

SWFREC Update

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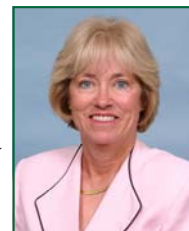
 SOUTHWEST FLORIDA RESEARCH
& EDUCATION CENTER

Center Director's Corner



On behalf of all of the faculty and staff members here at the SWFREC, it is my pleasure to announce that Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton is the new assistant professor and extension specialist for vegetable crops.

Since 1998, Dr. Ozores-Hampton has been a post-doctoral fellow at the center, initially working to develop non-chemical alternatives to Methyl Bromide and most recently evaluating the effects of nitrogen fertilization on tomatoes under commercial growing conditions. She received her bachelor's degree in horticulture from the Universidad Catolica de Chile, her master's degree in biological science from Florida International University, and her



Ph.D. in horticulture from the University of Florida.



Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton

As our center's new vegetable specialist, Dr. Ozores-Hampton provides statewide leadership and science-based research and extension education programs on critical issues facing the vegetable industry in Florida. Her focus areas include plant nutrition and fertilizer use efficiency to demonstrate updated nitrogen recommended rates and facilitate the adoption of nutrient best management practices by the vegetable industry. Additionally, she will conduct Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus variety evaluation.

Dr. Ozores-Hampton's twelve-month, tenure-accruing position is a split appointment between extension (60 percent) and research (40 percent). Her primary cli-

entele groups are county extension agents, commodity groups, regulatory agencies, and vegetable growers. She is a member of the American Society for Horticultural Science, the Florida State Horticultural Society, and the United States Composting Council.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Ozores-Hampton as our newest SWFREC faculty member.

Christine Waddill

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Educational Events Benefit Southwest Florida Vegetable, Citrus Growers

Nearly sixty vegetable growers, industry representatives, and other clientele participated in the 2009 UF/IFAS Spring Vegetable Field Day at the SWFREC in May.

In-field stops included several entomology trials with Dr. Phil Stansly: “Control of Broadmite and Whitefly in Eggplant with Predacious Mites,” “Whitefly Control for Management of Watermelon Vine Decline,” “Insecticidal Control of Whitefly in Tomato ‘Florida-47,’” “Insecticidal Control of Whitefly in Tomato ‘Tygress,’” “Control of Diamondback Moth in Broccoli,” and “Insecticidal Control of Pepper Weevil in Serrano Peppers.” Additional field presentations included water resources scientist Dr. Sanjay Shukla’s report on “Effectiveness of Reservoirs in Reducing Farm-Scale Phosphorus Loadings in the C-139 Basin,” and plant pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts, who discussed four fungicide trials: Watermelon Vine Decline, tomato Bacterial Spot, pepper Bacterial Spot, and watermelon Downy Mildew.



Above: Plant pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts presents information on spring fungicide trials, and (left) vegetable growers take an up-close look at SWFREC research.

Soil and water scientist Dr. Kelly Morgan presented “Soil P Index and P Availability” indoors following lunch, which was generously sponsored by Syngenta. Ted McClary with Syngenta provided product updates as well.

SW FL Greening Team

Dr. Bob Ebel	Plant Physiology
Dr. Kelly Morgan	Nutrition
Dr. Pam Roberts	Pathology
Dr. Fritz Roka	Economics
Dr. Bob Rouse	Horticulture
Dr. Phil Stansly	Entomology
Dr. Mongi Zekri	Hort. Extension

More than eighty citrus growers, industry representatives, and other clientele participated in the UF/IFAS Citrus Canker and Greening Seminar at the SWFREC in April. Presentations included: “Leafminer Control for Canker Suppression,” “Evaluation of Foliar Applied Products for Management of Citrus Canker on Orange Trees, 2007,” “Evaluation of Foliar Applied Products for Management of Citrus Canker on Valencia Orange Trees, 2007,” “Evaluation of Soil and Foliar Applied Products for Management of Citrus Canker and Citrus Leafminer on Valencia Orange Trees, 2008,” “Role of Scouting in the Integrated Management of Asian Citrus Psyllid,” “Advanced Production System: Concepts, Practice and System Requirements,” “Economic Analysis of HLB Foliar Management with the Application of Nutritionals and SARs,” “Potential of SARs in Canker Management,” and “Progression of Greening Symptoms and Nutrient/SAR Supplements to Mitigate Greening Symptoms.”

The same seminar presentations were made at the Indian River Research and Education Center in Fort Pierce in June, when more than 130 citrus industry personnel participated. All of the presentations can be found on the SWFREC Web site at <http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu>.

SWFREC Staff News

- ◆ Two EDIS publications have been published recently by SWFREC faculty and are now available online:

Morgan, K.T., Hanlon, E.A., and Obreza, T.A. 2009. A Web-Based Irrigation Scheduling Model to Improve Water Use Efficiency and Reduce Nutrient Leaching for Florida Citrus. EDIS: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/SS499>.

Wright, A.L., **Hanlon, E.A.,** Sui, D., and Rice, R. 2009. Soil pH Effects on Nutrient Availability in the Everglades Agricultural Area. EDIS: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/SS500>.

SWFREC Staff News (continued)

- ◆ SWFREC maintenance mechanic Roger McGill received a 2009 University of Florida Superior Accomplishment Award at a ceremony in Gainesville in March. The award in the support services category also comes with a monetary award of \$200. In addition, Roger recently became certified as a master technician with the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence by passing a series of tests and documenting at least two years of automotive hands-on work experience. Congratulations, Roger!
- ◆ Several SWFREC faculty and staff members participated in the 2009 Joint Annual Meeting of the Florida State Horticultural Society and Soil and Crop Science Society of Florida earlier this month in Jacksonville:



Dr. Fritz Roka, economist, presented “Economics of Advanced Production Systems in Citrus.” Dr. Roka also worked in conjunction with colleague Al Wysocki of the UF/IFAS Food and Resource Economics Department to organize a workshop and extension in-service training titled “Thinking Cooperatively: Strategies for Enhancing the Economic Opportunities of Horticultural Producers.”

Barbara Hyman, educational coordinator of the UF/IFAS Citrus Mechanical Harvesting and Abscission program, created and manned a display about the program’s research and extension activities.

Entomologist Dr. Phil Stansly and assistant research professor Dr. Jawwad Qureshi presented a paper entitled “Insecticidal Control of Asian Citrus psyllid *Diaphorina citri* (Hemiptera: Psyllidae).”

- ◆ Dr. Bob Rouse, citrus horticulturalist, wrote an article that was published in the June 2009 issue of Citrus Industry magazine: “Preparing for Hurricane Season.” In addition, his April interview with editor Ernie Neff during the UF/IFAS Citrus Canker and Greening workshop was excerpted in Neff’s article “Scientists Investigate Cocktail Maintaining HLB-Infected Trees” in the same issue of the magazine.
- ◆ Dr. Stansly, Dr. Qureshi, and post-doctoral research associate H. Alejandro Arevalo published “Why, When and How to Monitor and Manage Asian Citrus Psyllid” in the March issue of Citrus Industry magazine.
- ◆ Dr. Roka, Barbara Hyman, and media coordinator Julie Carson organized the UF/IFAS Citrus Mechanical Harvesting Field Day and Workshop in April at the SWFREC. Ninety-plus industry personnel participated in the event, which focused primarily on processor concerns, and Dr. Roka served as moderator.
- ◆ Refereed journal articles recently published by SWFREC faculty and staff:



Qureshi, J.A., and Stansly, P.A. 2009. Exclusion Techniques Reveal Significant Biotic Mortality Suffered by Asian Citrus Psyllid *Diaphorina citri* (Hemiptera: Psyllidae) Populations in Florida Citrus. *Biological Control*. 50:129-136.

Qureshi, J.A., Rogers, M.E., Hall, D.G., and Stansly, P.A. 2009. Incidence of Invasive *Diaphorina citri* (Hemiptera: Psyllidae) and its Introduced Parasitoid *Tamarixia radiate* (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) in Florida Citrus. *Journal of Economic Entomology*. 102: 247-256.



- ◆ Dr. Roka presented a paper titled “Comparing Production Costs and Returns Between Florida Sand and Muck Sugarcane Operations” at the 39th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Sugarcane Technologists in Biloxi, Mississippi, earlier this month. He also presented “Economics of HLB Foliar Spray Strategy” at the Southern Agribusiness Certified Crop Advisor Training in Sebring and presented the “Annual Report on Citrus Initiative Project—Education and Economic Studies” to the SW FL Harvesting Advisory Committee at SWFREC.

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We're on the Web!

<http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu>

Upcoming Events

July 3: SWFREC closed in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Regular business hours (8am-5pm) will resume on Monday, July 6.

July 21: Certified Pile Burner Training. SWFREC, 8:30am - 4:30pm. Open to the first fifty enrolled persons. For registration and payment information, contact the Hendry County Extension office at 863-674-4092.

July 23: Citrus Psyllid Control with Syngenta Pesticides. SWFREC, 8:30am - 1:30pm. To RSVP, please call the UF/IFAS Hendry County Extension office at 863-674-4092.

August 19-20: 2009 Citrus Expo. Lee Civic Center, Fort Myers. Includes citrus industry trade show and educational seminars. For more information: <http://citrusexpo.net/>.

September 9: UF/IFAS Florida Tomato Institute. Ritz Carlton Hotel, Naples, 9am - 4pm. New SWFREC vegetable horticulturalist Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton will serve as a co-organizer of the conference.

