

RIVER RAMBLINGS



- > Bournique Reappointed
- > Grove First Project
- > HLB Tolerant Citrus
- > IRCL On-Line Store
- > New Rootstocks
- > IRCL Fun Shoot
- > 24-25 Sponsorship Opportunities

SEPT
2024

BOURNIQUE REAPPOINTED TO GOVERNING BOARD

Florida Governor, Ron DeSantis, recently reappointed Doug Bournique to a fifth, four-year term on the St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board, which is unprecedented in the history of the water management district.

Bournique stated, “It is an honor to continue to serve the ag community and I appreciate the Governor in allowing me to serve once again. There remains so much more to do in supporting water farming, the reconnection of the South Florida and St. Johns River Water Management Districts, along with supporting a vigorous agricultural, cost-share program for all ag producers, which also helps to ensure a healthier St. Johns River and Indian River Lagoon.”

SJRMWD Executive Director Mike Register stated, “I congratulate Doug Bournique on his reappointment by Governor DeSantis to the Governing Board of the St. Johns River Water Management District. Doug has been a longtime advocate for the protection of the Indian River Lagoon and the St. Johns River while also working to ensure Florida’s agricultural industry remains resilient.”

Serving under three Florida Governors, starting in 2008, Bournique became an advocate of dispersed storage (water farming), which has multiple projects in operation in South Florida and St. Johns River Water Management District. Per Bournique, the benefits of water farming are to increase water storage and reduce discharge to both the east and west coast of Florida, which reduces the impact on Florida’s estuaries and lagoons.

He is also committed to the reconnection of the South Florida and St. Johns Water Management Districts, which would allow water to flow north-south, rather than east into the Indian River Lagoon damaging grass beds and harming the marine life in the lagoon.

Doug currently serves as the Executive Vice President of the Indian River Citrus League, a growers-trade association founded in 1931, representing growers on the east coast of Florida in the Indian River growing district. He also serves on the Indian River Lagoon Council and the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council representing the agricultural community.

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GROVE FIRST PROJECT UPDATE

By Randall Niedz, Ph.D, Research Geneticist
Agricultural Research Service
USDA U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory

Grove-First is based on the idea that treatments for HLB are only identified by improving the horticultural health of trees in the field - improved canopy health, reduced fruit drop, larger fruit, more fruit, and better-tasting fruit. There are two sequential screening trials in Grove-First - Phase 1 and Phase 2. Phase 1 involves the treatment of three trees selected at random within a block, looking for molecules that produce visual effects that are equal to or greater than OTC. Phase 2 trials are conducted on molecules from Phase 1 that show large effects. Phase 2 is a grower validation trial designed to determine whether the effects observed in Phase 1 are noticeable to growers on a larger scale. Phase 2 treats three 20-tree rows within a block. Phase 2 testing is funded by the Citrus Research and Development Foundation.

88 molecules were entered into a Phase 1 trial at the USDA Picos Road farm site in 2023 using Valencia/US812. About 20 molecules showed positive effects and were moved forward to Phase 2 trials. There are seven Phase 2 trials currently underway. The 88 molecules injected in 2023 have been reinjected in 2024. 201 additional molecules entered a Phase 1 trial this year at a commercial Indian River grower's grove using Valencia/US-942. Additionally, in collaboration with a commercial grower, researchers have implemented a statistical framework, known as design-of-experiments, to test multicomponent mixture combinations of the best chemistries in the field for positive, synergistic effects on tree health. Strategy discussions with CRDF and FCM about how to advance the top combination treatments through regulatory approval are in progress.

Grove-First was responsible for the new OTC label that removed the third-year restriction; Citrus Industry article – [Citrus Industry Magazine-August 2024 \(mirabelsmagazinecentral.com\)](https://www.mirabelsmagazinecentral.com) (pg. 4). The USDA-ARS Grove-First team submitted 12 molecules to the CRDF and Florida Citrus Mutual (FCM) for FDACS review of state registration requirements. Multiple meetings and many discussions eventually led to a meeting with EPA regulators. At this meeting, the EPA described the third-year rule as a resistance management strategy and was based on the availability of OTC alternatives. When the restrictions were implemented, EPA regulators said they had not realized that OTC alternatives did not exist. FDACS removed the third-year restriction a few weeks later. Grove-First was developed and led by USDA-ARS researchers Drs. Michelle Heck and Randall Niedz.



THE USDA, ARS SCION BREEDING PROGRAM UPDATE ON HLB TOLERANT CITRUS

*By Matthew Mattia, Ph.D., Geneticist Plants
Agricultural Research Service
U.S.D.A. Horticultural Research Laboratory*

The 2024/2025 citrus season offers renewed optimism for Florida's citrus industry, particularly in the ongoing fight against Huanglongbing (HLB). Significant strides are being made in the development and evaluation of new citrus varieties, with many now nearing commercial release. These varieties, a result of years of dedicated research and collaboration, are not only promising in terms of fruit quality but also show improved resilience against HLB, a disease that has devastated citrus groves for over a decade.

Sweet Orange-Like Varieties and Mandarins Close to Release

One of the most exciting advancements this season is the near release of several sweet orange-like hybrids. These selections, including the standout FF-1-5-213, have undergone rigorous evaluation, showing superior juice quality with excellent brix levels (a key indicator of sweetness). Growers and processors alike have their eyes on these sweet orange-like hybrids, particularly given the challenges posed by HLB to traditional sweet orange varieties. However, there still remains a regulatory hurdle in using sweet orange like hybrids in amounts greater than 10% in Not From Concentrate Orange Juice.

Mandarins are also moving through the breeding pipeline, with several seedless varieties showing excellent fruit quality and resistance to HLB. The seedless Page and Nova mandarins, now undergoing propagation trials, have been noted for their easy-to-peel characteristics and appealing taste, marking them as strong contenders for both fresh fruit markets and processing.

Grapefruits: The Long Shots

While sweet oranges have taken center stage, re-selected grapefruits, considered a long shot, are also ready for trials. Selections like Florida Red, Henderson, and Red Blush are under evaluation as single trees. These grapefruit selections, although not fully resistant to HLB, offer hope that with the right cultivation techniques, grapefruits could make a comeback in commercial production. The Florida Red, Red Blush, and Henderson varieties, in particular, are being propagated for further trials, with potential to be more tolerant than commercially available options. In addition, there are several grapefruit-like hybrids that are continuing to be evaluated for commercial fit.

Industry Collaboration Driving Innovation

None of these advancements would be possible without the close collaboration between researchers, growers, and processors. Large-scale processing trials with partners like the Coca-Cola Company have also been essential, helping identify orange-like varieties that perform well for juice production. These collaborations have led to the creation of an elite list of citrus varieties with high brix levels and excellent flavor profiles, providing a much-needed boost to Florida's orange juice industry. Funding is crucial to the function of the USDA, ARS citrus breeding program and it is important to recognize the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, the Florida Department of Citrus, and New Varieties Development and Management Corporation for funding this work

See HLB, page 5

HLB, con't from 4

Looking Ahead: HLB Tolerance and Tree Health

The fight against HLB continues to be a central focus for citrus breeders. In addition to traditional breeding techniques, researchers are experimenting with treatments like oxytetracycline (OTC) injections to improve tree health and HLB tolerance. Early data suggests that different citrus varieties respond uniquely to OTC treatments, further informing breeding strategies that focus on improving tree tolerance.

The 2024/2025 season will also see the continuation of hybridization efforts, with thousands of new hybrids being evaluated for fruit quality and HLB resistance. These hybrids are the result of crossing materials from the oldest breeding collections, which have proven their ability to withstand Florida's challenging growing conditions. The goal is to identify not only new commercial varieties but also parental lines that can be used to breed the next generation of HLB-tolerant citrus.

The Future of Citrus in Florida

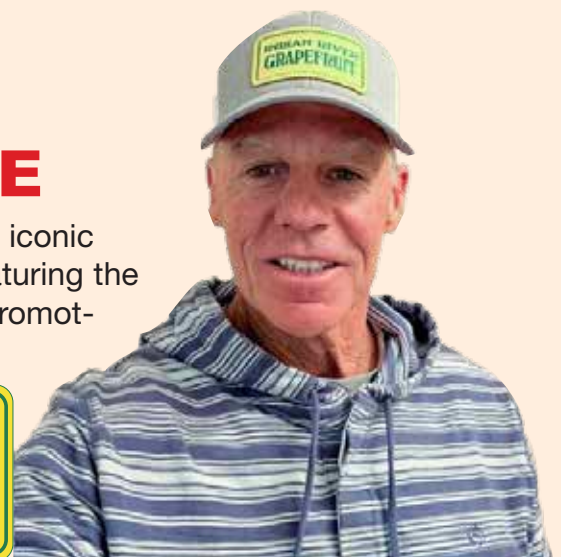
As the industry continues to adapt to the challenges posed by HLB, the 2024/2025 season brings renewed excitement for Florida's citrus groves. With promising new varieties of sweet oranges, mandarins, and even grapefruits moving through the breeding pipeline. While the battle against HLB is far from over, these new selections represent a major step forward in ensuring the future viability of the state's iconic citrus industry.



INDIAN RIVER CITRUS LEAGUE ON-LINE STORE

Come visit the League's on-line store where you will find the iconic Indian River Grapefruit tag. In addition, we have the cap featuring the Indian River Grapefruit tag patch along with other goodies promoting the world-famous Indian River citrus growing district.

Check out the store at www.irgrapefruitshop.com to order your merch!



The poster features a green background with various illustrations. At the top, there are sketches of a horse-drawn carriage, a team of horses, and a steam locomotive. On the left, there are oranges and green leaves. On the right, there are large red hibiscus flowers. In the center, the title 'PIONEER FAMILY LIVING MUSEUM' is written in white serif font. Below it, the subtitle 'Meet the families and learn the stories of the making of Vero Beach' is in a white cursive font. The date and time 'October 12, 2024 | 6:00 PM' and the location 'Vero Heritage Center' are in white sans-serif font. The ticket information '\$20 entry includes a drink and complimentary hors d'oeuvres' is in orange sans-serif font. A white seagull is flying on the left side. At the bottom, there is a white banner with the text 'Benefitting Vero Heritage Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit'. Below the banner, there are sketches of a steamship, a cow, and a person with a horse. On the right, there are oranges and green leaves.

PIONEER FAMILY LIVING MUSEUM

*Meet the families and learn the stories of
the making of Vero Beach*

October 12, 2024 | 6:00 PM
Vero Heritage Center

**\$20 entry includes a drink and
complimentary hors d'oeuvres**

Benefitting Vero Heritage Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit

Tickets and Sponsorship Opportunities

Contact Robyn Berry or April Bekech
info@veroheritage.org | 772-770-2263



PIONEER FAMILY LIVING MUSEUM

Sponsorship Opportunity

Event is October 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Vero Heritage Center



\$500 Event Sponsorship
includes Table Signage, Four
Entry Tickets and Social
Media Recognition

**\$250 Pioneer Exhibit
Sponsorship** includes Exhibit
Signage, Two Entry Tickets,
Social Media Recognition

Benefitting Vero Heritage Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit



Tickets and Sponsorship Opportunities

Contact Robyn Berry or April Bekech
info@veroheritage.org | 772-770-2263

SUPERIOR NEW ROOTSTOCKS CAN MAKE CITRUS PROFITABLE AGAIN

By Kim Bowman, Ph.D., Research Geneticist
Agricultural Research Service,
U.S.D.A. Horticultural Research Laboratory
Kim.bowman@usda.gov

Fruit of grapefruit and sweet orange is the product that is sold by most Florida growers. But the rootstock and root system are what makes the tree strong enough to survive and produce a good crop of high-quality fruit, even after becoming infected with huanglongbing and other stresses.

Among the hundreds of promising new SuperSour hybrid rootstocks being tested within the USDA citrus rootstock breeding program, several have been standout performers in field trials at Fort Pierce, at the USDA Whitmore Farm in Lake County, and in grower-cooperator trials at other sites.

Two of these early-standout rootstock performers were released in late 2023, as SuperSour 4 and SuperSour 5, and are being included in some new commercial plantings this year. Some of the other USDA SuperSour hybrids not-yet released appear extremely outstanding in field trials, producing lush trees loaded with good fruit at 7-8 years of age, alongside trees on other rootstocks that appear as the more common weak diseased trees.

Among the unreleased SuperSour hybrids that appear particularly outstanding is a hybrid between standard sour orange and trifoliate orange, and a second similar hybrid that has US-942 as one of its parents. Both of these new SuperSour hybrids exhibit excellent tolerance to HLB and are on the short list for potential release and commercial availability in 2025-26, likely to be named SuperSour 6 and 7.

While the outstanding newest rootstocks will not improve performance of existing trees in the field, these new hybrid SuperSour rootstocks provide good hope for the future, with the opportunity to re-build a new citrus industry with healthier and more productive trees on the foundation of a much stronger rootstock.



UF/IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

SAVE THE DATE
November 7th, 2024
9 am - 12 pm

**MILLENNIUM
BLOCK FIELD
DAY**

UF/IFAS - Indian River
Research and Education
Center
2199 S Rock Rd,
Ft. Pierce FL, 34945

For more information, contact Dr. Flavia Zambon:
772-577-7376 or f.zambon@ufi.edu

2025 INDIAN RIVER CITRUS LEAGUE FUN SHOOT

Not Too Early to Think About Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship levels are already being signed up for! Don't miss out on your company's opportunity to be a part of this growing event.

The Indian River Citrus League Fun Shoot is scheduled for January 25, 2025, at Vero Beach Clay Shooting Sports.

If interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact Karen at the Indian River Citrus League office 772-595-5026 or email of karen@ircitrusleague.org for additional information.

Sponsors to date:

Everglades Farm Equipment
Farm Credit
Florida Coast Equipment
Hale Groves
MBV Engineering
Total Golf Cart
Wedgworth's, Inc.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Citrus Estimate
October 11, 2024

Millennium Block Field Day
November 7, 2024
Ft. Pierce

IRCL Fun Shoot
January 25, 2025
Vero Beach

Florida Citrus Hall of Fame
March 28, 2025
Lakeland



2024-25 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

With the 2023/2024 citrus season wrapped up, we wanted to share information on the 2024/2025 sponsorship opportunities for your budget planning purposes.

IRCL Associate Membership \$300 Annually

Newsletter Advertising Rates (publication schedule - 10 issues: Sept – June)

Full Page – color \$300 per month or \$225 w/ a monthly commitment through June

Half-Page – color \$200 per month or \$150 w/ a monthly commitment through June

Business Card – color \$60 per month or \$50 w/ a monthly commitment through June

Treasure Coast Grown Fun Shoot – January 27, 2025, at Vero Beach Clay Shooting Sports

Thank you to our partners who've already committed – Hale Groves, Florida Coast Equipment, Everglades Farm Equipment, Wedgworth's, MBV 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

Contact Karen at 772/595-5026 or karen@ircitrusleague.org for further details on the opportunities mentioned.

 <p>GLADES Crop Care Inc. Agricultural Consultants - 561-746-3740 www.gladescropcare.com</p>	 <p>RAFT CITRUS RESEARCH AND FIELD TRIAL FOUNDATION, INC.</p>	 <p>FOR ALL YOUR CROP INSURANCE NEEDS</p> <p>WE KEEP YOU GROWING...</p> <p>863.291.3505 - WWW.CARDENINSURANCE.COM - 888.296.7533</p>
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GRAPEFRUIT GREEK YOGURT CAKE

Prep Time: 10 minutes Cook Time: 50 minutes Total Time: 4 hours Yield: 1 loaf

Unbelievably moist grapefruit loaf made with Greek yogurt and fresh grapefruit juice. The flavor and texture are both incredible!

Ingredients

1 and 1/2 cups (190g) all-purpose flour (spooned & leveled)
1 and 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 large eggs
3/4 cup (180g) Greek yogurt*
1 cup (200g) packed light brown sugar
1/2 cup (120ml) vegetable or canola oil (melted + slightly cooled coconut oil works too)
1/4 cup (60ml) freshly squeezed grapefruit juice, strained
1 and 1/2 Tablespoons grapefruit zest
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
seeds scraped from 1/2 of a vanilla bean

Grapefruit Glaze

1 cup (120g) confectioners' sugar, sifted
2 Tablespoons (30ml) freshly squeezed grapefruit juice, strained
1/4 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 350°F (177°C) and grease a 9×5-inch loaf pan.

Whisk the flour, baking powder, and salt together in a large bowl. In a medium bowl, whisk the eggs. Once combined, whisk in the yogurt, brown sugar, oil, grapefruit juice, zest, vanilla extract, and seeds. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix with a large wooden spoon or rubber spatula until combined. Avoid overmixing.

Spread batter into the prepared loaf pan. Bake for 45-50 minutes. Baking times vary, so keep an eye on yours. The cake is done when a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. If you find the top of the cake is browning too quickly in the oven, loosely cover it with aluminum foil.

Remove the cake from the oven and set on a wire rack. Allow to cool before drizzling with glaze.

For the glaze, simply whisk the ingredients together and drizzle over cake. Slice and serve. Cover and store leftover cake at room temperature for up to 5 days. I love it cold, so you can store it in the refrigerator too!



Find it online: <https://sallysbakingaddiction.com/grapefruit-greek-yogurt-loaf/>

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- An insect growth regulator (IGR) that affects ant reproduction
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Extinguish® Plus Fire Ant Bait

- Combination insect growth regulator and adulticide
- Sterilizes the queen(s)/kills worker ants
- Approved for non-bearing citrus trees
- Economical usage rate of 1.5 lbs. per acre



Learn more about Extinguish® fire ant baits at CentralAntControl.com or call 800.347.8272.



Advertising Opportunities

With the citrus season wrapped up, we wanted to share information on the new 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

Newsletter Ad Specifications / Rates

- Business Card
2.833 inches across by 2 inches down
\$60/month
\$50/month w/ a monthly commitment through June
- 1/2 Page
8.5 inches across by 5.5 inches down
\$200/month
\$150/month w/ a monthly commitment through June
- Full Page
8.5 inches across by 11 inches down
\$300/month
\$225/month w/ a monthly commitment through June
- Bleed
Please allow at least 1/8" bleed.
Do not include printers marks. • P l e a s e email all advertising materials to graphics@hirize.us
- Design services available for an additional fee

Ad Copy Specifications

Fonts

- Please embed all fonts.
- Do not use artificial font formatting; all formatting (bold, italics, etc.) must be done using stylized fonts.

Logos

- Convert all fonts to outlines.
- 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).
- Other file formats accepted: eps (Adobe Illustrator), jpg (Adobe Photoshop)

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 karen@citrusleague.org.

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