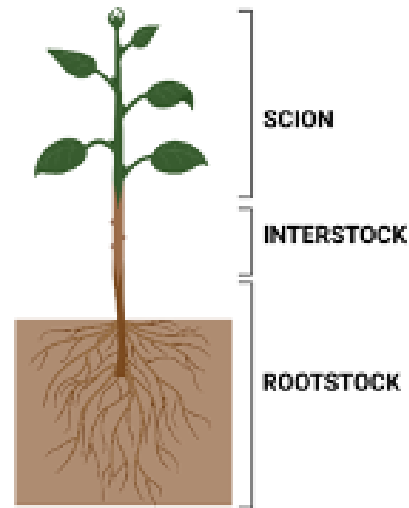


Evaluating HLB Resistant Hybrids as Interstocks and Rootstocks

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A large population of HLB-resistant germplasm with Australian lime genetics has been produced at the UF/IFAS CREC, mainly through conventional breeding with the HLB-resistant citrus relatives. The core hypothesis behind this study is that HLB-resistant Australian lime hybrids can impart resistance to susceptible citrus scions, so that trees can fight off the CLas pathogen on their own. Several promising lines have

been produced and are being evaluated. We aim to identify the most effective rootstocks with Australian lime genetics for HLB resistance to the scion, assess the impact of interstocks in protecting scions against HLB and understand the role of metabolites in the HLB resistance process. It may be possible to confer this HLB resistance to the scion using interstocks that are resistant to HLB. Using an interstock may

allow citrus growers to topwork a grove with a new interstock/scion combination, perhaps saving a grove that would otherwise be destroyed. It is anticipated that at the end of this project, citrus growers will be able to utilize our newly developed HLB-tolerant germplasm to keep their groves productive and profitable and reverse the declining citrus acreage.

Funding

 National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE