2024 Florida Citrus Growers’ Institute: IFAS Citrus Research Programs Update

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Top Priority Research: HLB-Resistant Citrus Varieties

• Gene-editing (CRISPR)
• Transgenic citrus
• Conventional breeding
Top Priority Research:
Maintaining Current Grove Health & Productivity

• Fertilization
• Irrigation
• Soil health
The research made it clear that if there is already good nutrition in the orchard, there is no advantage in doing more than what was already recommended in order to increase production in diseased plants.

“Nutrition does not have the ability to cure the plant with greening,” Bassanezi concluded.

Source: Fundecitrus

“Receiving the proper nutrition for any crop is important,” Bassanezi said. “However, this research shows that once you have adequate nutrition, additional fertilization is not going to increase yield.”
Abohar, India
• November 2023
Management Priorities (India)

- Fertilization
  - Micronutrients

- Irrigation
  - Don’t let roots dry out

- Soil Health
  - Drainage
  - Soil organic matter
  - Avoid sandy soils
High Yields 2023-2024

• 1,300 boxes / A
• Over-supply dropped grower prices
Heavy fruit-load / HLB

- Root system unable to support heavy fruit load
Psyllid Control

• ACP controlled when nearing high levels …cause tree dieback
New Research Projects (Maintaining Tree Health)

• Can we reduce the cost of slow-release fertilizer applications to provide constant source of nutrients in our sandy Florida soils?

• How to schedule irrigation practices to improve fruit yield and root and canopy health? (Vashisth’s talk today)

• Benefits of compost and other soil amendments to improve soil health (e.g., water and nutrient retention)?