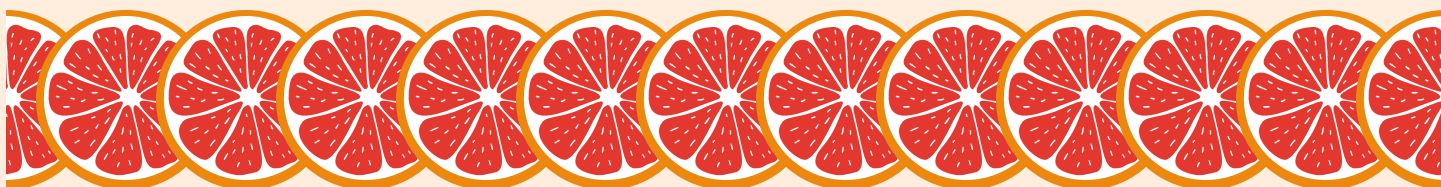
Treatment per acre	Rating
Untreated Control	2.81a
435 oil (4% v/v)	2.2b
Oxidate and 435 oil (1% v/v + 3% v/v)	2.12bc
G304 + K122 (surfactant) once (30.4 fl oz + 0.238% v/v)	2.06bc
G304 + K122 (surfactant) twice (30.4 fl oz + 0.238% v/v)	2.05bc
Oxidate and Kocide 3000-O (2 apps. at 0.5% v/v + 1.5 lbs, then 2 apps. 0.5% v/v + 0.75 lbs)	1.97cd
G304 + K122 (surfactant) 3 X (30.4 fl oz + 0.238% v/v)	1.86de
Oxidate and Cohere (1% v/v + 0.125% v/v)	1.85de
Double Nickel LC and Cohere (1qt + 0.125% v/v)	1.78ef
Kocide 3000-O (2 apps. at 3 lbs, then 2 apps. at 1 lbs)	1.69ef
Miravis Top (15.0 fl oz)	1.65f
Double Nickel LC and Cohere or Kocide 3000-O (1qt + 0.125% v/v or 1.5 lb)	1.62f
Enable alternated with Kocide 3000-O (8 fl oz or 1 lb)	1.37g
Double Nickel LC, Cohere, and Kocide 3000-O (1qt + 0.125% v/v + 1.5 lb)	1.25g

^cThe treatment dates were June 7, June 28, July 19, and August 9, 2022

Table 2. The percent marketable white grapefruit in a Rind blotch trial from the Indian River region near Fort Pierce, Florida.^a

Treatment per acre	Marketable fruit (%)
Double Nickel LC, Cohere, and Kocide 3000-O (1qt + 0.125% v/v + 1.5 lb)	60.1 a
Enable alternated with Kocide 3000-O (8 fl oz or 1 lb)	54.1 ab
Miravis Top (15.0 fl oz)	46.0 abc
Double Nickel LC and Cohere or Kocide 3000-O (1qt + 0.125% v/v or 1.5 lb)	43.6 abc
Double Nickel LC and Cohere (1qt + 0.125% v/v)	43.6 abc
Kocide 3000-O (2 apps. at 3 lbs, then 2 apps. at 1 lbs)	42.6 abc
Oxidate and Cohere (1% v/v + 0.125% v/v)	40.0 abcd
G304 + K122 (surfactant) twice (30.4 fl oz + 0.238% v/v)	36.6 bcd
Oxidate and 435 oil (1% v/v + 3% v/v)	36.6 bcd
G304 + K122 (surfactant) 3 X (30.4 fl oz + 0.238% v/v)	36.1 bcd
Oxidate and Kocide 3000-O (2 apps. at 0.5% v/v + 1.5 lbs, then 2 apps. 0.5% v/v + 0.75 lbs)	34.1 cd
G304 + K122 (surfactant) once (30.4 fl oz + 0.238% v/v)	31.4 cd
435 oil (4% v/v)	26.2 d
Untreated Control	14.9 e

See **GREASY GREEN**, page 11



GREASY GREEN, con't from page 10

^aThe proportion of fruit rated 0 = no lesions; 1 = 1 to 4% surface area with lesions.

^bMeans followed by the same letter are not significantly different at an $\alpha=0.05$. The least significant difference is 0.4359

^cThe treatment dates were June 7, June 28, July 19, and August 9, 2022.

We have also evaluated red and white grapefruit from greasy-green affected blocks in January after initial degreening (4 ppm ethylene) treatment in December. For each, the treatments included:

- 2 days degreening at 83F
- cold treated at 38F for 24 hrs. + degreen for 1 day at 83F
- cold treated at 38F for 24 hrs. + transfer to ambient conditions without ethylene
- control (held at ambient conditions without ethylene)

Degreening (with or without a cold treatment) significantly improved peel color after 5 days, however, even the best performing treatment was not acceptable (still negative a/b ratio).

In February, we again evaluated color development of greasy-green affected red and white grapefruit after different lengths of degreening. While degreening again improved color compared to the control, even after 20 days ambient storage, peel color was still not acceptable. Thus, reliable means of coloring greasy-green affected fruit after harvest is still elusive.

The success of this project depends on industry collaboration, so do not hesitate to contact team members, esp. Mark Ritenour (ritenour@ufl.edu), with observations you may have related to this disorder.

FLORIDA CITRUS SHOW

The 2023 Florida Citrus Show, with its freshened-up format was an overwhelming success. Held on April 13, over 700 attendees enjoyed the new, open-air exhibitor area that provided a laid-back, hometown feel for the show. With the exhibitor tents and food set up in the parking lot between IRREC and USDA research buildings, created a festival-type atmosphere that gave a relaxed feeling as you strolled up and down the rows. The expanded lunch break between the educational sessions provided more time for vendors and attendees to engage and enjoy the delicious and unique food on hand.

Due to the overwhelming response from exhibitors and growers, the format will remain the same for the 2024 show. A survey from AgNet Media has gone out to the growers to inquire about the timing of the show with the goal of gathering their feedback on what works best for next year.

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LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP

STATE ISSUES

State Budget: The total appropriations request of \$65 million for the citrus industry was divided into the following:

- Citrus research: \$38 million
- Citrus budwood greenhouse: \$1 million
- Marketing: \$10 million
- Plant material propagation and budwood expansion: \$2 million
- Citrus recovery program: \$2 million
- New varieties research: \$1.65 million
- Citrus Inspection Trust Fund: \$4 million
- Citrus Health Response Program: \$6.4 million

E-Verify: An E-Verify bill was approved by Governor DeSantis on May 10. It requires any employer with more than 25 employees to use the electronic (E-Verify) system to validate if an employee is lawfully present in the United States. Twenty-five employees or fewer are required to use the I-9 forms.

FEDERAL ISSUES

Disaster Relief for Hurricanes – Block Grant Funding: Congress appropriated \$3.7 billion in aid for agricultural losses due to hurricanes and other natural disasters as part of the federal omnibus bill passed in December 2022.

Unfortunately, without the needed flexibility to allocate these funds, much needed relief will not reach Florida's citrus growers. The proposed Block Grant Assistance Act enables the creation of a program within USDA to support specialty crops, like citrus, damaged by natural disasters. This model proved effective in 2017 in supporting the recovery of citrus groves impacted by Hurricane Irma.

Goal is to replicate the Block Grant from 2017, which authority was granted to the Secretary of Agriculture and is hopeful to have this replicated so that the Secretary can approve the funding bill within the next few weeks.

Emergency Relief Program (ERP)/Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) – USDA-Farm Service Agency: Anticipates learning more in the next four or five weeks. These programs are part of the Farm Bill that will help in getting growers aid to cover losses to crops, trees, damage to farmlands due to natural disasters. (Hurricanes Ian and Nicole.) The ERP Phase Two deadline has been extended to July 14, 2023 from June 2, 2023.

Source: Florida Citrus Mutual

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 16-17

Citrus Expo @ FL State Fairgrounds - Tampa

September 6-8

49th Annual Agricultural Labor Relations Forum @
Wyndham Grand Orlando Resort Bonnet Creek

October 12 Initial 2023-2024 USDA
Citrus Crop Forecast and Florida Citrus
Mutual Grower Luncheon

January 27, 2024

Treasure Coast Grown Fun Shoot



SJRWMD GOVERNING BOARD/ TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

As a side note, Doug Bournique, EVP of the Indian River Citrus League continues to represent the agriculture segment for his district (Brevard and Indian River Counties) on the SJRWMD Governing Board. Along with those duties, he continues to serve on the Indian River Lagoon Council and is chairman of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, once again representing the agriculture portion for the region.



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Advertising Opportunities 2023-2024

With the 2022/2023 citrus season wrapped up, we wanted to share information on the 2023/2024 sponsorship opportunities for your budget planning purposes. Contact Karen at 772-595-5026 or karen@ircitrusleague.org for further details on the opportunities mentioned.

INDIAN RIVER CITRUS LEAGUE ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP - \$300

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\$150/month w/ a monthly commitment through June
- Full Page
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Treasure Coast Grown Fun Shoot – January 27, 2024 at Vero Beach Clay Shooting Sports

Thank you to our partners who have already committed – **Hale Groves, Florida Coast Equipment, Everglades Farm Equipment, Wedgworth's, MVB Engineering and Farm Credit.**

Title Sponsor	\$5,000
Grapefruit Station Sponsor	\$2,000
Orange Station Sponsor	\$1,500
Lunch Sponsor	\$1,500
Shot Gun Sponsor	\$1,500
Table Sponsor	\$1,000
Coffee Bar Sponsor	\$1,000
Cattle Sponsor	\$1,000
Cart Sponsor	\$1,000
Beverage Cart Sponsor	\$750
4-Person Shoot Team	\$800

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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

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